



Fact Sheet

Why We Serve Our Kids: Closing the Achievement Gap by Building A Safety Net

A Broader and Bolder Approach is Needed.

- Regular classroom time in our schools can't solve the gap alone.
- Extended learning time (after school and summer) is needed. The United States has the shortest learning day and the shortest learning year in the industrialized world for education. This is unacceptable.
- There is also a resources gap between upper- & lower-income schools based on taxes per school and school district.
- Public schools serve ALL kids.
 - The only institution that serves all children
 - Sometimes the public school is the only stable institution that is left in low-income communities.
- Major challenges for public schools:
 - Student transience
 - Overcrowding
 - Under-funded
 - Diversity in language and culture
 - Shortage of qualified personnel
 - High-income schools serve the students/parents
 - Low-income schools serve the school board
- We must find ways to make public education work. How can we help address these needs?

We Respond.

- Not all students learn at the same pace.
- Teacher quality and classroom effectiveness matter a lot.
- Appropriate relationship between students and adults is needed.
- The problem is usually not the children, but how we treat them.
- The MUST provide a CNG culture that values the students and values learning.
- Discipline:
 - We are determined to focus on value, character and ethics, not punishment. Suspension should be a last resort.
 - We believe in engaging parents as partners.

We de-mystify Success.

- Our goal is to involve higher education (local colleges/Universities).
- We teach kids how to do well in school.
- We talk about the future very early.

- We enhance learning opportunities in out-of-school programs, but not more school (use focused games, specifically planned activities, rigorous projects, spoken word/debate club, science & math clubs, etc.)
- The best way to teach is through example (show more than tell; design student-centered classrooms as opposed to teacher-centered).
- Teach “codes of power”—Discuss when it’s appropriate to do certain things (e.g., speak clearly using Standard English & proper dress for specific occasions).

We help our parents.

- We identify ways to give parents support (build trust).
- We make them know they make a difference.
- We don’t overwhelm
- We help parents reinforce healthy life skills.
- We host family time at CNG (6-8pm, food, childcare, bi-monthly).