



Overcoming Barriers to Community-Centered Schools

A presentation to the Missouri Safe Routes to School Network

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What Are “Community-Centered” Schools?

Good for Students, Good for Communities

Educational Benefits

Vibrant Communities

- ✓ Personal Ties
- ✓ Property Values

Environmental Impacts

- ✓ Reduce Sprawl
- ✓ Air Quality

Save on Costs

- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Operating

Healthier Families

- ✓ Walk or Bike
- ✓ After Hours Use



... “factors such as school location have played a significant role in the decreased rates of walking to school, and changes in policy may help to increase the number of children who are able to walk to school.”

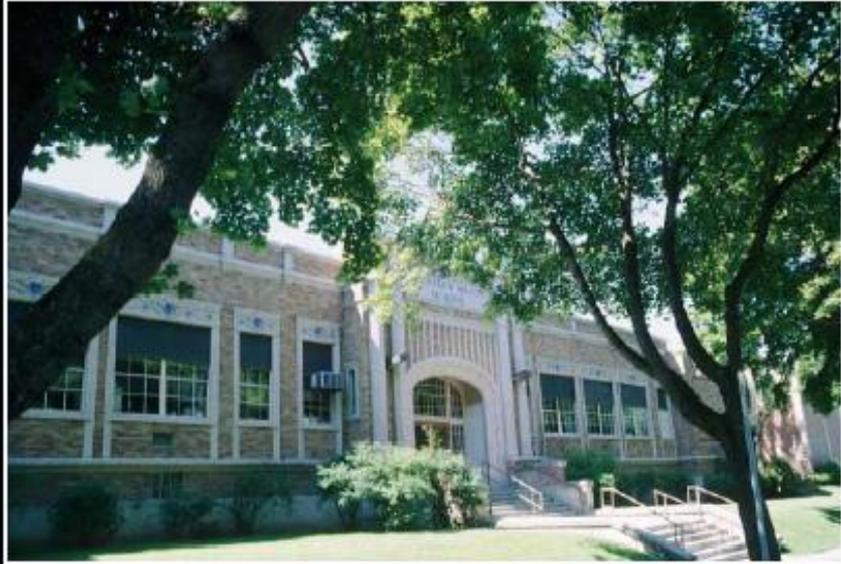
[Committee on Environmental Health](#)
[American Academy of Pediatrics \(2009\)](#)

Community-Centered Schools Are Not the Norm



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Why Johnny Can't Walk to School



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Helping Johnny Walk to School

