

Carlin Springs Elementary School, School Award Winner, 2007

Carlin Springs Elementary
Arlington, Virginia

Results

Carlin Springs is making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all areas.

Over the last 3 years, the number of students staying after school for enrichment programs jumped from 60 to 250; and 80% of these students showed academic improvements.

Among parents attending ESL classes focused on understanding the school system, 95% attended their parent-teacher conferences.

Through an on-site awareness program run by the Arlington Co. Fire Department compliance with car seat and seatbelt safety laws increase from under 50% to over 90% in 2006.

Who's Who At Carlin Springs

Corina Coronel, *Principal*
Linda Henderson, *Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families*
Miguel Ley, *Assistant Principal*
Anne Vor der Bruegge, *Community School Coordinator*

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because the school, county and the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families have come together to create a place that does all of this and more.

Most of Carlin Springs' students come from immigrant families and more than half are English language learners. Many live in poverty. These factors often spell trouble for schools. But at Carlin Springs, students are succeeding and developing a lifelong passion for learning. They learn in ways that bring the curriculum to life. For example, the student-run branch of the Arlington VA Federal Credit Union and the banking club sponsored by E*Trade Bank integrate real-world issues into the curriculum. Building on the economics units in grades 2-5, students learn all aspects of savings, budgeting, and the functioning of credit unions and banks.

As is often the case at a community school, parents are also thriving. Carlin Springs extends education opportunities to parents, including English and computer literacy classes, parenting classes, and workshops on education-related topics. Parents have been trained to review immunization records at community health fairs and encourage other families to have their children immunized. Forty-two parents and 33 community volunteers assist in the school on a weekly or even daily basis.

To support family partnerships, teachers conduct home visits to strengthen their connection to more isolated families. To facilitate visits, teachers bring scrapbook materials—and a translator when necessary—to work with the student and his or her family to create a book that the student can share with the class. During home visits, teachers learn about how to better support learning, and teachers learn about the hopes and dreams that parents have for their children. These visits also encourage the family to take advantage of the opportunities available at the school through its community partners.

Carlin Springs has blossomed as a community school since it hired a full-time Community Coordinator. The Principal and Community School Coordinator work together to integrate the many parts of this initiative into a well-coordinated approach to raising student achievement and strengthening families.



About Carlin Springs

The school's 22204 zip code has been described as "a world in a zip code," due to its ethnic diversity: 90% of Carlin Springs' students come from immigrant families from 35 countries. 63% of students are considered English language learners. Carlin Springs' diverse student body also includes 81% of students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch, as well a high rate of student mobility. In this dynamic environment, the Carlin Springs Community School has built an international community of families, staff, and partners.

Some Key Partners at Carlin Springs

AHC, Inc. (Arlington Housing Corporation)
Arlington County Departments
Health and Human Services
Fire Department
Parks and Recreation
Employment and Education Program
Arlington Jaycees
Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families
Arlington Transit
Arlington Virginia Federal Credit Union
Capital Area Food Bank
Children, Youth and Families
Computers for Students
E*Trade
Girl Scouts
Greenbrier Learning Center
John Snow International
Junior Achievement
Junior League of Northern VA
Marymount University
Department of Athletics
National Science Foundation
Northern VA Community Hospital
Project Family