

LEAP Academy University Charter School and The Rutgers University Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership

*A comprehensive model for serving children
and families
from Birth through College and Beyond*

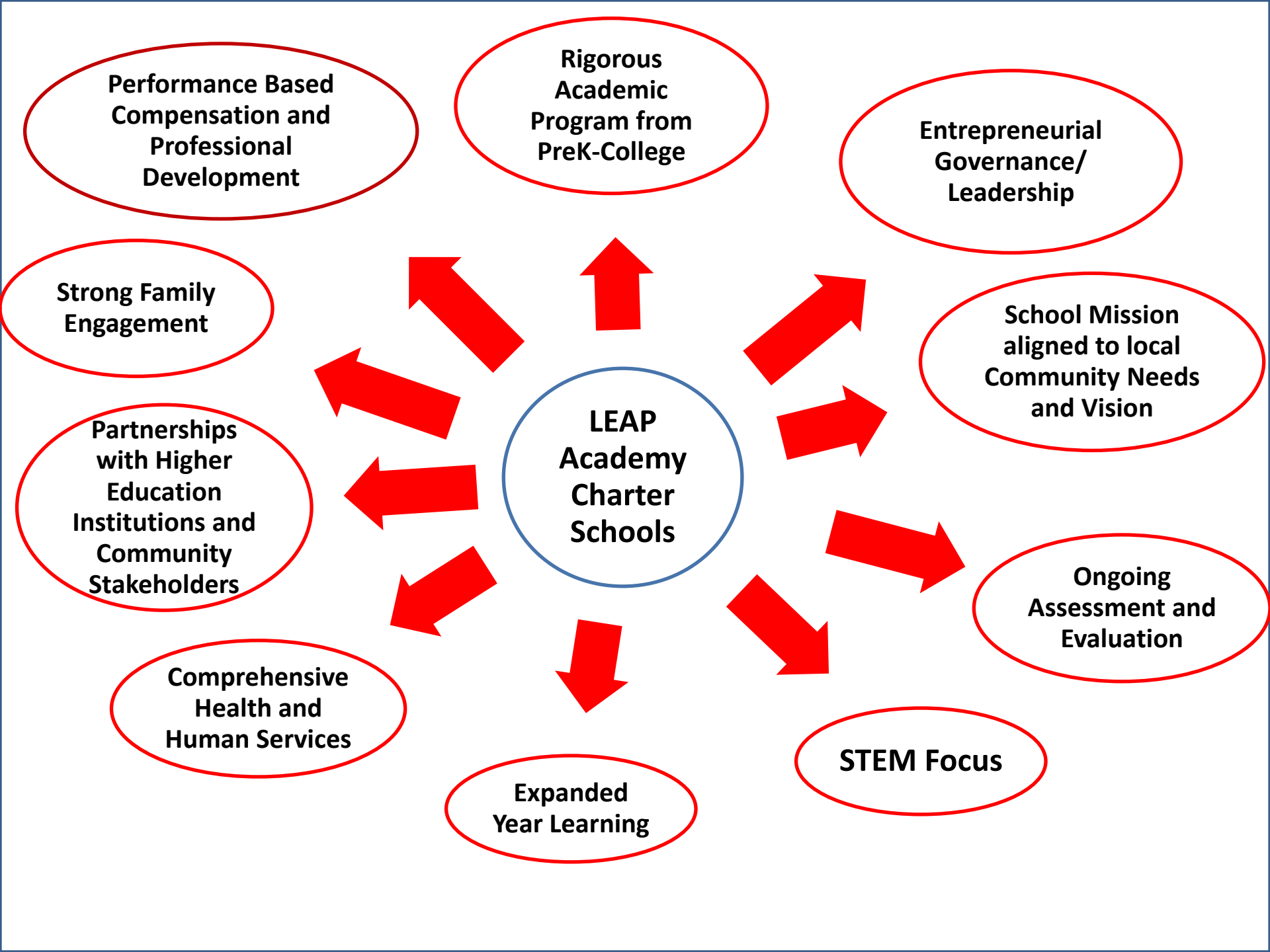
Mission Statement

The mission of the LEAP Academy is to enhance **opportunities** for the **children and families** of **Camden** through the **collaborative** design, implementation, and **integration** of education, health and human services, professional development, and **community development**.



