



BEACON CENTERS

FACT SHEET

...strengthening communities in urban neighborhoods to support children and youth.

Historical Background: The San Francisco Beacon Initiative is a public/private partnership that establishes youth/family centers in public schools. The Beacon Initiative began in 1994 when a broad-based group of San Francisco leaders came together to examine community school models from across the country, assess their feasibility, and plan for the Initiative. The San Francisco Beacon Initiative is based on the conceptual strategies from the New York Beacons programs.

The major themes identified as important for San Francisco Beacons are:

- Youth and families are partners in developing solutions to the challenges that youth face.
- The San Francisco Beacon Initiative is a promise that neighborhoods will not be broken.
- The San Francisco Beacon Initiative provides access to public schools.

What is the goal of the Beacon Center?

The goal of the Beacon Centers is to create neighborhood centers is to organize the community in support of its youth increasing their access to enrichment, tutorial and recreational programs and services.

What is a Beacon Center?

Beacons are a strategy for strengthening communities in urban neighborhoods to support children and youth. Public schools are transformed into neighborhood centers that provide a broad array of services, activities, opportunities, and supports based upon needs and resources that promote healthy development of children, youth, families, and their communities. A Beacon Center serves as a major gathering place for the community and is open year-round, after school, in the evenings, on weekends, and in the summer.

Beacon Sites:

Everett M.S	Ben Franklin M.S
Giannini M.S	Denman M.S
Jean Parker E.S	Gloria Davis M.S
Visitacion Valley M.S	Washington H.S

Activities within SFUSD and School Health Programs Department that Support Beacon Centers:

- San Francisco ExCEL
- Peer Resource Coordinators
- Comprehensive School Health Programs

For further information contact:

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