

Introduction

On November 21, 2011, the City of San Pablo City Council passed a resolution to develop a San Pablo Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) Initiative with the goal of eventually transforming all schools in the City into Full Service Community Schools. In a full service community school (community school) the school district, city, county, community-based organizations, businesses, families and philanthropists form a strong and transparent partnership to jointly address the identified needs of students, families and the community in a comprehensive, integrated and accountable way. They share leadership, work towards a common vision and agenda, and share responsibility for results.

A community school focuses on the needs of the whole child – physical, emotional, social and academic – to create the conditions necessary for all children to learn and be successful. While a traditional school may have community partners and programs, they often operate in silos and might not be aligned with the school’s academic goals.¹ A community school has an intentional and coordinated group of community partners and programs that strengthen families and communities so that they are better able to support student success. A community school also commits to qualified and effective teachers who provide high quality instruction, high standards and expectations for all students, and a challenging curriculum. Depending on community needs and resources, community schools provide a wide array of services and activities to improve educational outcomes for children.

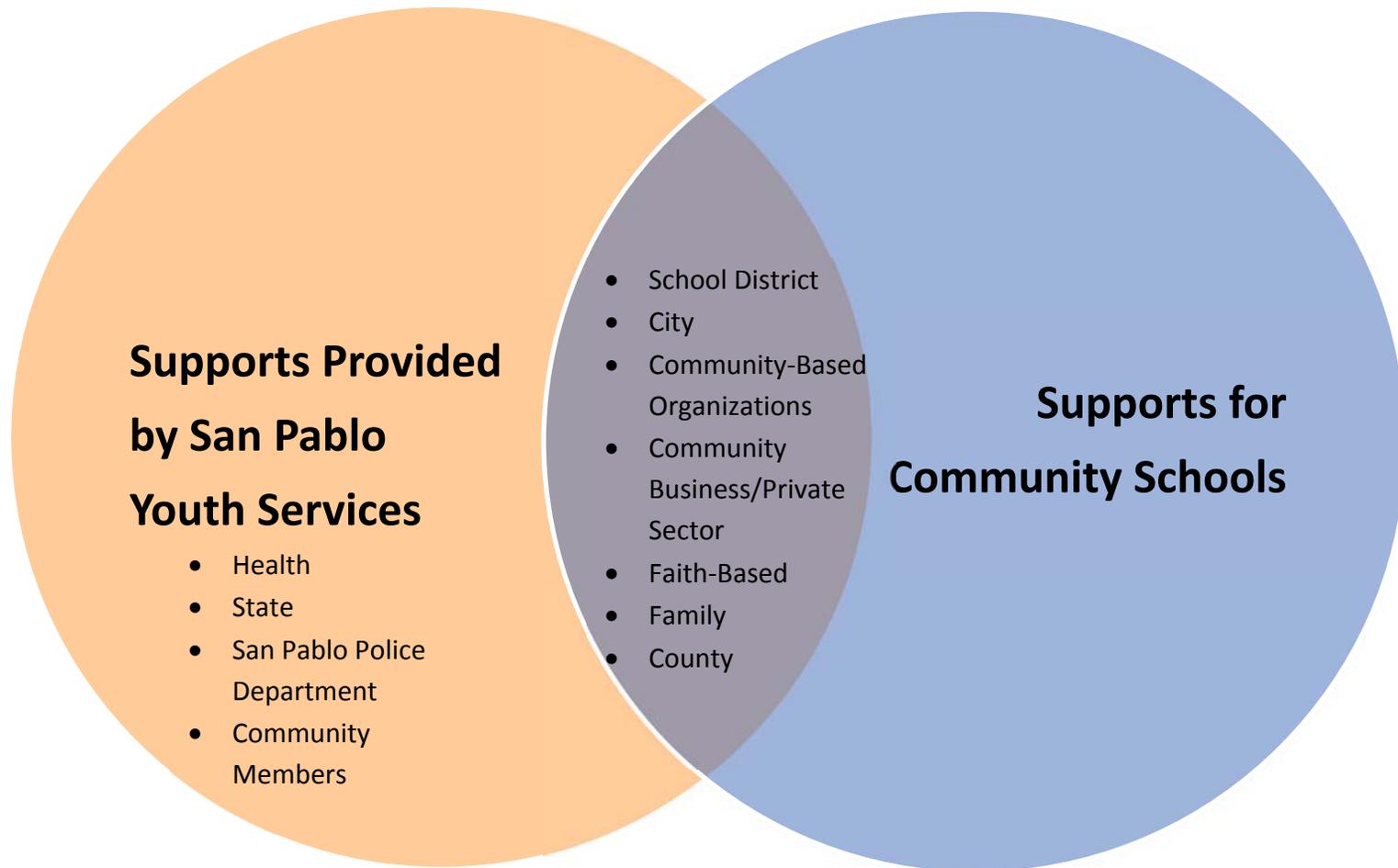
The City of San Pablo’s Youth Services Division is aligned philosophically and programmatically with the San Pablo Community Schools Initiative (Figure 1). This Strategic Work Plan identifies how funding will be redirected to financially support the personnel, programs, and services needed to build San Pablo’s schools into comprehensive community schools. This vision is aligned with President Obama’s 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the national education law that replaced the 2002 No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA encourages the expansion of full service community school initiatives by requiring indicators beyond academics in accountability systems, funding supportive programs, and providing tools and resources to advance school-community partnerships.²

