

A  
community's  
response to  
the needs of  
its young  
people



Home/Family

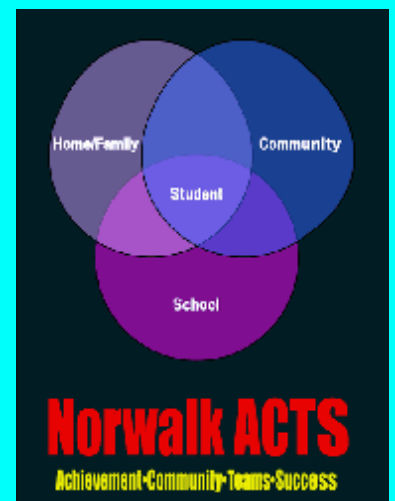


Community



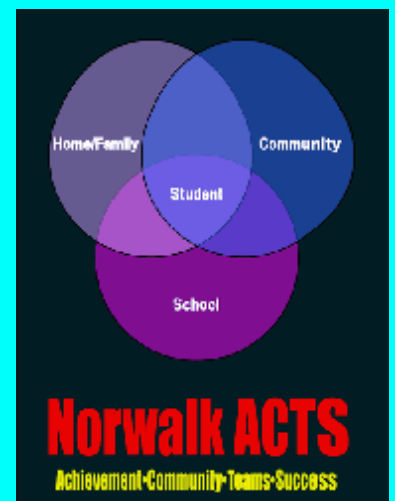
School

No one component can provide all of the essential elements that are necessary to meet the needs of young people.

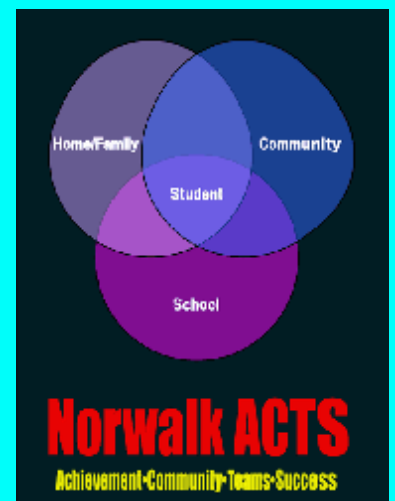


We believe that each of the components has a responsibility to use all of its resources as effectively as possible.

We also believe that the impact of each of the components on the life of the student is significantly strengthened when supported by the other two.

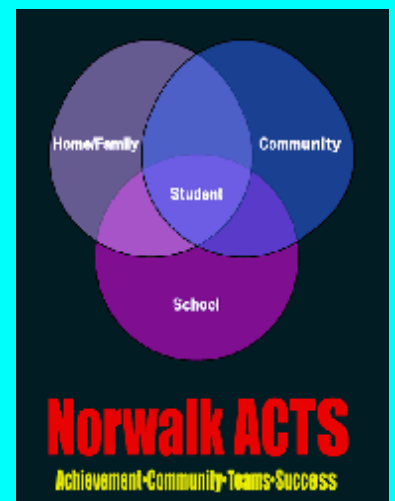


Using three interlocking circles to represent its conceptual model for student success, Norwalk ACTS believes that a strong, interrelated, and mutually supportive home and family, community, and school are the key ingredients in enabling student success.



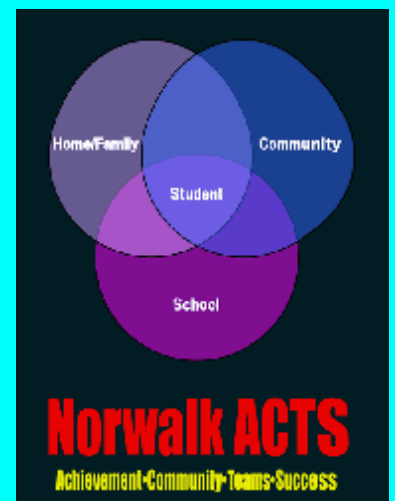
Our goal is to foster this collaboration in whatever ways possible to address the issues that prevent or deter the young people in Norwalk from reaching their capacity to be successful.

Our focus is influence and action!



