



# SAN FRANCISCO BEACON INITIATIVE PROGRAM MODEL

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*Developed in collaboration with Partnership for Children & Youth*



## PROGRAM MODEL SUMMARY

The Beacon model rests on the assumption that by transforming public schools into safe spaces where children, youth, parents and community members can engage in positive, educational, enriching and healthy activities during extended hours, youth in the community will benefit. This assumption is reinforced by the well-established social ecological model of child development, which posits that there are multiple spheres of influence, often depicted as concentric circles. These spheres emanate out from micro-level influences like family, to larger, more structural or macro-influences like school, neighborhood, and cultural or economic context (Bronfenbrenner, 1977; Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Santrock, 2007; Kail & Cavanaugh, 2010). The job of the Beacons, is therefore, seen as not only providing youth development and academic learning supports to youth, but also supporting parents in skill development, helping families navigate schools, coordinating school-day and out-of-school-time efforts, deepening participating youths' connection to their communities, and ensuring the neighborhood is a healthy place in which to grow up.

## HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Beacon Initiative (SFBI) began in 1994 when a broad-based group San Francisco leaders came together to form a planning committee to examine community school models from across the country. The Initiative draws its inspiration from the very successful New York City Beacon effort. The first Beacon Center opened in 1996 and now there are 8 Beacon Centers spread across San Francisco's priority neighborhoods.

SFBI is a public private partnership that promotes youth and family centers in our public schools. The goal is to create Beacon Centers that offer opportunities, services and activities for the healthy development of children, youth, their families and the community.



## BEACON MISSION STATEMENT

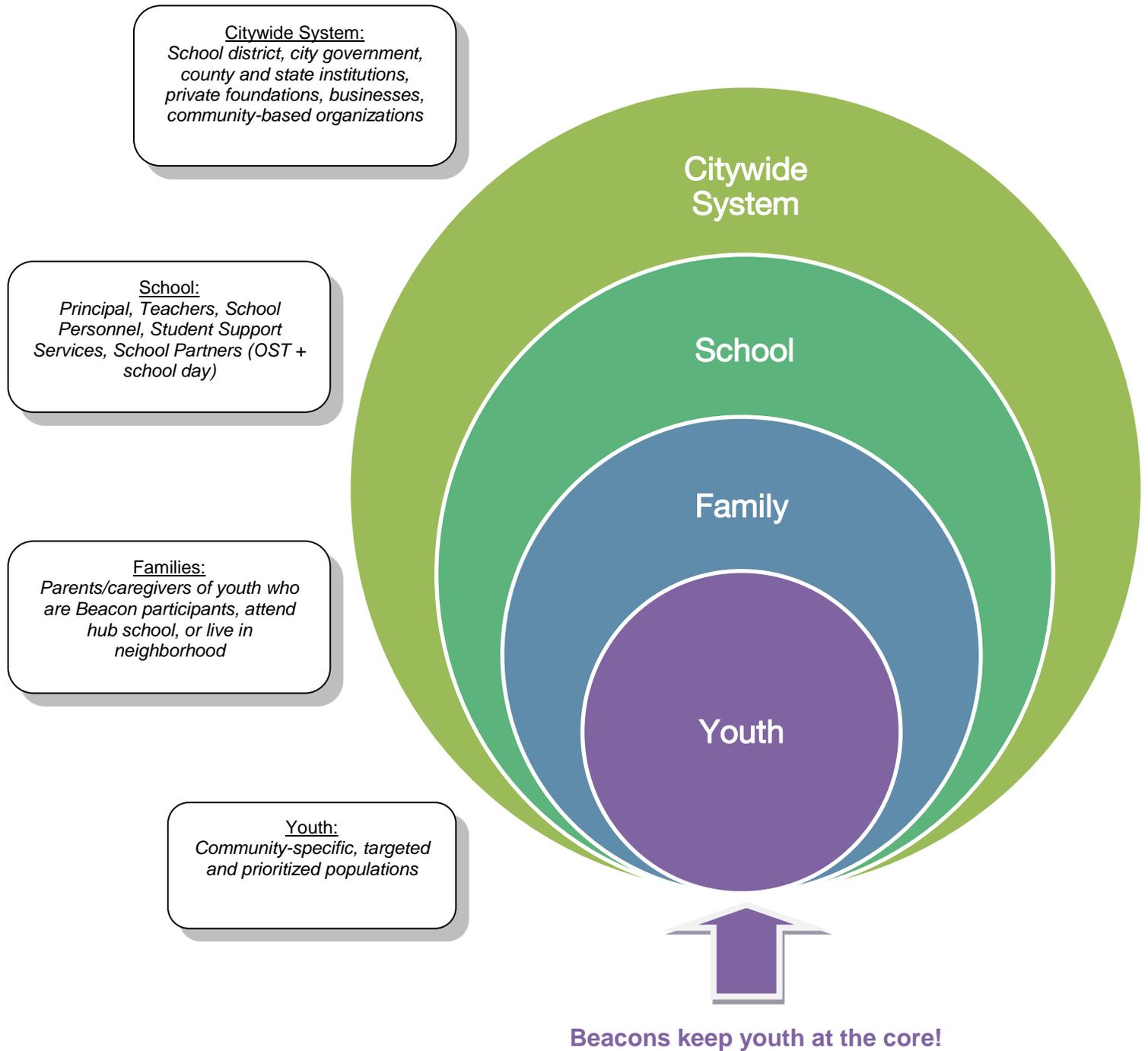
The mission of the San Francisco Beacon Initiative is to transform public schools into youth, family and community centers. Drawing on the existing strengths of our communities, Beacon Centers are committed to a cohesive, comprehensive and collaborative approach that creates pathways to lifelong learning.

