



THIS CHARTER SCHOOL WRAPS ITS ARMS AROUND ITS STUDENTS



Broome Street Academy Charter High School (BSA) wraps its arms around its students.

As National Education Policy Center director, Kevin Welner, and University of Colorado School of Education director for outreach and engagement, Linda Molner Kelley, wrote recently in *The Washington Post's Answer Sheet* column:

BSA's intense focus on students' well-being, the panoply of health and social services, academic and personal enrichment options, and other resources from community and higher education partners exemplify how a comprehensive and inclusive commitment to young people can close opportunity gaps.

BSA was highlighted in the *Post* after NEPC named it one of eight 2017 Schools of Opportunity. The [Schools of Opportunity program](#) recognizes public high schools that work to close opportunity gaps by creating learning environments that reach every student.

BSA focuses intensively on academics, offering courses at New York's City College, support classes and tutoring that help struggling students to access grade-level coursework, two-teacher teams in most content classes, and extended learning time.

But the academy, where more than three quarters of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, is also an example of a community school. "Community schools are public schools that partner with families and community organizations to provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for students' school success," according to a [recent report](#) by the Partnership for the Future of Learning in collaboration with NEPC, the Learning Policy Institute, the Public Leadership Institute, the Coalition for Community Schools, and Research for Action.

In a separate brief, jointly published by NEPC and the Learning Policy Institute, research-

ers Jeannie Oakes, Anna Maier and Julia Daniel identify “four pillars” of a comprehensive community school strategy: (1) Integrated student supports, (2) Expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities, (3) Active family and community engagement, and (4) Collaborative leadership and practices.

BSA, in partnership with the non-profit youth development and therapeutic adolescent intervention agency [The Door](#), offers such supports as:

- Legal services
- Dental care
- Vision services
- Dermatology services
- Mental health counseling
- Three meals daily

BSA also takes full advantage of its location in New York City’s bustling SoHo neighborhood. The school has worked with local institutions including the Tisch School of the Arts, the Whitney Museum and New Museum, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Cherry Lane Theatre.

Interested in learning more about Broome Street? Click [here](#).

For more information on community schools, click [here](#).

To read the *Washington Post* piece on Broome Street, click [here](#).

NEPC Resources on Schools of Opportunity

The National Education Policy Center (NEPC), housed at the University of Colorado Boulder School of Education, produces and disseminates high-quality, peer-reviewed research to inform education policy discussions. Visit us at: <http://nepc.colorado.edu>