Ten Essential Elements of The LEAP Model





Snapshots of the LEAP Academy

- 840 students in grades K-12 served in two school buildings
 - Elementary Grades (K-6)
 - High School Grades (7-12)
 - STEM High School Program (9-12)
- Rutgers-Camden Early Learning Research Academy
 - 12 infants (6 months - 1 year)
 - 20 toddlers (age 1-3)
 - 90 Preschoolers (age 3-4)

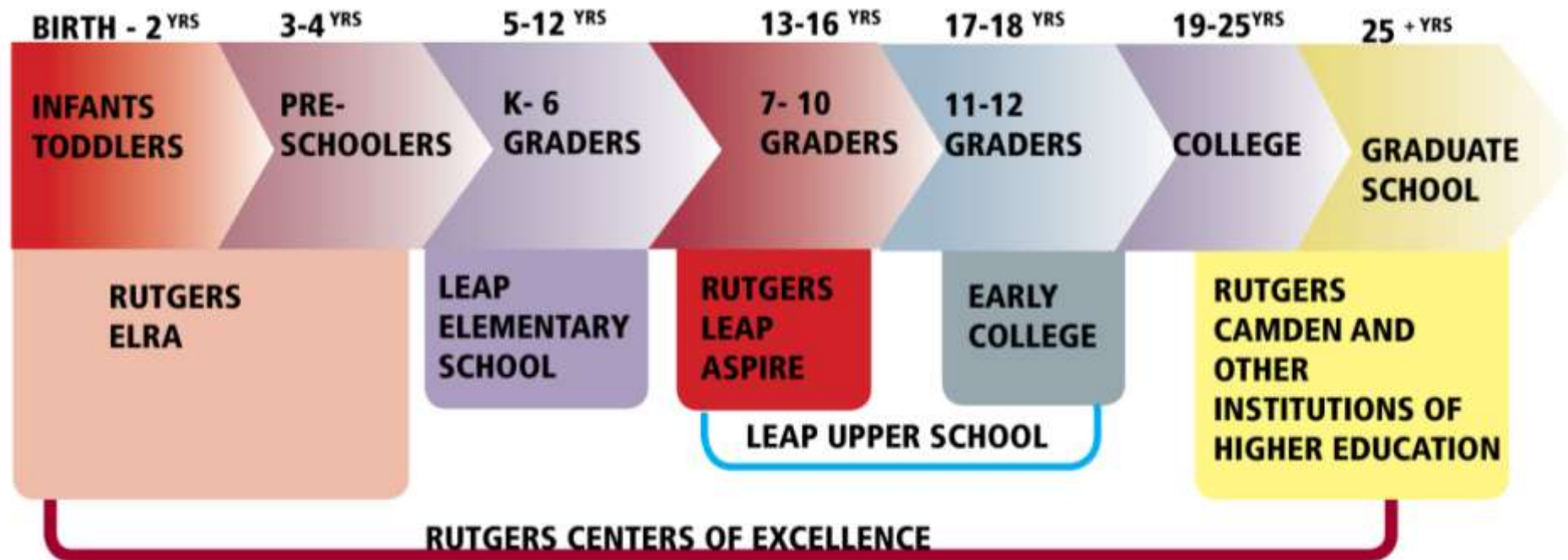


Rigorous Academic Program from Birth through College

- Focus on college preparation for all students.
- Emphasis on science, technology, mathematics and engineering.
- Building educational pipelines from birth through college.



The Rutgers/LEAP Pipeline to College



Expanded Learning Time

- 200 days of instruction
- 7 hours and 50 minutes instructional day (8-4)
- Extended Day (21st century) from 4-7 p.m.
- Saturday Academies
- Summer Program in July



Partnerships with Higher Education and Community Stakeholders

- Rutgers University
- Rowan University
- Camden County College
 - Governance
 - Dual Credit Options
 - Resources such as tutoring, curriculum development and professional development
 - Development of Educational Corridor



