

## Neighborhood Schools.

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD’S ROLE IN EDUCATION.

The fact that the schools belong to the county or independent school system does not mean the neighborhood should have a “hands off” policy. To the contrary, within an established educational framework, the neighborhood residents can best tailor the county schools to meet the holistic intellectual and enrichment needs of themselves and their children.

### HOLISTIC NEIGHBORHOOD LEARNING CENTERS.

The idea of a combined neighborhood school/park/library/cultural center is not new.

- Every school, in and of itself, needs to be high quality with connections to the civic and business communities.
- New schools can be located next to parks and cultural centers with the educational mission squarely on the shoulders of the county school board, conversely
- New parks and cultural centers can be located next to established schools.



**NORTHLAKE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
Is co-located with Lake Nona YMCA Family Center and a City Park; in the heart of a neighborhood.

### THE BENEFITS OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS AS VENUES FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING.

Besides the moral obligation, an educated electorate offers many benefits to the city and the neighborhood.

- Educated people are critical for democracy. Communities function better with an informed and educated citizenry.
- Educational excellence is an important economic development factor with job training and re-training a requirement of the New Economy.
- Partnerships between the school board, the community’s colleges and universities, the business community and the city strengthen educational outcomes.
- Higher incomes are generally associated with higher educational attainment.
- Communities with a life-long learning attitude are more interesting, pleasant and prosperous places than those with a more myopic view.



**THE PRINCETON NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL**  
in Orlando FL is within the neighborhood having immediately adjacent to:

- Bob Crosby Field,
- College Park Little League,
- College Park Community Center and Community Pool,
- Fire Station No. 3 and
- The Princeton Park

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION PLANS.**

This plan enables residents in the neighborhood to have easy and safe access to their schools, parks and community centers. The Neighborhood Connection Plan identifies the sidewalks, paths and streets for residents to use for secure and safe access when entering and exiting the combined school, park and community center complex.

The Neighborhood Connection Plan extends off-site; beyond the school grounds into the neighborhoods. Sidewalks, bikeways and safe street crossings are the main feature of this plan for each school. This Plan fulfills the city’s responsibility to provide safe bike/ped access to schools, shops and parks for its residents.

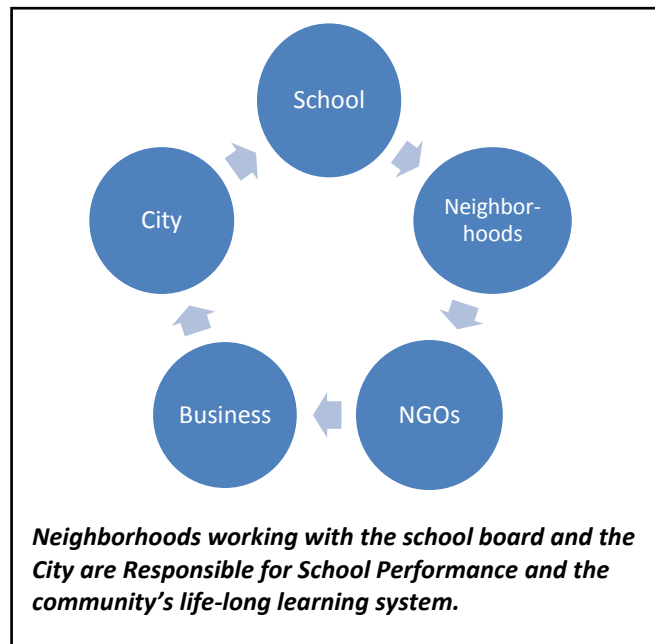
**JOINT-USE AGREEMENTS.**

Joint-Use Agreements between the school board, the neighborhood association and the city exist in many jurisdictions. They can provide for the neighborhood association’s use of school grounds for recreation and related activities with defined responsibilities for the school board and the city. The neighborhood association may use school facilities for meetings and workshops.

**CONCLUSIONS.**

1. **The Community’s Vision and Expectation is Education-centric** where:
  - a. Every neighborhood appreciates the need for education and life-long learning.
  - b. Every child receives a quality education.
  - c. The expectation of attending college is common.
  - d. People seeking life-long learning find many opportunities.

2. **The City’s Neighborhood Connection Plan is the result of active neighborhood participation.**
3. **The “Holistic School Strategy” is based on Partnering.** The strategy is to fully integrate the city’s schools into the fabric of the city and to co-locate its public schools to all city allied cultural, educational and recreation venues: the city park system, the community theater, the local history museum and the public library plus the city’s many other cultural centers.
4. **Five Strategic Partners are Essential.** The City’s school strategy depends on the active and effective participation of five primary partners:
  - The public school system,
  - The City and its park system,
  - The City’s neighborhood organizations,
  - The City’s business community and
  - Non-governmental organizations [NGOs].



5. **Joint Use Agreements Solidify Partnerships.** The joint use of related facilities is the opportunity before us, even when owned and funded by separate entities. Better and less expensive results can be achieved when the best efforts of all related parties are applied with a singular focus. Many small cities and towns are enlisting their town's cultural organizations to participate in public education.