## BEACON VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ **Commitment to success:** All children, youth and families deserve high quality programs and support that is targeted to their specific needs in order to succeed as learners and as empowered members of the school and community.
- ❖ **Strong partnerships:** A variety of partners – the school district and school sites, the city, private funders, community-based organizations, families and youth – work collaboratively to share resources and expertise, and to design and implement comprehensive programming that meets the partners’ collective interest in young people’s academic and personal success.
- ❖ **Shared accountability:** Partners agree upon clearly defined, complementary outcomes, and use multiple data sources to measure progress and assess collective impact.
- ❖ **High expectations:** Partners share a commitment to continuously assess, gather input from partners and stakeholders, and improve their performance to ensure progress towards quality and outcomes.
- ❖ **Build on community’s strengths:** All children, youth, families and communities have strengths and assets that should be valued and developed.



## CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE



## GOAL STATEMENTS

**YOUTH GOAL: *Through consistent participation in Beacon programs, youth will feel safe, gain skills, develop supportive relationships, and show growth on youth development and academic measures.***

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes (annually)	Long Term Outcomes (5-10 years)
Classes and activities with enrolled youth and attendance expectations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrichment</li> <li>• Education &amp; Academic Support</li> <li>• College &amp; Career Readiness</li> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Leadership &amp; Civic Engagement</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellness</li> </ul> Classes, activities and events available on a drop-in basis to engage and attract high-risk youth into deeper participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of unduplicated youth participants</li> <li>• Number of youth enrolled in each activity</li> <li>• Dosage/intensity of participation</li> <li>• Average daily attendance</li> </ul>	Highly engaged youth demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved skills and movement toward mastery</li> <li>• supportive relationships</li> <li>• leadership and community involvement</li> <li>• improved school attendance and achievement compared with youth not deeply engaged</li> </ul> All youth report feeling safe in the program.	Highly engaged youth demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased competency in core areas</li> <li>• college and career readiness</li> <li>• engagement in continuous learning</li> </ul>
<b>Program Examples:</b>			
<p>The Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center provides a wide variety of enrichment classes that use project-based learning to intentionally integrate academic content with meaningful, relevant, and fun activities. In one of the cooking classes, for example, elementary youth practice ratios and proportions, reading and writing, and learn about cultural customs and practices through their culinary projects. They are also collaborating, negotiating and presenting their ideas throughout the cooking process. The class is engaging because young people are actively learning and being encouraged to explore and experiment in projects they can relate to.</p> <p>At the Richmond Village Beacon we have 8<sup>th</sup> grade teen centers at each of our middle schools where 40-60 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth attend daily to hang out with friends and staff, learn how to make healthy snacks, complete homework, and listen to music, in a drop-in setting. This space has significantly increased the number of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who attend afterschool in middle school, as they age out of traditional 'after-care' models.</p>			

**FAMILY GOAL: *Beacon programs will help parents and caregivers connect with school and community resources, build stronger relationships with their children and other family members, and gain skills to navigate school and life more effectively,***

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes (annually)	Long Term Outcomes (5-10 years)
Programming for parents, caregivers and other family members, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skill-building workshops and classes</li> <li>• events and celebrations</li> <li>• brokering of resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent of participants who are SFUSD parents/caregivers</li> <li>• Number of adults participating in family-oriented programs</li> <li>• Number of families</li> </ul>	Family participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are more connected to schools</li> <li>• access support and skill-development</li> <li>• have stronger relationships with their</li> </ul>	Family participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have the skills and knowledge to provide a healthy, supportive environment for youth success</li> <li>• adopt leadership roles</li> </ul>



and relationships in the school, family and community	accessing school and community resources	children and other family members.	in the school and community
<b>Program Examples:</b>			
<p>At the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, 200 families participating in the Sunset Family Resource Collaborative's early literacy, parenting, and parent/child interactive classes not only gain concrete family-building skills and develop an aptitude for learning and growing together, but they also develop a supportive network of caring peers who support one another through challenges and celebrate each other at self-organized events.</p> <p>At the OMI/Excelsior Beacon Center, we graduated 32 families in the Strengthening Families program (a 14 week evidence-based curriculum) where youth and caregivers learned skills to improve and strengthen family relationships through communication, problem-solving, and goal-setting.</p>			