San Pablo is dedicated to transforming all its schools into community schools and the 2015-2019 Strategic Work Plan reflects that commitment.

¹ Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership (2015). *Frequently Asked Questions About Community Schools*. Retrieved from <http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/faqs.aspx>

² Coalition for Community Schools (2015), *New Federal Education Law Boosts Community Schools*. Retrieved at http://www.communityschools.org/new_federal_education_law_boosts_community_schools/

FIGURE 1: SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OVERLAP WITH THE SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY SAN PABLO YOUTH SERVICES



Background

In 2008, Council Members Genoveva G. Calloway and Leonard R. McNeil noticed the increasing attention around building links between cities, school districts, and community organizations as an effective way to provide youth services, particularly in the area of youth violence prevention. With information from the Coalition for Community Schools and the U.C. Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools, Calloway and McNeil recognized the opportunity to take a proactive stance and began advocating for a more integrated way for San Pablo to provide youth services; this was especially important with the growing gang and youth violence concerns in San Pablo.

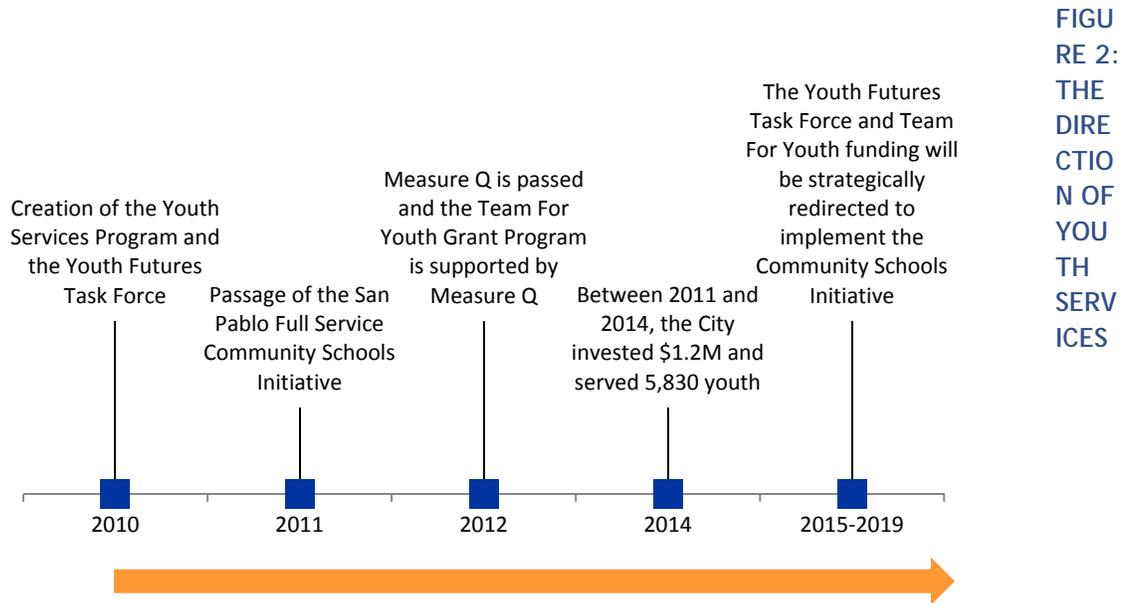


FIGURE 2:
THE DIRECTION OF YOUTH SERVICES

Creation of the Youth Services Program and the Youth Futures Task Force

In June 2010, the City of San Pablo created the Youth Services Program to prevent and reduce youth violence and increase positive youth development opportunities. The Youth Services Program was coordinated through the City Manager’s Department with an initial allocation of 2010 general funds. The Youth Services Program was charged with establishing a comprehensive Youth Services Strategy that utilized a multi-faceted, multi-agency, and a non-traditional approach.