Partnerships with Higher Education and Community Stakeholders

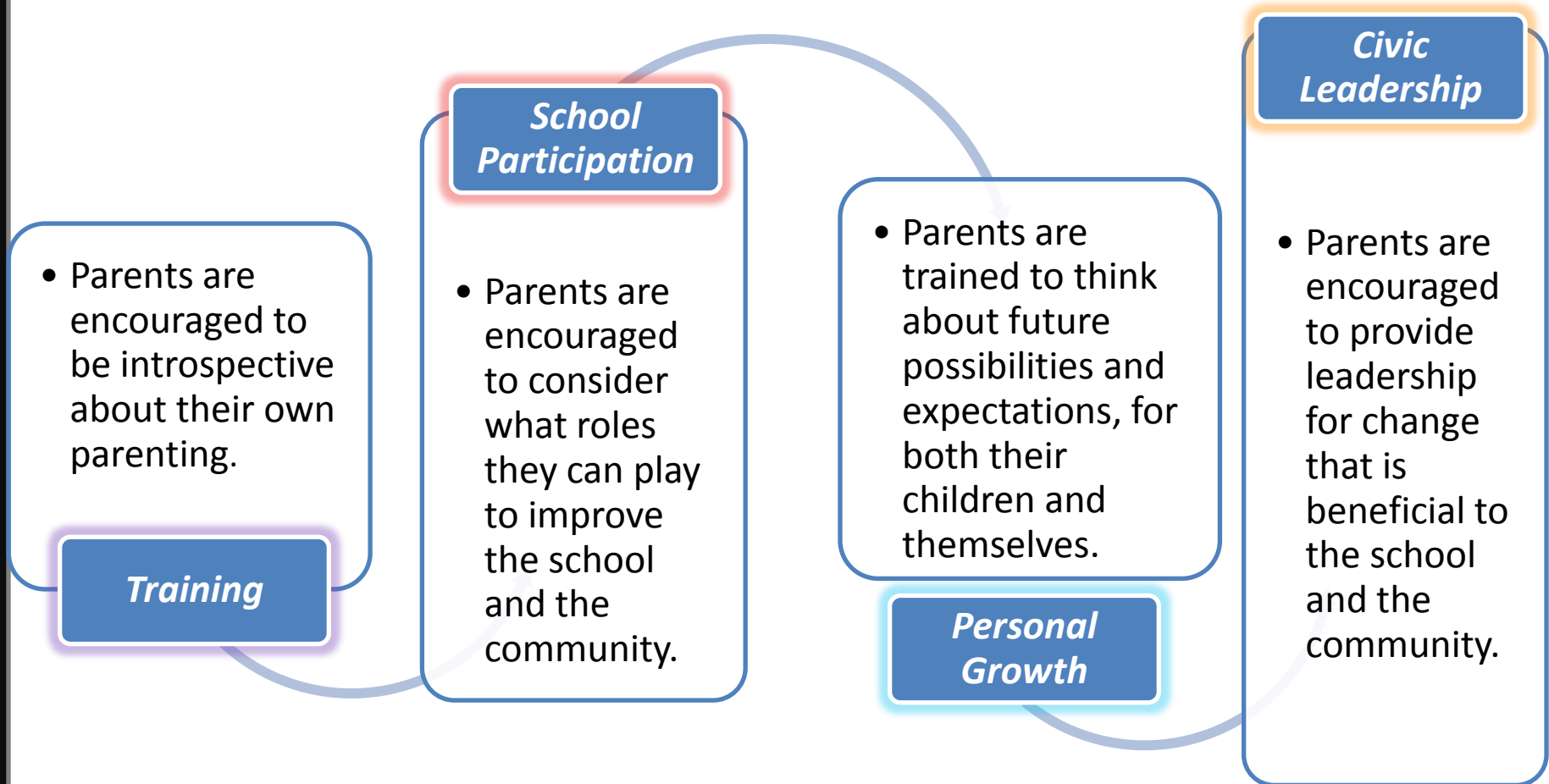
- Cooper Medical Center and UMDNJ
 - School Based Health Center
 - Medical Inspector
- Community Partners
 - Resources
 - Leveraging
 - Funding
 - Legitimacy and alignment of school mission with larger community



Core Elements of LEAP's Family Engagement Framework



LEAP Principles for Family Engagement



Comprehensive Health and Human Services



LEAP BUILDINGS

***Elementary Grades (PK-6):
639 Cooper Street***



***High School Grades (7-12):
549 Cooper Street***

Early Learning Research Academy



S.T.E.M. high school



High school graduation and College placement rate

- 100% in 2005
- 100% in 2006
- 100% in 2007
- 100% in 2008
- 100% in 2009
- 100% in 2010
- 100% in 2011



