
Community Education on the Near Westside: A Vision

This task force is the vanguard of an ongoing effort to keep the people of the near Westside involved in forming and implementing the educational agenda for our community. We intend to explore ways in which all of our citizens, not just parents, can be involved in our schools, now and in the future. As the task force continues our discussions there remains clear consensus on the principles under which a school serving the near Westside should operate. This school should be:

- Most importantly, a **neighborhood school** focused on representing and providing services to both younger and older citizens of the West Indianapolis, Stringtown, Hawthorne, and Haughville communities.
- A school that teaches **kindergarten through grade twelve**, and maintains continuity between students and their community throughout all grades.
 - This school will provide an intergenerational learning center, extending services to citizens beyond the twelfth grade, while also drawing upon older neighbors as teaching resources.
 - This school will creatively seek ways to attract adolescent learners, including such strategies as alternative scheduling and child care for young mothers.
 - Because of creative, flexible, quality, educational programming, the near Westside learning community will be a school that young people will want to attend.
- A source of **vocational training** for students from middle school and extending through post-secondary school adults
- An **organizational partner** with other community service agencies, including neighborhood associations, community centers such as Hawthorne, Mary Riggs, and Christamore House, and other local partners, including the COPC Coalition at IUPUI.
 - The near Westside community school will be a 21st century learning center, serving as a catalyst for community groups, and providing both before and after school support of the learning needs of all of our citizens.
 - This school will also teach adults the skills necessary to build community in the neighborhoods of Stringtown, Hawthorne, Haughville, and West Indianapolis.
 - This school will serve as a center of community on the near Westside, providing facilities and services for recreation and organization of community, as well as education.
 - This school will partner with a variety of cultural organizations to provide programming in visual and performing arts in order to nurture creative expressions on the near Westside.
 - This school will provide a venue for IUPUI resources and services like the Community Learning Network, service learning, and other activities such as the America Reads Tutoring Program.