

Las Cruces Public Schools to add two new community schools

By lcps • Jul 13, 2021



LAS CRUCES - Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) will be adding two more community schools to the district to improve the quality of education for children in Doña Ana County by expanding community schools integrated services focused on academic, health and social services to improve student learning, create stronger families and building healthier communities. A \$600,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation will help provide funding for the community schools for the next two years. Each community school in the district will have a full-time community school coordinator that oversees the community school strategy. One of the new community schools will be Alameda Elementary, located at 1325 N. Alameda Las Cruces, NM 88005, the other community school is currently going through the application process.

Community schools work together with members of the community in creating lasting partnerships in order to transform schools into hubs of their communities. Community schools help to engage local communities in

collaborative leadership, while deeply assessing the needs and assets of students and families. These relationships help build upon our communities' strengths, while developing programs and systems to support the needs of different neighborhoods and areas in the city and around the county.

Community schools work off the "4 Pillar" model, which includes collaborative leadership and practices, expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement, and integrated student supports.

"LCPS is deeply committed to having systems in place that work towards having healthier families in a community that is equitable and responsive to diversity, and the Kellogg Foundation shares with us this commitment," said Amanda Barela, district coordinator of community schools at LCPS.

Barela adds that these types of grants are essential to community schools, as without this opportunity; LCPS would be unable to expand to open more community schools within the district.