LEAP Academy University Charter School

- Plans for expansion include two additional campuses around the City
 - STEM High School
 - Cramer Hill K-8 School



The Context of Charter Schools in New Jersey

**Why a
Charter School?**



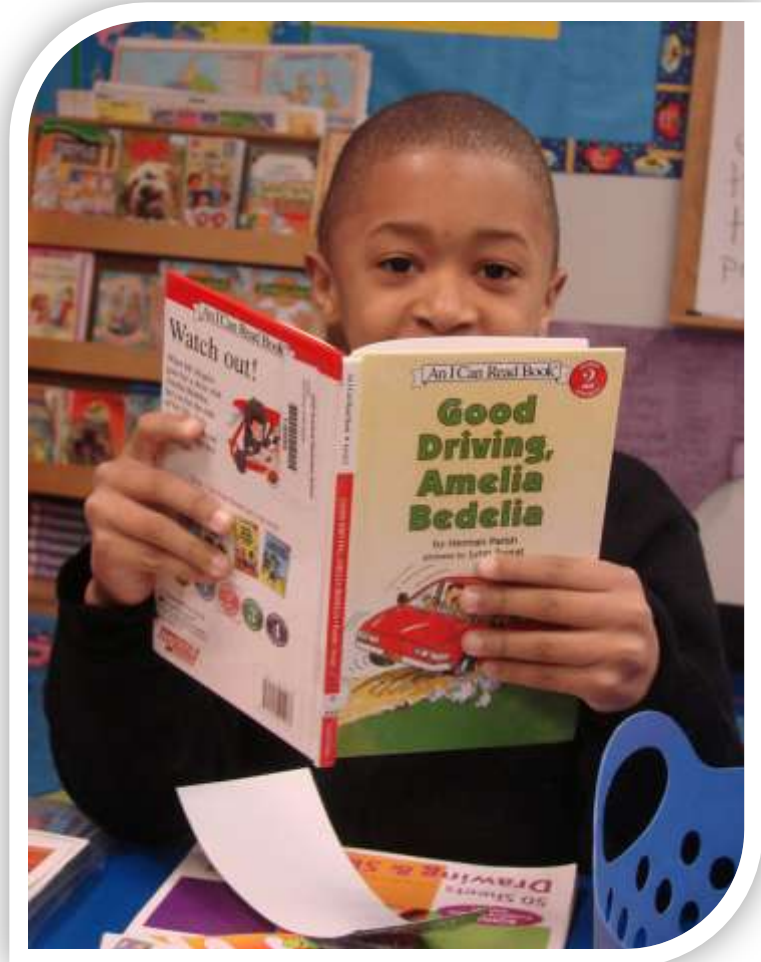
What is a Charter School?

- Tuition-free public schools created by parents, educators, and community leaders—open to all students—that operate under a five-year contract, or 'charter.'



What is a Charter School?

- Charter school students are required to take all state tests, and must comply with laws regarding health, safety, civil rights and special education.



What is a Charter School?

- Charter schools are independent and do not answer to a local school district superintendent or board of education.

Instead, each charter school is run by its own board of trustees, responsible for overseeing the school and ensuring its success.



What is a Charter School?

- They are free to develop their own curriculum, choose staff, set educational goals, offer a longer school day and school year, and establish their own standards for student behavior.



What is a Charter School?

- In return, a charter school must show within its five-year charter period that it has raised student achievement. Only if the school raises achievement will its charter be renewed. If the school fails, the charter school may lose its charter, which means it will have no license to operate and would close.



Why a charter school?