Policy Recommendations for Removing Barriers to Community-Centered Schools

BY RENEE KUHLMAN



Helping Johnny Walk to School Project

Grants and Technical Assistance Provided Since 2008

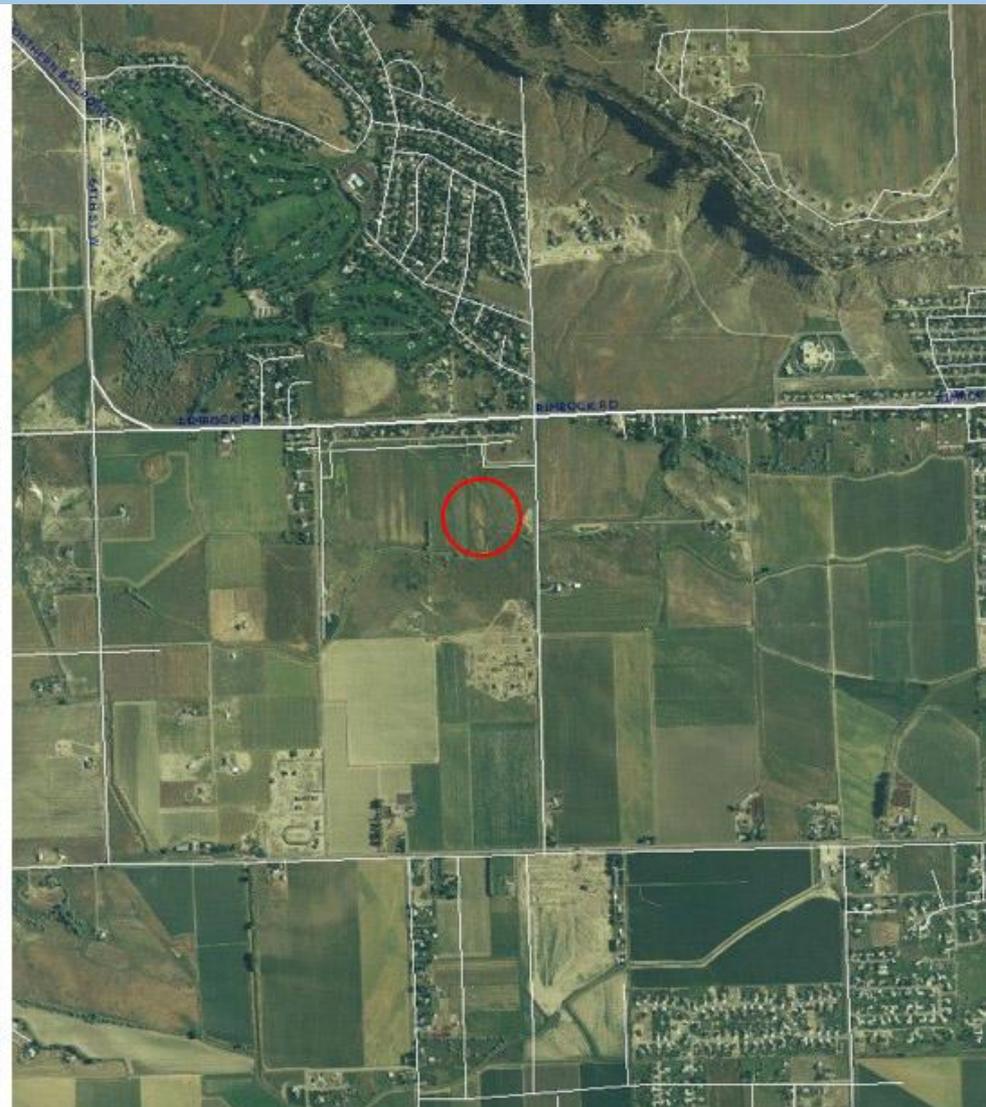
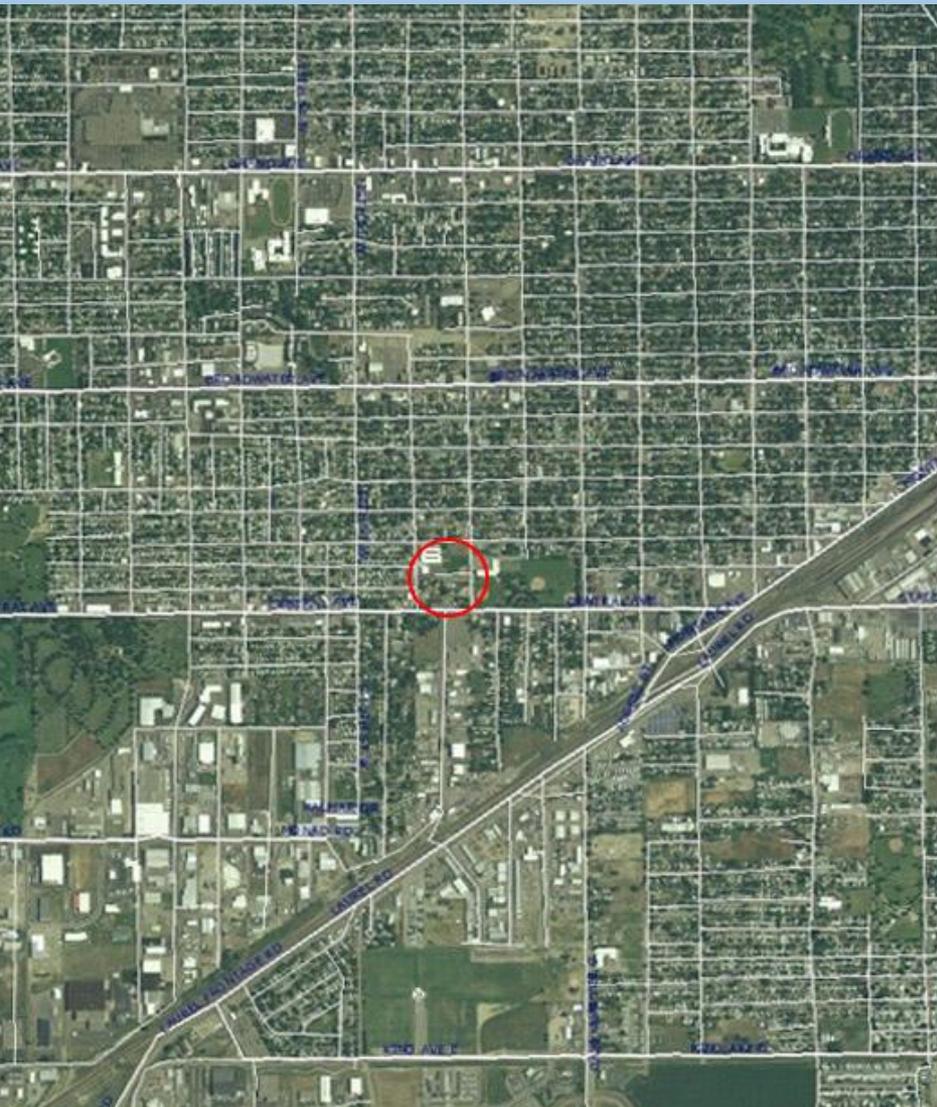
California
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana



