

## Seattle Public Schools

### The Community Alignment Initiative at a Glance

The Seattle Public Schools' Community Alignment Initiative (CAI) was launched in 1998 to increase students' academic success through developing a framework for partnership with school-based children's care programs, Community Learning Centers (CLC) and Health Centers. In 2009/2010 the CAI programs served approximately 15,000 preschool through high school students with high quality on-site programs aligned with District achievement goals.

#### Snapshot of Community Alignment PreK & K-5 Before-and-After School Programs

- 59 (96%) of elementary schools have licensed on-site **school-age child care** programs providing care and learning support before school, after school and all day when school is closed (school breaks, summer).
- 27 (48%) of these programs also offered **part or full day pre-school**, including seven Step Ahead sites, two Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) sites and three district-contracted Head Start sites in Title 1 Schools.
- Elementary school-based programs are fee-based for parents, with many lower-income children supported by state or city subsidy and program scholarship.
- Elementary school-based care programs are licensed by the Washington State Department of Early Learning, Department of Health and Fire Marshal's Office of the Washington State Patrol. Programs are also monitored for quality by the Seattle Human Services and Parks and Recreation Departments. School's Out Washington provides training and technical assistance.
- Licensed capacity for all licensed elementary school-based programs was 3,225 spaces. Most programs are full.

#### Snapshot of Community Alignment Community Learning Centers (CLC) - Elementary

- 3 elementary schools have free Community Learning Center programs funded by the Families and Education Levy and supplemented by provider leveraged funding.
- 5 elementary schools have Powerful Learning Centers funded by Powerful Schools

#### Benefits

- **Students** receive additional learning and engagement in learning which supports academic growth as well as additional opportunities for positive and sustained relationships with caring adults.
- **Schools** see a decrease in disciplinary incidence and increases in homework completion and student attendance of students participating in CAI programs. Elementary schools experienced more children ready for kindergarten.
- **Providers** report increased ability to offer high quality programs that families need and extend the learning day, support the district's strategic goals for improved student outcomes and increased family engagement, and provide professional development to their staff through the rent-reinvestment program.

#### How Program Providers are Selected under the Community Alignment Initiative

When a space becomes available in a school for licensed PreK and/or School-age child care program the District and City of Seattle HSD collaborate to facilitate an open application process (RFP). This usually 120+ day selection process facilitated by trained district and City Human Services staff include; the school Principal, teacher and program staff representatives, parent/family members and others. The Selection Team reviews proposals, conduct site visits to existing applicant owned programs, conducts interviews and recommends the provider best fit for the specific school's site.

When a Community Learning Center (CLC) school-site becomes available, for whatever reason, the selection process is conducted according to the grant requirements and/or Service Contract requirements of both SPS and the City of Seattle.

The steps for terminating an Alignment Agreement are detailed in the Overview, Terms and Conditions portion of the annual renewal materials. Facilitation assistance is provided.

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/ocl/caireftermsconditions.pdf>

### Partnership Agreements and Renewals for PreK & Before and After School-Programs

Newly selected providers complete a *School/Provider Alignment Agreement* and sign a formal SPS Lease conditional on the program abiding by the CAI required expectations and agreement. The Alignment Agreement, also called the “Partnership Plan”, specifies how they intended to work together to support children’s learning.

The agreement also outlines the uses of common space and staffing related to partnership activities involving the program, the school and the community.

An updated Alignment Partnership Plan is completed every year and submitted for review and approval in every April for the following school year. Any changes in planned activities or use of common spaces or resources should be carefully considered and documented at this time.

### Making the Most of Partnership Plans

The upfront time a Principal and CAI Director give to developing a strong extended learning plan is designed to:

- Put forth a partnership that support the school’s goals for student improvement
- Inform and reflect CSIP content in literacy, math, school readiness, family support and community engagement
- Leveraged to ensure a quality school/provider partnership able to:
  - respond effectively to possible issues
  - increase access to resources coming into the school community
  - offer greater resources to benefit students and families served by the school
  - enhance the combined learning team to better support the work of school’s teachers and administration

School/Provider Alignment Partnership Plan clearly outlines a strong and intentional relationship between the CAI Provider program and the goals of the school to address the district’s strategic plan priorities by contributing to increased student achievement in math and literacy, meeting IEP and more children ready to succeed in kindergarten.

### Alignment Agreements and Renewal Timeline 2011

Agreements are renewed annually.

Schedule for renewal of 2011 – 2012 is as follows

**Apr** – Sites collaborate with Principals; submit School Systems and Facilities (Agreement Part I) Lease applications to district office (Early Learning to Property Management)

**May** – Sites collaborate with Schools; submit Program Academic Support (Alignment Agreement Part II)

**June** – Plans reviewed for approval

**Jul** – approved sites return signed leases to SPS Property Management

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