



United Way COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

“How-To Do It:” Community School Self-Readiness Assessment

What It Is

Each community school develops along a continuum. And each community school operates differently than another one across town or across the country. However, we know that there are similarities across community schools that have successfully implemented their strategy in how they are structured, what types of programs they offer, and how they operate. These “Key Practices” as outlined by the National Center for Community Schools in the [Framework: Essentials for Community School Transformation](#) are designed to help community schools determine for themselves to what extent and how well they are implementing the various components of being a community school.

The National Center for Community Schools has designed the below self-assessment so that community schools can reflect on their development, assess progress, and plot a course for continuous improvement. The United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley (UWGLV) adapted it as part of the annual Community School Asset and Needs Assessment Process. Building continuous improvement into your school’s culture and operations requires certain competencies and process conditions. Please rate each competency and process condition. Use this tool to identify your team’s current capacity building needs and which conditions need additional focus. After filling this out, compare your findings with other team members. Together, decide which competencies need development.

The Process

Designate the Stage of Development of your Community School for each of the three listed capacities (collaboration, coherence and commitment). Work individually first to complete the below assessment. Then submit your responses to your United Way Community School Technical Assistance Liaison (UWCS TA) who will aggregate all the responses. Your UWCS TA will then facilitate a CORE team conversation to discuss areas where CORE team members' assessment responses differed from each other to work toward a consensus. The next portion of this conversation will be to work toward consensus to identify what would need to happen or change to move your Community School to the next stage.

Reminder: Be brutal in your honesty and gentle in your delivery as you discuss each with your team members.

Network Partner:



United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley

