



ISSUE BRIEF:

Socialization and Community Involvement

Connections Academy students interact daily with a diverse array of fellow students, teachers, learning coaches, and members of the community. Each day, by participating in team projects and activities, a Connections Academy student engages with:

- Fellow students, including many from other communities and groups that the student would not encounter in a bricks and mortar setting.
- Certified teachers, who work with students one-on-one to assure successful fulfillment of each student's Personalized Learning Plan.
- Learning coaches—parents and/or their designees who are much more intensively involved with their students' education than they might be in a traditional school setting.
- Community mentors, with whom students work on local service projects and workplace activities.

While many of these interactions are face-to-face, Connections Academy uses the power of modern technology to connect individuals separated by distance, rural isolation, physical disability and other barriers.

In addition to facilitating positive socialization, the Connections Academy curriculum also engages students in community-based activities and extracurricular learning opportunities. Community-based projects and activities are arranged by community coordinators, a select number of Connections Academy parents/learning coaches who facilitate such activities for students and families in their immediate vicinity. These activities may include field trips, recreational activities, and service projects. In addition, the Connections Academy staff assists parents/learning coaches and community coordinators in locating clubs and organizations in their area that provide sports and other activities for students.

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