**SCHOOL GOAL: Beacons Centers and their school sites will collaborate and share data to develop and implement coherent strategies that reflect their complementary goals.**

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes (annually)	Long Term Outcomes (5-10 years)
Beacon staff, school leadership and other school staff use a variety of strategies, data and activities to ensure alignment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative meetings</li> <li>• Shared trainings</li> <li>• Aligned planning and communication processes</li> <li>• Seats on each other's decision-making groups/bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of space and number of hours that Beacon Centers occupy school sites</li> <li>• Meetings between program and school-day personnel</li> <li>• Beacon activities included in balanced scorecard/school site plan</li> </ul>	Beacon and school site(s) have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more integrated goals and strategies</li> <li>• more opportunities for collaboration</li> <li>• a share sense of purpose</li> </ul>	School site(s), Beacon Centers and community work together to effectively support youth, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a healthy school climate</li> <li>• highly engaged youth, families and community in school efforts</li> <li>• a higher functioning school</li> </ul>

**Program Examples:**

At NBC Beacon, program staff participate in the school's Leadership Team, which determines school-wide professional development and goals. School-wide includes school-day/out of school/Beacon time, and goals are academic, community-building, etc.

At the Visitacion Valley Beacon, Beacon staff attend major school administrative meetings, attend school day assemblies, receive training from teachers, receive homework assignments from teachers daily, and work in school with each math teacher.

At the Bayview Beacon staff are trained on the theory and manifestations of such concepts as the achievement gap, equity and the common core, so that they are proficient in school-speak.

**SYSTEMS GOAL: The San Francisco Beacon Initiative and its Beacon Centers will be integral partners in education reform and youth development efforts across the city.**

Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcomes (annually)	Long Term Outcomes (5-10 years)
The Beacon Initiative and Beacon Centers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of coalition and collaborative organizations Beacons</li> </ul>	Beacons will be recognized by external stakeholders as:	SFBI and the Beacon Centers are established as active and highly



<p>reform and youth development discussions/ collaborative (i.e.: Community Schools, Common Core, Promise Neighborhood, Expanded Learning Collaborative, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify core services and best practices, and document them for replication within the Beacon initiative and other education/youth-related initiatives</li> <li>• Intentionally market the Beacon model as an effective strategy for youth development and achievement.</li> </ul>	<p>are represented in or lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of documents developed and disseminated to share core services and best practices</li> <li>• Number of public presentations, media stories, marketing materials representing the Beacon model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of effective collaboration and quality programming</li> <li>• Models for the district's Community School strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>regarded systems-change policy advocates and collaborative partners at the city, school district, state and national levels.</p>
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**Program Example:**

Five of the eight San Francisco Beacon Center school sites will be Community-School incubators in the coming school year. The Beacon Center staff will work closely with the district's Community-School staff to identify existing best practices in the Beacon Center model, and to define, develop and implement other strategies and practices. This work will help to solidify the district's Community-School approach and disseminate it to other schools.



## BEACON CORE AREAS

- **Enrichment** - Engaging skill building activities including visual and performing arts, cooking, music, and cultural based clubs.
- **Education & Academic Support** - Regular completion of homework assignments, skills in educational areas depending on program focus, such as literacy, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) research skills, English language acquisition, credit recovery.
- **College & Career Readiness** - Knowledge of educational and career options beyond high school, work experience, age-appropriate work readiness competencies such as career planning and decision-making, job search techniques, punctuality, regular attendance.
- **Recreation** - Regular opportunities for physical activity, e.g. team and non-team sports, and outdoor recreation.
- **Leadership & Civic Engagement** - Skills such as planning, managing, and facilitating peer meetings or projects, working in teams, effective conflict resolution, problem-solving, public speaking, and community advocacy.
- **Technology** - Acquiring 21st century skills via building computer literacy, animation, movie making, computer programming, graphic design and computer maintenance skills.
- **Health & Wellness** - Decision-making skills regarding health and wellness, decreased frequency or extent of negative behaviors such as suspension and truancy, knowledge of health issues that are the focus of the program such as substance abuse, sexual health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity.

## BEACON HOURS OF SERVICE

### Beacon Baseline Services:

**During School** - coordinate with school staff, participate in school leadership groups, support classroom teachers for Beacon/School cohesion.

**After School** - meet expectations for ExCEL After School Programs.

**Summer** - implement a 6 week summer program (minimum) for youth participants.

*-Elementary programs operate at least 8 hours/day*

*-Middle School programs operate at least 6 hours/day*

*-High School programs operate at least 4 hours/day*

### Extension Services:

**Evening** - regularly scheduled programs for youth and family members

**Weekend** - special events and activities at least 4 Saturdays a year.

### Optional Services:

**Before School** - programming for youth before the school day.

**Intersession** - activities, events and field trips during school breaks.

