



Using the Needs Assessment to Create Equity In A Community School Initiative

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the Rochester City School District*

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District*

Introduction

- Tellis Lott
 - Lead TOA for the Office of Community Schools in the RCSD since March 2018
 - Began teaching journey at Henry Hudson School #28
 - Proud Sodus Spartan Alumni (Class of '97)

- Luis Zarate
 - Community Schools Site Coordinator at Mary McLeod Bethune School #45
 - The Center for Youth is #45's Lead Partner Agency
 - Beginning 4th year as a Site Coordinator



Learning Targets

- I can **describe** what a Needs Assessment is and the general process behind its creation.
- I can **explain** how the Needs Assessment is used to create equity within resources in a Community School Initiative.
- I can **describe** what an Asset Map is.
- I can **complete** an Asset Mapping activity based on my school's zip code.

Terminology

- **CSSG** Community Schools Site Coordinator
- **Community Schools Initiative** - the actual programming and structure of a community school.
- **CET-** Community Engagement Team
- **Needs Assessment** A document that is created from the input of all stakeholders in a community school initiative, including students, staff, families and community partner organizations

Needs Assessment

- A **Needs Assessment** is a document that is created from the input of all stakeholders in a community school initiative, including students, staff, families and community partner organizations
- Created collaboratively by our CSSC, CET, admin team with input from all other **stakeholders**, but your CSSC will do most of the “leg work”

Needs Assessment

- Data collection relies on surveys, focus groups, building climate walks, meetings to get the information used to create the Needs Assessment
- Process takes from 3-8 months to complete on average.
- Needs assessment guides the vision and mission of your community school initiative.

Needs Assessment

- The majority of our schools used the needs assessment model created by the National Center for Community Schools (www.nccs.org)
- Their “Needs Assessment ToolKit” is a phenomenal resource that breaks down the process from start to finish

[Needs Assessment ToolKit](#)

Examples of a Fully Executed Needs Assessment

[NRCS #3 Needs Assessment](#)

[MBM School #45 Needs Assessment](#)



How is the Needs Assessment Used to Create Equity Among Our Students?

The Needs Assessment helps as a guide to provide all students with the support they need to reach and exceed the bar so they're prepared for college, career, or life. It serves as a data toolkit that will help them generate priorities and an action plan.



How is the Needs Assessment Used to Create Equity Among Our Students?

- The gaps that are discovered during the completion of the needs assessment are used to locate community partners that will best serve the needs of our students.
- Some of these services may be through contractual agreements between the school/district and the community partners, while others are delivered through an MOA/MOU



How is the Needs Assessment Used to Create Equity Among Our Students?

- These partnerships are then used to give our students the services that they may not have access to otherwise
- Examples of these services include after school programming, behavioral/mental health services through 3rd party providers, tutoring services, food pantries/emergency clothing pantries



Full Circle



Maslow's hierarchy of needs

Asset Mapping

- One of our biggest tools in the drive to create equity within our Community Schools is our ability to Asset Map.
- **Asset Mapping** is a tool that relies on a core belief of **asset-**based community development; namely, that good things exist in communities and that those things can be highlighted and encouraged — these are **assets** suited to advancing those communities. **Asset Mapping** is a means, not an end.

Sample of Asset Map

School #45 Asset Map

School 45



Mary McLeod Bethune School
No. 45

Directory of Assets



Group 14621 Community



Foodlink



Rochester Housing Authority



The Center for Youth Services



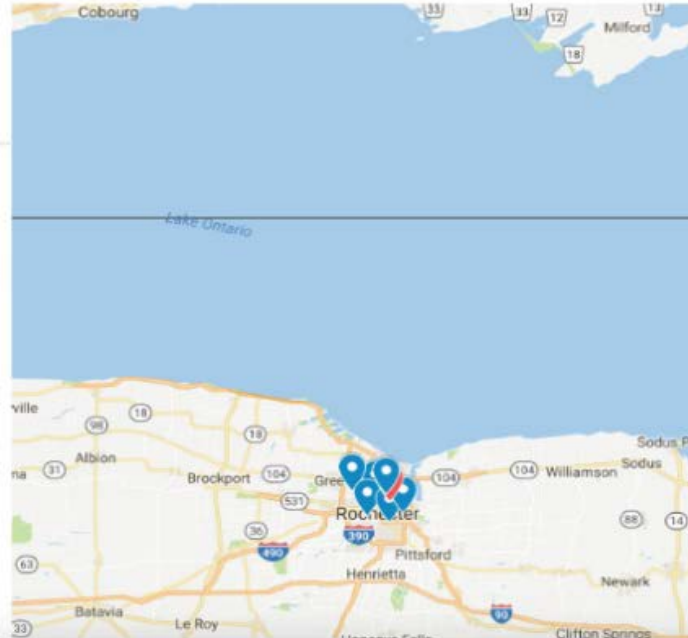
Dial-A-Teacher: Rochester
Teachers Tutoring Program



The Community Place of
Greater Rochester, Inc



Rochester Educational
Opportunity Center



Asset Mapping

- One of our biggest tools in the process of asset mapping is the Google Suite.
- [Google Maps Homepage](#)

Asset Mapping

- Start with the home school as the center point of our map.
- Work to identify resources near the school, with closest resources/services being the priority
- A completed asset map is another vital resource for a community school, its students, their families and staff

Consider Possible Community Partners

Since community schools are complex institutions that interweave academic, enrichment, health and social services and programs, there is always room for new partners. Even if they are not involved from the early planning stages, new collaborators can play meaningful roles. Such potential partners might include:

- Local businesses, Faith based organizations, Local hospitals and other health providers, corporations,

Vocational schools, Community foundations, Police and other law enforcement agencies • Barber shops, Libraries

- Arts and cultural institutions, Local universities/colleges

In Closing...

- Did we meet all of our established learning targets this afternoon?
- What were some of the takeaways for you from today's presentation?

In Closing...

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We will be more than happy to share/forward any of the things that we went over today with you via email

- Any Questions??