New Hampshire
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
New York
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Wyoming

Q: Which site encourages more active transportation and serves the most residents?

A: The community-centered location



Remove Minimum Acreage Site Standards or Guidelines

Changes Since 2000 ...

- 2004 – CEFPI
 - South Carolina
- 2009 – Minnesota
 - New Mexico
- 2010 – ???**

Sadly, we have learned that the perceived need (perception) is just as big of a barrier as policy.



SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT GROUP
CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL
9 JAN. 09

Q: What Can You Do With 100 Acres?

A: Build 32 City Blocks in Alexandria, Va.



Image courtesy of Ehrenkrantz Ekstut and Kuhn Architects

Encourage Inter-Agency Planning Coordination and Public Input

Florida's Concurrency Requirement

New Hampshire Senate Bill 59

New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

New York Smart Growth Act for "Infrastructure Departments"

Smart Growth Idaho Memorandum of Agreements



Keene, New Hampshire



Put Renovation Options on Level Playing Field

Encourage “Full Cost” Analysis of Each Site

Costs to Include and Impacts to Weigh:

- Land Acquisition
- Demolition or Security
- Transportation
 - More Buses
 - More Lanes
- Infrastructure
 - Sewer
 - Roads
 - Sidewalks
- Walkability www.azdot.gov/srts
- Health
 - Obesity
 - Asthma
- Local Housing Values



Encourage Joint Use

National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity

- ✓ 50 state scan
- ✓ Model Agreements
www.nplanonline.org

21st Century School Fund & The Center for Cities and Schools

- ✓ A “Framework” paper
- ✓ Joint Use Calculator
- ✓ NCEF webinar

www.21csf.org &
www.citiesandschools.berkeley.edu



ROSA PARKS SCHOOL
AT NEW COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Portland, Oregon

Encourage Creative Design

Image courtesy of www.smartgrowthschools.org



School Without Walls, Ehrenkrantz Ekstut and Kuhn Architects

PR

School Closures: Impacts to Weigh

- Are we increasing student travel time? What are impacts on health? education?
- Are we losing a community “anchor”?
- Which schools provide more opportunities for walking and biking? ... more participation in after-school activities?
- Who actually saves money? Are we shifting transportation costs to the State? To parents?
- Are we lowering surrounding property values?



