

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND THE INSTITUTE OF READING DEVELOPMENT



Developed in partnership with over 200 universities nationwide



Meeting Community School Initiatives  
Through Engaging Literacy Programs

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# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## What are they?

Community schools partner with agencies and local governments to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships "provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement."<sup>[1]</sup> Many community schools operate year-round, morning to evening, and serve children and adults. Community schools often serve neighborhoods with prevalent economic and social learning barriers.

# THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"Community school strategies can be an effective approach to mitigate the academic and social impacts of emergencies that affect local communities, improve school responsiveness to student and family needs, and organize school and community resources to address barriers to learning."<sup>[1]</sup> Meeting the needs of children by building a positive school climate through trusting relationships, combined with rich learning opportunities that prepare all students to succeed in life, is the foundation of the program.

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS & IRD

A partnership that addresses the four pillars of community schools

The Four Pillars

How IRD Addresses the Pillars

<b>INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS</b>	<b>FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>EXTENDED LEARNING TIME &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP &amp; PRACTICE</b>
<p>Community Schools take a whole-child approach to student achievement, bringing together cohesive systems and programs that meet the social-emotional, academic, and creative needs of their students and the busy lives of their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Students boost academic achievement by developing reading and writing skills.</li> <li>▶ Our reading materials are selected to inspire students and to expand empathy and sensitivity through discussions featuring relevant themes and relatable characters.</li> <li>▶ Dedicated staff and teachers create real connections with students and families to support and accelerate academic growth.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Schools understand "it takes a village" to create a thriving learning environment and improve responsiveness to student and family needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Thought-provoking questions guide students to make direct and meaningful connections between their reading and real-life experiences.</li> <li>▶ Individual meetings between our instructors, students, and their caregiver bring student achievement out of the classroom and back into the home.</li> <li>▶ IRD instructors meet individually with caregivers to ensure students receive comprehensive academic support.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Schools encourage out-of-school enrichment activities emphasizing real-world learning and community problem-solving while providing academic instruction and support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ IRD programs provide weekly live-online ELA instruction with meaningful reading and writing opportunities and on-demand tutoring support. In addition, students receive at least three hours of engaging extended learning each week.</li> <li>▶ Enrichment activities and lively discussions encourage practical problem-solving by helping students make crucial text-to-self connections between readings and their own lives.</li> <li>▶ Students practice valuable reading, writing, and comprehension skills during and outside class that builds academic aptitude and confidence.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Schools create a culture of learning, encouragement, and trust by bringing together teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ IRD instructors become classroom champions by encouraging students, reaching out to a student's caregiver and the school if they are struggling, and maintaining an ethos of positivity and encouragement.</li> <li>▶ By helping students become readers, our program invites students into a culture of learning that transcends the classroom and provides them with a foundational mindset to become confident, engaged students.</li> <li>▶ Students also adopt a culture-of-learning mindset by finding their voices and considering their places in the school community, the family community, and the larger world.</li> </ul>

# IRD Reading & Writing Skills Program

A flexible skills program that delivers engaging reading and writing instruction to address achievement gaps.

The IRD Reading & Writing Skills Program can help reduce anxiety, help students find their voice, build trusting relationships, and address equity issues.



## IRD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### Engaging Instruction

Students attend a weekly online class where they participate in lively discussions and practice valuable reading, writing, and comprehension skills.

### Flexible Schedules

Sessions are offered throughout the calendar year, including summer break. Therefore, we have the flexibility to accommodate any district and community's unique needs.

### Instructors Provided

Small group classes are facilitated by a highly-trained IRD instructor. One-on-one ELA support is also available on demand throughout the week.

### 3+ Hours of Extended Learning

Our classes offer at least 3 hours of extended learning each week.

# Learn more

## Why districts have turned to IRD for Community Schools programming:

- We bring unmatched literacy expertise.
- Over the last 52 years, our program has helped more than 3 million students.
- We provide districts with highly trained teachers specializing in literacy instruction.
- Our flexibility means districts can implement programs any time of the year, before, during, or after school hours.
- Our ESSA compliance means districts know their students are getting the research-based instruction that works.
- We have partnered with over 200 universities nationwide to help students become stronger readers and writers.



**Contact me today to learn how other districts across California are utilizing IRD as part of their Community School's programming.**

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