



Independence School District

A Caring Community

A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A place and a set of partnerships between a school and community resources focused on academics, health and social services, youth development and community engagement, and includes a range of supports and opportunities for children, youth, families and communities.

www.communityschools.org

ISD HISTORY

1979:

Head Start in Schools

1981:

Parents As Teachers

1986:

***Schools of the 21st
Century (Dr. Ed Zigler)***

1988:

***Combined Early
Education***

1992:

Head Start Transition

1995:

Caring Communities

2003:

Child Welfare Initiative

2005:

***National Civic Star
Award (AASA)***

2007:

***National Award for
Excellence (Coalition for
Community Schools)***

***Mental Health
Initiative***

***In-Home Therapists
Psychiatrist/Telemed***

2008:

***Annexation of Six
KCMO Schools***

ISD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- *School Nurse*
- *School Counselor*
- *Social Worker (FSL)*
- *Parents As Teachers*
- *Early Head Start*
- *Early Education*
- *Before and After Care*
- *Translation Services*
- *Homeless Services*
- *In-Home Mental Health*
- *Psychiatric Services*
- *Community Site Councils*
- *Parent Education*
- *Youth Friends (Mentors)*
- *Van Iten Project*
- *Alternative High School*
- *Day Treatment School*
- *ABE, GED, & ESL*



Independence School District

**Van Iten Family
Support Project**

CONDITIONS

- **In 2002, there were more than nine hotline calls a day in Independence**
- **In 2003, more than 1,200 families in Independence were identified as at risk of child abuse and in need of services**
- **There are more than 270 registered sex offenders that reside in Independence**



GOALS

- **Improve academic results for children**
- **Develop partnerships that will increase the safety of children in the community**
- **Develop systems that build strong families**
- **Reduce CA/N in this community**

PARTNERS

- **Local Investment Commission (LINC)**
- **Missouri Division of Children's Services**
- **Independence School District**

HOW?

Alpha Referrals:

Reports to hotline that do not meet the statutory definition of abuse/neglect

Family Centered Services (FCS)

Substantiated CA/N, intact families

ALPHA Referrals

- **Alpha referral received at the Child Abuse Neglect Hotline Unit**
- **CD specialist screens for assignment to ISD**
- **Contact with family within 3 days**

FCS Referrals

- **Case by case review**
 - *No court involvement*
 - *No high safety concerns*
- **Weekly safety meetings are held in the CD office with ISD**
- **Weekly conferences between ISD and CD**

Families Served

- **229 Alpha (2008-09)**
- **106 FCS (2008-09)**
- ***Over 1,400 Families Total***



Strengthening Families

- **Enhance Parental Resilience**
- **Develop Social Connections**
- **Build Knowledge of Parenting**
- **Offer Concrete Supports**
- **Foster Social and Emotional Competence of Children**
- **Promote Healthy Parent/Child Relationships**

Preliminary Research ...

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY EVALUATION

- **50% fewer CA/N reports**
- **Fewer families with subsequent contact & need for higher levels of intervention**
- **Improved attendance rates**
- **Final Evaluation by WashU pending**



Independence School District

**Mental Health
Initiative**

CONDITIONS

- ❑ **Lack of prompt services**
- ❑ **Lack of community capacity to serve the need**
- ❑ **Lack of insurance coverage**
- ❑ **Lack of transportation**
- ❑ **Reluctance to have themselves or their children labeled with mental illness**

GOALS

- ❑ **Improve academic success of children**
- ❑ **A new service delivery approach**
 - ❑ *Timely access to services*
 - ❑ *Elimination of lag-time-to-care*
 - ❑ *Removal of funding barriers*
- ❑ **Improved mental health conditions of families**
- ❑ **Reach the “unreached” population**

PARTNERS

- **Local Investment Commission (LINC)**
- **KVC Behavioral HealthCare**
- **Independence School District**

HOW?

- Students referred through building SAT Teams
 - Least restrictive philosophy
- Ten (10) Licensed Therapists
 - Contact within 24 hours of referral
 - In-home services within 72 hours
- Telemedicine access to psychiatric services
- **Access existing insurance and Medicaid**

So Far . . .

- In 24 months, 546 families have been served
- More than 40% of referrals result in services being provided to adults in the home
- Fourteen students or parents received hospitalization services last school year
- Currently, 221 families have an open case, 135 receive psychiatric services (“telemed”)

Additional Information

Independence School District

www.indep.k12.mo.us

Local Investment Commission (LINC)

www.kclinc.org

KVC Behavioral HealthCare

www.kvc.org

Coalition for Community Schools

www.communityschools.org