



Flint Community Education Expanded Learning Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Flint Community Education Initiative?

The Flint Community Education Initiative (Flint CEI) is a community-wide strategy to establish schools as neighborhood hubs, by providing coordinated on-site services and expanded learning opportunities to support student success, connect families and create vibrant communities.

The initiative supports families and community residents by extending learning when school is not in session, and by making the school open to the entire neighborhood at no cost to students, families and community members.

2) What are Community Schools?

A Community School is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. There are currently 13 Community Schools in Flint, which include International Academy of Flint, Flint Cultural Center Academy* and all schools in the Flint Community Schools District.

3) Do Community Schools offer afterschool programming for youth?

Yes, through YouthQuest, Flint CEI's lead partner for expanded learning. The afterschool program offers a variety of high-quality activities focused on six core elements including, academic support; enrichment; physical fitness and healthy behaviors; nutrition and nutrition education; youth development and leadership skill building; and family and community engagement.

4) When are the afterschool programs held?

The exact times vary by school. During the school year, afterschool programming is held for approximately three hours a day, Monday through Thursday. Summer programming is also available. For details, check with your school's community school director or YouthQuest site team leader.

5) Who can attend?

Any child living in the city of Flint may participate in any programs offered through Community Education. Age-appropriate programs are offered at every level to best meet the needs of our Flint-area children.

6) What are the benefits of these programs?

According to the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C., 1 in 5 children are unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. That's a missed opportunity, and it's one that the Flint Community Education Initiative with its collective partners aim to address in the city of Flint. By keeping school doors open beyond the traditional school day, afterschool programs provide students with valuable learning opportunities, enriching experiences and a safe place to go when parents may be at work.

Community Schools make the most of our children's non-school time by providing high-quality, supervised afterschool experiences that extend learning opportunities and enable students to develop their talents, form positive friendships and connect with their communities, according to the National Center for Community Schools. In addition,

the National Education Association states that Community Schools lead to:

- Lower rates of absenteeism
- Better work habits, grades, test scores, and behavior
- Higher enrollment in college preparatory classes
- Higher graduation rates

7) I heard that afterschool programming will be expanded to include Fridays. What will be offered and who can attend?

During the 2019-20 school year, the Flint Community Education Initiative will host a family literacy program on Fridays. The program offers parents the opportunity to participate in exciting Parent and Child Together (PACT) activities, with sessions covering everything from nutrition to financial literacy. In addition to promoting family engagement, the program helps build relationships and community between the families who participate.

The Friday program is designed for families who live in Flint and are interested in great family opportunities. Limited seating is available. To learn more, connect with your community school director.

8) My child attends Flint Community Schools, which is moving to a balanced calendar this year. What does this mean, and what support will you provide with the new schedule?

The shift to a balanced calendar aligns with the school district's ongoing efforts to improve academic achievement and gives students a better chance to succeed. With a balanced calendar, students are in class for approximately 45 days followed by a five-day break called intersession. During the intersession, students who need help mastering day school material will be invited to attend morning instruction at their school. Afterward, they can stay for lunch and participate in high-quality programming provided through the Community Education Initiative during the afternoon.

By bringing together instruction and enrichment activities, intersessions give students access to both mental and physical activity during break periods, better meeting the needs of the whole child.

9) What resources are available through Community Schools?

Community Schools offer Flint residents a one-stop shop for important resources, expanded learning opportunities

for adults and youth and a variety of social services, such as an onsite community health worker, resource centers for basic needs (e.g., food, clothing), connections to partner organizations and more. A community school director is available at every school site to work with families in identifying barriers and connecting to resources to help families thrive.

10) Do Community Schools offer programming for adults?

Yes, there are opportunities for adults to participate in enrichment opportunities such as physical activity, book clubs, financial literacy and more. There are also adult learning centers located at Holmes STEM Academy and Southwestern Classical Academy.

11) Is there a cost to any of these programs or resources?

Thanks to the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the United Way of Genesee County, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and other funders, all Community Schools resources—including YouthQuest—are offered at no cost to students, families and community members.

12) How can I support these programs?

The Flint Community Education Initiative is always seeking partners to help serve families directly at school sites within Flint neighborhoods. Donations and sponsorships also allow both the Flint Community Education Initiative and YouthQuest to better serve K-12 students in the city of Flint.

Most importantly, parents and guardians can support the Flint Community Education Initiative by taking advantage of the resources available. Enroll your students in YouthQuest afterschool programs, attend family nights and help spread the word to others with children at International Academy of Flint, Flint Cultural Center Academy* and in the Flint Community Schools District.

13) Where can I find more information?

To learn more about Community Education, visit www.FlintCommunityEd.org, call (810) 201-5620 or send an email to commedpartnerships@crim.org.

To learn more about YouthQuest, visit www.yquest.org, call (810) 600-1422 or send an email to yq@yquest.org.

**YouthQuest is not currently offered at the Flint Cultural Center Academy.*



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