Resource Mapping

**Rationale**

Getting to know the school and community is vital to accomplishing new and different things. Further, it requires a deep understanding of what is currently happening and what has happened in the past. A jump to action might sacrifice clarity and cause harm; interest holders may have already done significant work to create a shared vision or they may be at square one. Instead, take time to learn about and document collective goals; what is working, why, and how to build upon it; who is helping to propel progress; and what is wrong in the system and why. This well of knowledge can be drawn upon throughout each phase of community school implementation.

[Mapping teams](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10w-EqpfVAUpbBPubFd9Sp2USRBb_fg3JEt-pxdBQS_A/edit?usp=sharing) and taking an [inventory of existing whole child supports](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r8fyBGLI4ZuD476GgavFYqOuE4jwB2NW/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107921508735563201087&rtpof=true&sd=true) provides insights into the school context. Similarly, community asset mapping sheds light into the context of the broader community.

**Methods**

To develop a process for community mapping, teams should consider the following questions:

* What are you trying to achieve by mapping your community? How will learning more about these assets help address particular challenges at your school? How will this information be shared and with whom?
* Who are key players and what are the key groups? Who are community partners? How do they relate to your community school initiative? How will you engage them in the mapping process?
* Is there a key partner serving as a backbone organization for your community school? Do they hold the same vision for the community? How can you work together to create forward momentum in your community?
* How do you define your community? How far into the community should you map?

The process of community mapping typically involves a combination of methods including those below.

**Method 1 -** Identify different types of assets that can provide support services, such as mentoring, tutoring, volunteers, health care, nonprofits, workforce development, adult education, and more. These are often compiled and shared as service directories.

**Method 2 -** Use qualitative methods (interviews, conversations, focus groups, and oral histories/storytelling) to gain understanding of the assets in the community. Through this process, additional community leaders are often identified and recruited to serve on various community school teams.

**Method 3 -** Map formal (e.g. Rotary Club) and informal (e.g. neighborhood meetups) structures as well as current and potential strategy-aligned partners the goal is to understand: 1) what they are working on; 2) who else in the neighborhood is working on this or are they focused on different things; and 3) who are influential and important residents in the community. This is often compiled on an asset map similar to school team maps.

**Templates, Examples, and Additional Readings**

* Template with Example:[School/Community Mapping Template](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YD5WKI0dq5pstzayPcClhATa80mGMNV69gGJi8Z2Zfo/edit?usp=sharing)
* Examples from Austin Voices: [Business and Resource Guide](https://www.austinvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/eastside-memorial-vertical-team-community-schools-resource-business-guide-austin-voices.pdf) and [Resource Map](https://www.austinvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/eastside-memorial-vertical-team-community-schools-resource-business-maps-austin-voices.pdf)
* Examples from Potter Elementary: [Resource Directory](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rzlqr5XuDpk49f5iWlxSseAg5C10ak7p/view?usp=sharing) and [Distribution Plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dFcTe9Cr0bT_37croDGyMwE0wwZ1fEXbJdLeG7MGnzw/edit?usp=sharing)
* Example from San Fernando Middle School: [Resource Guide](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rq5RRGB_cbtS_e33hI0LbeFPM7rPkjY9/view?usp=sharing)
* Essay: [Asset Based Community Development](https://www.neighborhoodtransformation.net/pdfs/What_%20is_Asset_Based_Community_Development.pdf)
* Tool: [MTSS Resource Mapping Tool](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zA93by68ZdkNBQ6fY5oRX3vMCdjmEuaxfKdlOmG0kYg/edit?usp=sharing)