As part of the program strategy, San Pablo established the Youth Futures Task Force (YFTF), informed by input from several community meetings, including a youth summit, several community forums, and meetings with city leadership. The YFTF called for government agencies, law enforcement, social services agencies, educational, grass-root, and faith-based organizations to work together to achieve a more innovative, integrated, team-oriented approach in working with youth who are at great risk of committing intentional acts of violence and/or engaging in behaviors related to the gang lifestyle.

Passage of Measure Q

In June 2012, the City of San Pablo placed Measure Q, a local sales tax increase, on the ballot to help fund the provision of youth services. It passed with a 74% voter approval, resulting in a 10 year sales tax increase, from 8.25% to 8.75% over the first 5 year period and then 8.5% over the remaining five years. The funds generated from the temporary sales tax increase support services provided by or through the City of San Pablo to local residents, including public safety (including gang prevention), job training (especially youth and the disenfranchised), and youth services (to keep kids off the streets and out of gangs).

Creation of the Youth Services Division and Team for Youth Grant Program

With the passage of Measure Q, the Youth Services Program became the Youth Services Division and additional staff members were hired to support the implementation of the Youth Futures Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2010-2014. Measure Q funds were also used to fund the Team for Youth grant program, the funding arm of the Youth Futures Task Force. It provided grants to public and non-profit agencies wanting to expand prevention or intervention programs for youth exhibiting high-risk behavior.

Initial Team for Youth Grants

Between 2011 and 2014, the Youth Futures Task Force served approximately 5,830 youth between the ages of 11 and 24 years old, providing them with positive police and community relations, mental health support, sports and recreation opportunities, leadership and skill building activities, career education, and violence and gang prevention. Survey data revealed that most youth participants (89%) reported high levels of satisfaction with the programs and indicated that they developed youth developmental assets. Moreover, youth experienced growth in setting higher expectations and were connected to an average of 1.9 new caring adults.³

Population Level Indicators

Population level indicators for school success and crime related to violence have been moving in a desirable direction.⁴

- Violent crime offenses (murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) were down 36% in 2014 from 2006. They increased by 16% in 2014.
- Property crimes offenses were also at their lowest levels in the last 14 years, decreasing 24% in 2014 from 2000.
- Juvenile felony arrests were at their lowest level in 11 years down 68% in 2014 from 2006.
- Helms Middle School's suspension rate was down 31% over the last four school years.
- Over the last five years, Richmond High School's graduation increased by 36% and its drop out rate decreased by 71%.

³ Community Crime Prevention Associates (2015). *2012-2014. Youth Futures Evaluation Report*

⁴ Community Crime Prevention Associates (2015).



Moving Forward - Full Service Community Schools Initiative

In 2014, the City of San Pablo saw the need for greater investment in school-based services that support the whole child and develop children and youth who are college, career, and community ready. Over the four year period of the 2010-2014 strategic plan, community concerns shifted from addressing youth violence to increasing academic supports. The Full Service Community Schools strategy enables schools to address the holistic needs of children, youth and families allowing the City of San Pablo to continue to work towards decreasing youth violence, while expanding services to improve academic outcomes. Realigning the efforts of the Youth Futures Task Force to support community schools presented itself as a promising direction for the Youth Services Division. In February 2015, the San Pablo City Council approved a resolution that redirected the Youth Futures Task Force and the Team for Youth grant program towards the implementation of Full Service Community Schools.

City of San Pablo staff, Team for Youth funded agencies, the San Pablo Police Department's Priority Oriented Policing Unit (P.O.P), and community-based organizations will continue to work collaboratively and form new partnerships to provide a comprehensive continuum of supports and services to ensure the children, youth and families of San Pablo thrive. In the next four years, the City of San Pablo will continue to work towards decreasing gang incidents, violent youth offenses and felonies, school truancy and suspension rates, while also expanding its services to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates, and college and career readiness.

FIGURE 3. SEVERAL SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXIST WHILE PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUE TO BE FORGED