**After School Alliance**  
**City of Norwalk**  
**Fairfield County Community Foundation**  
**Family and Children's Agency**  
**General Electric Corporation**  
**George Washington Carver Center**  
**Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**  
**Human Services Council**  
**NAACP, Norwalk Chapter**  
**Norwalk Association of School Administrators**  
**Norwalk Children's Foundation**  
**Norwalk Coalition for Urban Youth Initiatives**  
**Norwalk Community College**  
**Norwalk Community Health Center**  
**Norwalk Early Childhood Council**  
**Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now (NEON)**  
**Norwalk Education Foundation**  
**Norwalk Federation of Teachers**  
**Norwalk Health Department**  
**Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative**  
**Norwalk Hospital**  
**Norwalk Housing Authority**  
**Norwalk Maritime Aquarium**  
**Norwalk Parent Leadership Training Institute**  
**Norwalk PTO Council**  
**Norwalk Public Schools**  
**Stepping Stones Museum for Children**  
**United Way of Norwalk and Wilton**

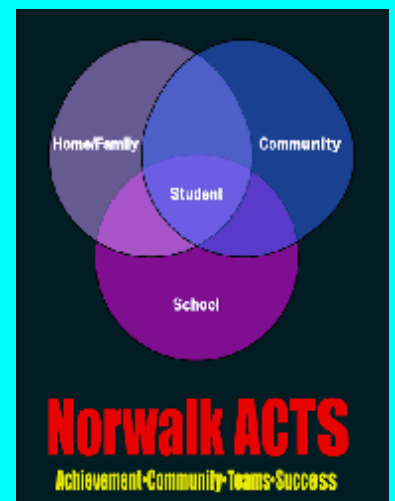
# Who We Are



**We can't do everything, so we decided to focus on:**

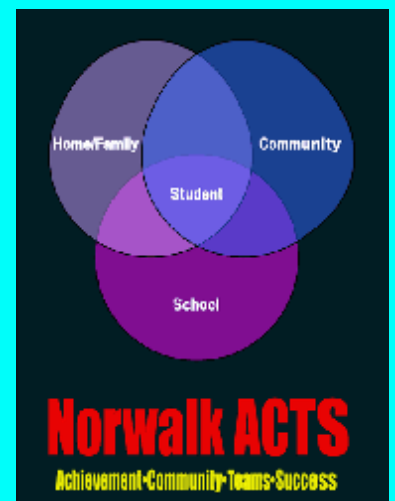
- Ø Early Childhood Education**
- Ø Youth Community Engagement**
- Ø Student Behavior and Academic Achievement**
- Ø Transportation**
- Ø Health and Nutrition**
- Ø Parental Engagement**

**With a special emphasis on Middle School**



## **Our Work Plan:**

- ü Identify a problem**
- ü Identify the obstacles**
- ü Brainstorm a solution**
- ü Act**
- ü Assess**
- ü Rework as needed**



## The Action Framework

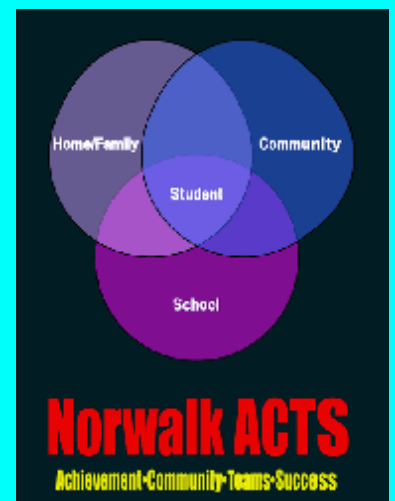
**Level:** Middle School (Ages 11 – 14)

**Belief:**

**Overriding Issue:**

**Goal:** Specific and Measurable

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Counter Balancing Step</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Intended/Actual Outcome</b>



## Action Framework for Improving Student Performance

**Level:** Middle School (Ages 11 – 14)

**Belief:** In a community where after school programs are part of the response to student needs, there must be a strong articulation between the school and the service providers.

**Overriding Issue:** There is little articulation between the schools and the after school providers. Neither group has a clear understanding of the work of the other, information is not shared on a regular basis, and there is little communication between school personnel and after school providers

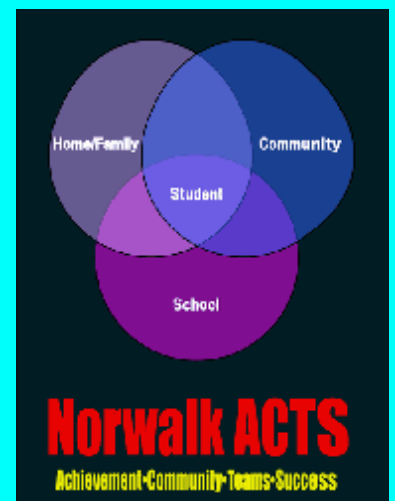
**Goal:** By June 30, 2007, after school providers and school personnel will be able to document that the level of articulation and communication has improved about matters of student achievement as measured by a 50% reduction of failures and a 50% improvement by at least one grade level for all students participating in the after school programs.

