Purpose
Community Schools is a strategic effort supported by the Family League of Baltimore City, Baltimore City Public Schools and local Foundations. A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health, social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Community schools offer a personalized curriculum that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone - all day, every day, evenings and weekends.

Process
A full-time Community Schools Coordinator/SWCOS Field Instructor leads and trains graduate social work interns to bring in needed resources for students and their families, increase parents’ involvement with their child’s education, and improve communication between the parents and the school. Using evidence-based practices, the coordinator and interns work with the school and community to improve attendance and enhance school climate while engaging community stakeholders and building school capacity.

Program Sites
Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts, Wolfe Street Academy, James McHenry Elementary/Middle School, Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School

Outcomes
Community Resource Schools will implement a range of activities and leverage support and partnerships to work toward the following outcomes:

School-Wide Outcomes
School Attendance:
- Increase in overall school percentage of attendance
- Reduction in school-wide number/percentage of students who are chronically absent

School Climate
- Reduction in overall number of school suspensions
- Reduction in number / percentage of students who have repeat/multiple suspensions
- Increase in frequency of positive/purposeful interactions between school staff (teachers) and parents

Family & Community Engagement
- Increase in number/percentage of parents involved in activities that support their children’s education
- Increase in number of parent and community volunteers
- Increase in number of community partnerships
**SWCOS Care Coordination Program**

**Purpose**
The Care Coordination Program provides support services to adults and children who have been referred by teachers, administrators, parents or guardians, students themselves, or who have been identified and referred by SWCOS staff in Community Schools.

**Process**
The interns provide direct social work services under the clinical supervision of a SWCOS faculty Field Instructor.

**Services provided include**
- Individual and group counseling
- Outreach to community residents
- Home visits and case management
- Crisis intervention with students and parents
- Representation on various community committees

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**Family Stability Program**

The Family Stability Program is part of a nationwide initiative led by the Siemer Institute for Family Stability, and supported by the United Way. Current sites include Brooklyn-Curtis Bay and Dundalk.

**Purpose**
The purpose of the program is to help families stay housed; to support families so their children can remain in their current schools; and to provide families with additional tools to maintain self-sufficiency.

**Process**
The program is offered to the community by SWCOS faculty Field Instructors and supported by student interns at Benjamin Franklin High School and participating schools in Dundalk.

**Services provided include:**
- Case management
- Workshops on financial management, career skills, and home energy saving
- Individual financial coaching
- Short-term financial assistance

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