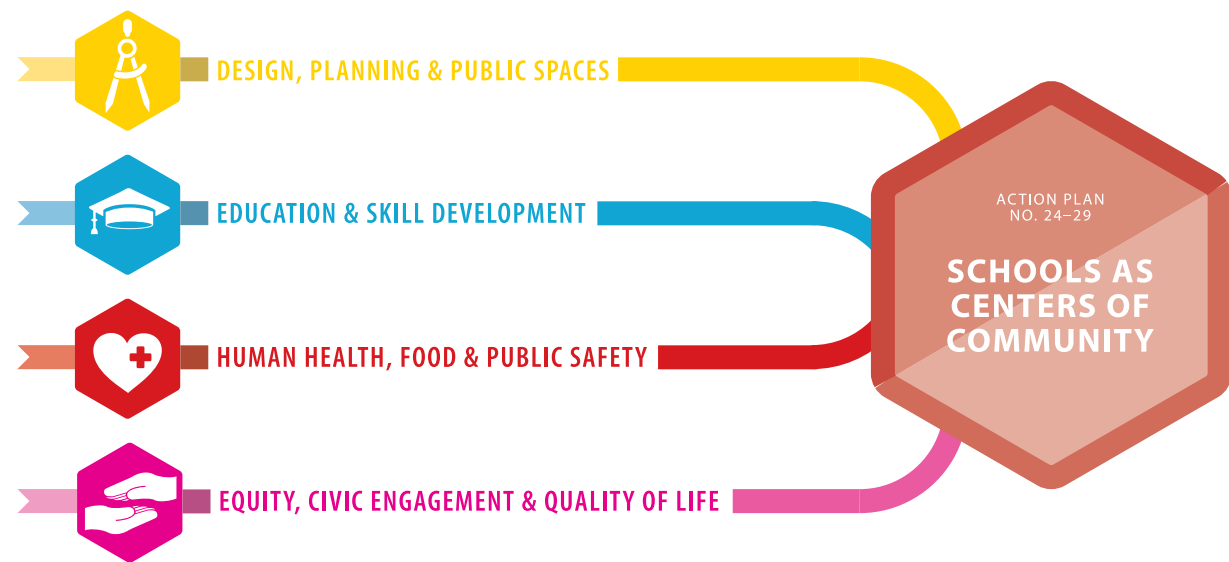


WORKING SMARTER: SCHOOLS AS CENTERS OF COMMUNITY

To get more from existing budgets, the Portland Plan emphasizes actions that make the most of current resources by focusing on programs that achieve more than one goal. The plan outlines policies and actions that enable educational and community facilities to serve multiple purposes, operate more efficiently, combine and leverage public capital funds and build a sense of community ownership. Through joint-use agreements, the City and the public school districts can explore a greater level of facility and grounds management coordination and cost sharing to accommodate multiple community-serving functions.



Schools that are centers of community can provide local residents with a familiar and convenient gathering place where they can access a broad range of community-based services including academic support and skill development for youth, early childhood programs, parent-family involvement and education, sports and fitness classes, civic and neighborhood involvement meetings, after-school and summer activities, physical and mental health programs, anti-poverty services, and many others. Numerous non-profits, public agencies, businesses, individuals, schools and higher education institutions can collaborate to offer these services. These mutually beneficial partnerships among local communities that converge in Portland's schools will strengthen the social fabric and provide much needed services.