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Counter Balancing Step</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Intended/Actual Outcome</b>
Poor articulation between MSs and After School Providers (ASP)	Create a liaison between schools and ASPs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting with principals and ASP</li> <li>2. Provide textbooks to ASP</li> <li>3. Communication about student performance between school staff and ASP</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting time</li> <li>2. textbooks</li> <li>3. parents, guidance counselors and ASP</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Personal connection between parties</li> <li>2. Books available at sites for student use</li> <li>3. ASP will tailor academic support to student needs School will be aware of student progress in after school setting</li> </ol>

## What Have We Done So Far?

### Early Childhood Education

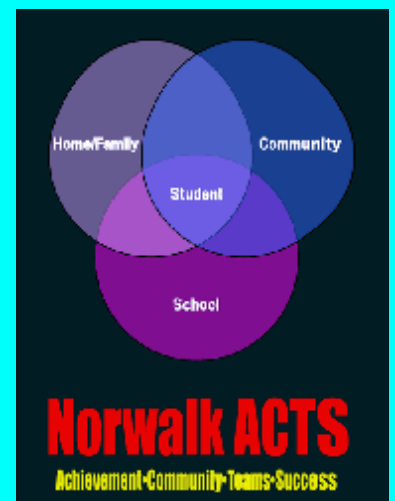
- ü Developed an action plan for Early Childhood
- ü Created summer opportunities for 200+ entering kindergarten students at NCC and in District funded by Norwalk Children's Foundation, the Fairfield County Community Foundation, GE, and the NCC Foundation
- ü NPS has a central office instructional specialist in Early Childhood Education
- ü We are positioned for expanding capacity and improving quality



## What Have We Done So Far?

### Youth Community Engagement

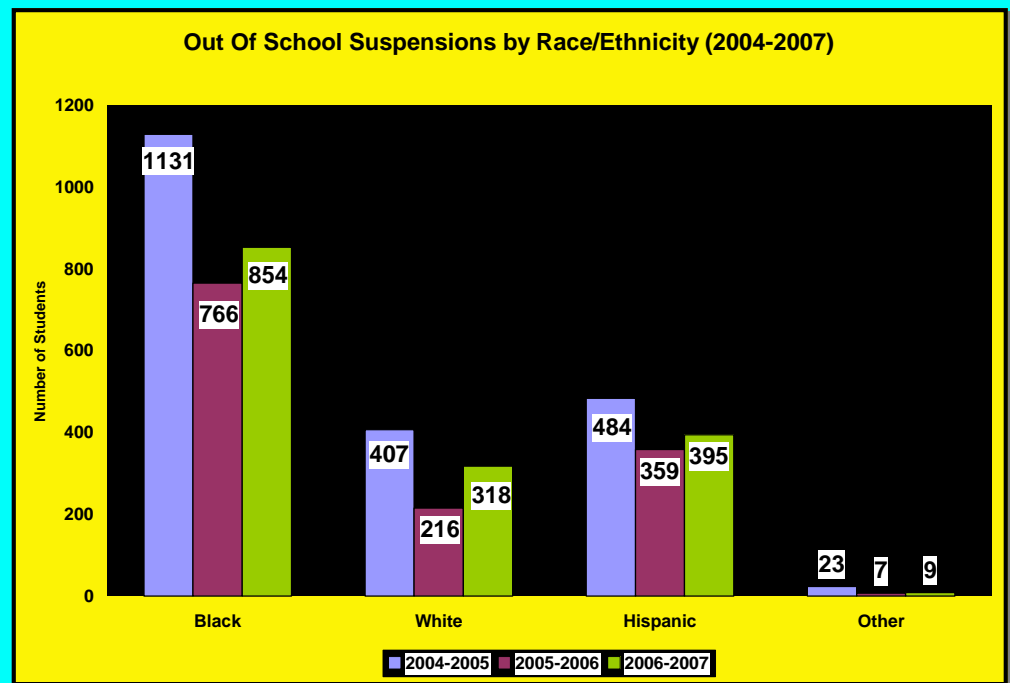
- ü Provided summer jobs through the City for 100+ students in 2006 and 2007
- ü Plans for six youth councils at local organizations serving young people
- ü Plans for two leadership sessions by 1/08
- ü Through collaboration with the After School Alliance, working to increase number of students in programs



# What Have We Done So Far?

## Student Behavior and Academic Achievement

- ü Reduced student suspensions across all grades for all racial and cultural groups
- ü No district-wide correlations calculated yet on changes in academic achievement
- ü School results, where analysis has occurred, shows improvement