- focus on results
- are academically innovative
- remain public schools
- enhance educational choices for parents and students
- allow for true decentralization

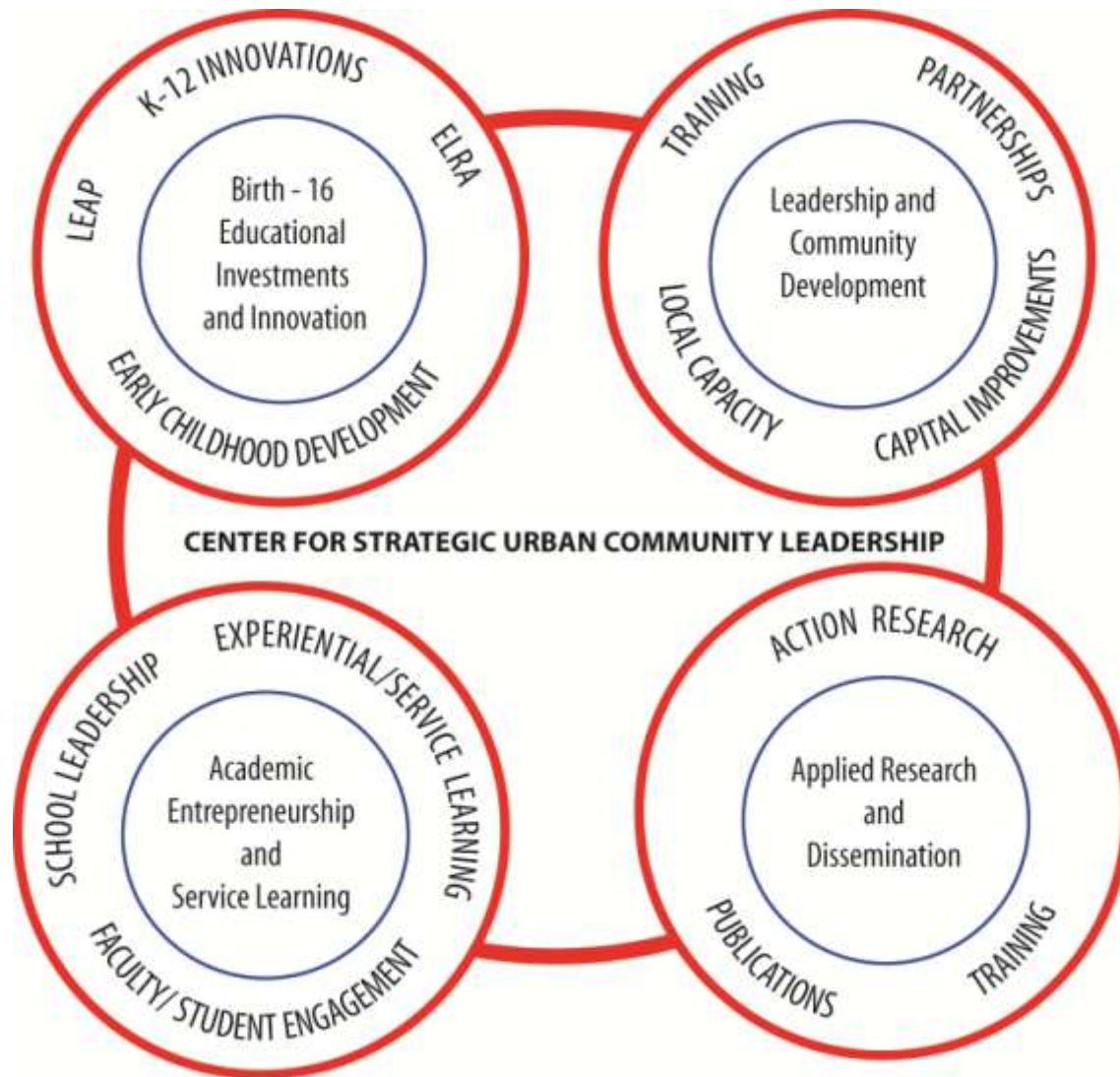


Why a charter school?

- keep policy decisions on-site
- receive and have full control over all state, federal and local funds generated by their student count
- provide a market driven educational system



The University Vehicle for Engagement



Children & Youth

Better outcomes for children and youth

Strong Early Childhood Programs

High Performing Schools

Effective K-12 programs

Higher high school graduation
rates

Successful transitions from high
school to college/career

Academic enrichment programs

Social, recreation and character
building for children and youth

Families

Better outcomes for families

Quality health services

Social service programs

Adult learning opportunities
and Job readiness training

Neighborhood based
employment opportunities

Legal services

Community

Better outcomes for the community

Safe schools and neighborhoods

Business development

Crime prevention

Local/community based
leadership development

Better housing options and
support for residents

Community Building and
Ownership

Interagency Collaboration

CAMDEN RESIDENTS

