

Cook County School District #104,
PR#U215J190043

Summit School District #104 -- in partnership with a consortium of community partners: Opportunities for All (OfA), Learning Dimensions, the LeaderShop, the Warehouse Project, Argo Community High School, Families and Schools Together, Pillars Community Health, Lyons Township Mental Health Commission, and Medina-Ramos Global Education Group-- proposes a five-year ***Unidos*** project for three low-income, Title I community schools in south suburban Chicago; namely, Graves Elementary School (PreK-4th grade) and Wharton Elementary Schools (grade 5) and Heritage Middle School (grades 6-8) within a predominantly Latino, working class community.

The target population includes 2,500 students (two cohorts of 1,250), 50 teachers and 2,000 parents over five years. ***Unidos is a collaborative, evidence-based full service community schools model, designed to provide five pipe-line services, a continuum of coordinated supports services and opportunities,*** including: (1) high-quality early childhood education programs, (2) high-quality school and out-of-school time programming, (3) support for a child's transition into elementary->middle school->high-school on to post-secondary institution and the workplace, (4) family and community engagement supports for students learning at home, and (5) social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports.

Key goals and expected outcomes include: (1) developing a collaborative culture to support community schools; (2) preparing Pre-K students adequately for kindergarten through increased professional development, parent workshops, and home visits ; (3) increasing project students competencies in the areas of reading and mathematics through authentic teaching and learning and the arts; (4) providing an early warning for monitoring and tracking the performance of project students so that they can successfully transition across educational levels and into the workforce, (5) enabling families to effectively provide academic and social supports to their children both in school and at home, (6) increasing students ability to successfully acquire social and emotional skills, fitness, optimal health, and mental health well-being.