Discussion Questions

Quantitative tools capture measurable indicators, but high-touch qualitative engagement—conducted through structured interviews, focus groups, and leadership dialogues—surfaces the "how" and "why" of organizational readiness. These prompts enable school, district, and agency leadership to look beyond surface-level metrics to evaluate the relational trust, political landscape, and cultural alignment essential for sustainable community school transformation.

School Staff/Teachers

Key Readiness Objective:

Assess openness to shared leadership, integrated student supports, and a community-connected classroom.

Key Questions to Assess Readiness:

How would you describe the current school culture regarding collaboration and shared decision-making?

What are the most significant barriers (time, resources, trust) preventing us from meeting student needs?

Notes for Planning:

Students & Families

Key Readiness Objective:

Determine the level of belonging and identify specific barriers to engagement.

Key Questions to Assess Readiness:

On a typical day, how welcoming does this school feel to you and your family?

What resources or services do you currently travel outside the neighborhood to access?

What is one thing you wish school staff understood about your child's life outside of school?

Notes for Planning:

Community Partners

Key Readiness Objective:

Evaluate the willingness to move from "co-location" to true integration of services.

Key Questions to Assess Readiness:

What specific school goals could our partnership help achieve more effectively?

What are the primary obstacles to deep integration between your organization and the school?

How do you currently measure the success of your work within the school community?

Notes for Planning:

District Leadership

Key Readiness Objective:

Confirm the long-term political and fiscal commitment to the strategy.

Key Questions to Assess Readiness:

How does the community school strategy align with our long-term fiscal priorities?

What creative ideas do you have for meeting student needs that fall outside the regular budget?

How will we ensure equity of outcome drives our resource allocation for this strategy?

Notes for Planning: