Ford School
Becoming a Community School

Based on a Successful Program at:
The Robert L. Ford School

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Book (106 pp.)

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Description

Within the city of Lynn, Massachusetts, the Robert L. Ford School serves one of the poorest communities - 57% of its families speak limited English, 95% are low income. Yet, all 18 elementary schools in the city, the Ford ranked first on several reading tests, despite the fact that several of these other schools serve far less disadvantaged families. On the state-mandated MCAS exams, the school posted among the strongest improvements in the state, dramatically increasing the passing rate of its students. What is the secret of this success? Working with various community partners, the Ford offers students and families a wide range of educational and social supports, including literacy and enrichment programs for the students, family education and life skills programs for their parents, English language instruction, on-site high school and college courses, and access to experienced and in-training teachers, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. These connections translate into academic success. More...

Major Topics Covered
Parent Involvement
Full Service Schools
Community Partnerships

For more information, please visit Project for School Innovation's (PSI) website.

http://ford.lynn.edu/fordschoolbook.htm

4/26/2010
# NASA EXPLORER SCHOOL

## Ford School Science Photo Gallery

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Partnerships

With the help of various community partners, networking and a "never say no" attitude, the Ford School is able to support the students and their families. Such as....

Salem State College - offers teacher aide training classes, free computer classes to the parents of Ford Students (Verizon Technology Workshops), tutors and the Ford and Salem State Together program (FASST).

Center for the Applied Special Technology (CAST) - supplied software, books and teacher/student instruction in order to assist teachers in creating lesson plans online, in which students can access directly and get teacher created help links.

City of Lynn Housing Authority - provides affordable housing.

Cohen Hillel Academy - In addition to countless hours of "buddy reading" with our students, the private school teachers and families have organized clothing drives, book donations, field days on their school campus, and outings to plays and other cultural events. The partnership is a true exchange - expanding the horizons of children on both sides of socioeconomic barriers.

Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) - provides 1 on 1 volunteers to help students read as well as donations to the school library. The students sing for ECCO on Memorial, Labor & Veteran's Day.

General Electric - provides volunteers for Junior Achievement, NASA and tutoring.

Gordon College - provides students with tutors during the school day as well as at night.

Governor's Academy -

LensCrafters - provides free eyeglasses for the students of Ford School.

Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO) - offers affordable daycare from 2-6 pm, which includes snacks & activities.

My Brother's Table - offers meals and also donates 100 turkeys each Thanksgiving for families in need.

New England Conservatory - donates music lessons and keyboards.

North Shore Community College - offers teacher aide training classes.

Piece of the Rock - High Rock Tower Group

RAW Arts - provides therapy through drawing and art.

University of Massachusetts - Sponsors an "Asian Night," which is a culture workshop to help educate the parents of our students.
Night School

The Night School Program at the Ford serves approximately 250 adults (both parents and outside community members).

The program operates 2 evenings a week, Monday and Tuesday and regularly offers 4 classes; three levels of English as a second language (ESL 1, 2, and 3) and a graduate equivalency diploma (GED) course for adults to complete high school. Other classes such as personal financial management, parenting, and college level English classes are offered periodically as needs arise and funding permits. Seven classrooms, library, a computer lab and a homework help/nightcare area are used for the evening school.

We know that our Night School is a success. Since 1992, the number of students enrolled has grown each year, exceeding our classroom and funding capabilities. Students walk, drive, or take public transportation (bus, train). Due to the popularity of this program, it is now broadcast by Comcast across the City of Lynn.

Our Night School also provides homework help and night care for the children of our adult learners.