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LEARN MORE. LOOK INSIDE. The CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative is a process designed to promote meaningful and purposeful family and community engagement in schools based on research and best practices. Working in partnership with community, parents, administrators, students and teachers, CommPACT builds partnerships focused on collaboration and consensus-building for each school's success. www.commpact.uconn.edu

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## Making a good model even better

In 2013, the CommPACT Executive Board of Directors agreed to transition the original CommPACT School pilot model and merge its best practices with the national Community Schools model to promote even more comprehensive and meaningful family and community engagement in schools. The new initiative is called the CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative.

The traditional hallmarks of the CommPACT model include:

- stakeholder empowerment,
- local level identification of challenges and needs,
- teacher empowerment for change,
- parent and community engagement,
- cultivation of local resources,

- a focus on data-driven problem framing,
- problem solving, and
- results analysis. These hallmarks neatly align with the features of a community school that include:
- community partners,
- faculty buy-in,
- parent involvement,
- school as community hub,
- extended learning time, and
- wraparound services.

"As the principal of a large urban middle school, I have seen our family and community involvement strengthen due to the training and support we received from CommPACT, the active participation of staff and parents at school events, and the creation of a new Parent Resource Center. The stateof-the-art equipment and updated resources in our Parent Resource Center allow for families to access information regarding new trends in education such as Common Core Standards and new assessment systems."

Maria Burns, principal West Side Middle School Waterbury



"Working with the CommPACT model, I was part of a team that developed an on-site Parent Resource Center. We worked to provide family members with a welcoming place in the school, better access to school and community resources, and training programs for skills they felt they needed." Steve James, teacher Bassick High School, Bridgeport

## Benefits for all schools; unique resources for Network and Alliance Schools

Community schools legislation (PA 13-64) paved the way for expanded community school development within the Commissioner's Network Schools and Alliance Districts. CommPACT is named in the legislation as one of the turnaround approaches that schools may select to support their goals in the area of family and community engagement.

Funded by the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and private foundations, the CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative provides

- resources,
- materials,
- technical assistance, and
- evaluation frameworks to guide the establishment of community schools.

The CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative strives to

- advise and assist schools that are interested in building family and community partnerships through the CommPACT process, principles, and practices;
- provide professional learning, programs, and resources to schools focused on family and community engagement; and
- design a research agenda as identified by participating schools and stakeholders to support program growth and development.

## **Executive Board of Directors**

The CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative builds on the strong partnerships and support of an executive board of directors that includes the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut (AFT-CT), Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Connecticut Education Association (CEA), Connecticut Federation of School Administrators (CFSA), the Neag School of Education (UConn), and an advisory board representing various programs and service organizations throughout Connecticut.



" I want to help the world. That's what motivates me and what I'm looking for in a career. For now, in high school, I want to take advantage of every opportunity, and the community working together—helps me."

Nyasia Brown, student Bassick High School Bridgeport



FOR MORE INFORMATION on the CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative, contact: Michele Femc-Bagwell, Ph.D. Director, CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative Michele.femc-bagwell@uconn.edu 860-486-8100 Visit www.commpact.uconn.edu