In March 2010, the Kansas City, Missouri, school board voted to close 28 of the district's 61 schools due to declining enrollment and a soaring budget deficit.

Additional Reading Suggestions

- Hard Lessons: The Real Costs of Michigan's School Construction Boom, Mac McClelland and Keith Schneider, Michigan Land Use Institute
- Travel and Environmental Implications of School Siting, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Renovate or Replace: The Case For Restoring and Reusing Older School Buildings, Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania School Boards Association
- Facilitating Collaboration among School Boards and Local Governments in North Carolina David Salvesen, University of North Carolina.
- Yellow School Bus Blues: A County by County Review of Maryland's Rising School Bus Transportation Costs (1992-2006), 1000 Friends of Maryland
- Children's Travel: Patterns and Influences, Noreen C. McDonald, University of North Carolina
- Wait for the Bus: How Low Country School Site Selection and Design Deter Walking to School and Contribute to Urban Sprawl, Christopher Kouri, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/16/ef/b5.pdf

www.epa.gov/schools/siting.html

www.ncef.org/rl/site_selection.cfm

www.bestfacilities.org/best-home

<http://www.ruraledu.org>

<http://www.coss.fsu.edu/durp/news/2008/school-siting-and-healthy-communities-symposium>

A photograph of a staircase wall. The wall is covered in light-colored, square tiles. A red banner with gold text is mounted on the wall. The banner reads: "Let the choices you make today be choices you can live with tomorrow." To the right, a dark wooden staircase railing is visible. At the top, a window with two panes is set into the white wall above the banner. A silver handrail is visible on the left side of the frame.

Let the choices you make today be choices you can live with tomorrow.

Renee Kuhlman

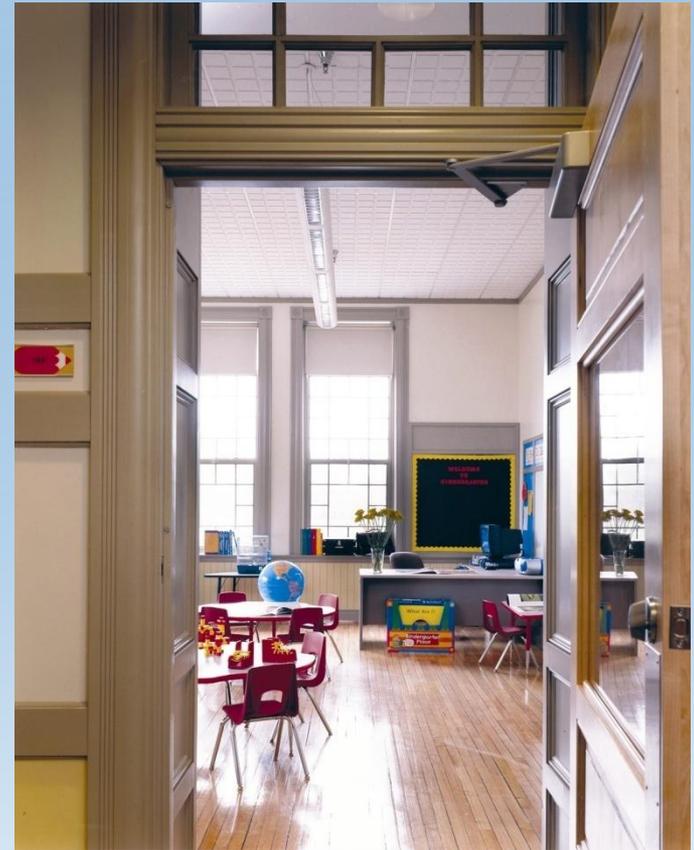
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