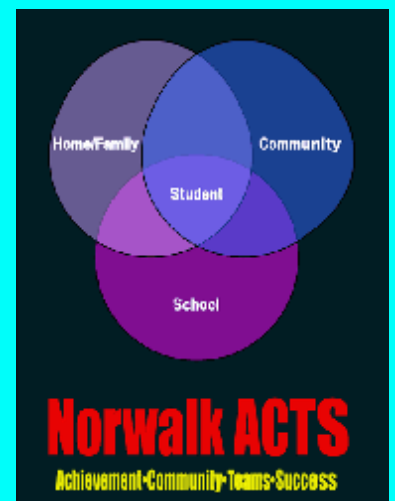


## What Have We Done So Far?

### Transportation

- ü An unanticipated and, we soon realized, the most formidable of challenges.
- ü While the city has a bus system, it does not enable parents from low income families to get from where they live to where they need to go to access schools, health services, etc.
- ü May need Federal or State assistance to address this problem.

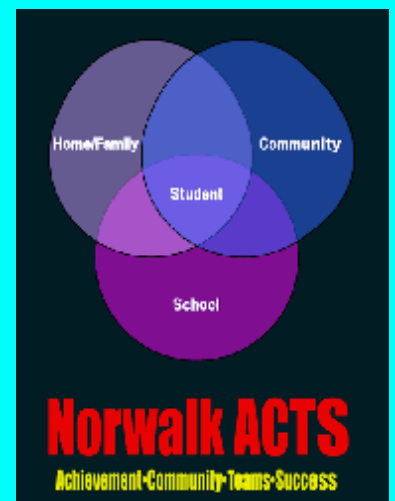
Transportation drives everything!



## What Have We Done So Far?

### Health and Nutrition - (Through Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative)

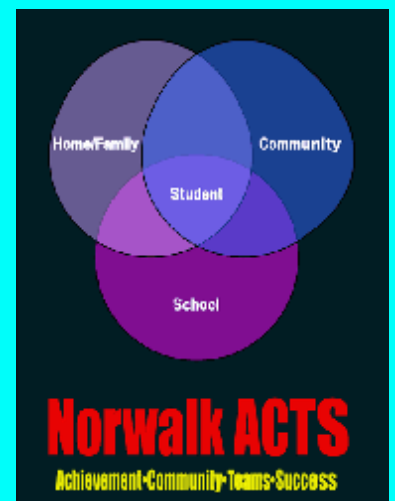
- ü Provide prenatal Health Education classes in both English and Spanish
- ü Reduction in number of teen pregnancies
- ü Connect pregnant teens to timely prenatal health care
- ü Immunization Action Plan - 90% of all children are immunized
- ü Dental care provided by Norwalk Smiles for preschoolers in Head Start, Permanent Dental office at NEON, Mobile Dental clinic launched in high schools and Board of Health WIC program
- ü New Pediatric Case Manager to assess needs, refer families, follow-up on referrals, and assess outcomes



## What Have We Done So Far?

### Parental Engagement

- ü Identified as a Goal in the Norwalk Public School District Improvement Plan
- ü Working to develop a framework to define and address this issue in multiple arenas with multiple stakeholders



# The Work Ahead

## ØEarly Childhood Education

- ü Continued implementation of ECP

## ØYouth Community Engagement

- ü Expansion of summer job opportunities

## ØStudent Behavior and Academic Achievement

- ü Strengthen linkage between Middle Schools & After School providers
- ü Create quality standards to govern approval of district approved Elementary school after school programs

## ØTransportation

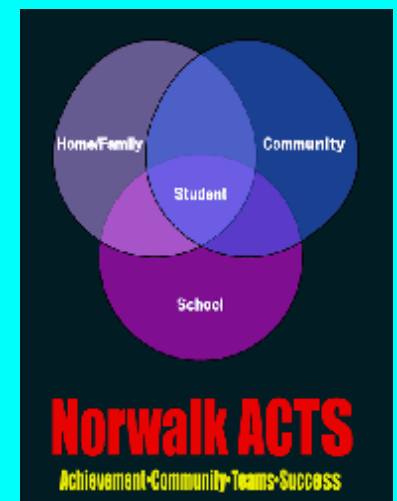
- ü Increase capacity in underserved areas

## ØHealth and Nutrition

- ü Reduce: childhood obesity, transmission of STDs, and teen births. Study root causes of preventable injuries and death among young people. Increase behavioral health capacity and sustain efforts to prevent and control asthma

## ØParental Engagement

- ü Coordinate city-wide efforts using the District Improvement Plan as a point of leverage



Want more information or a copy of  
this presentation?

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