

## MAPPING PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

### ROLE OF SCHOOLS IN PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

The Coalition for Community Schools believes that schools are crucial vehicles for any place-based initiative because they reach most, if not all, children in a neighborhood. At the center of every place-based strategy is a school. The Progress Report on the Department of Education's Place-based Initiatives recognizes the role schools play in increasing student achievement:

*Programs to affect achievement [in place-based strategies] can be targeted at schools and neighborhoods with the highest need; school buildings provide a physical space for both academic and non-academic service delivery; and peer influence is an example of the spillover effect.<sup>1</sup>*

In addition to improving academic achievement, community schools share goals with other place-based strategies, including the social, emotional, physical, and civic development of young people, their families, and the community at large. The pivotal role of public schools in place-based strategies reflects the vision of community school initiatives. As such, community schools can and should be an integral part of all place-based initiatives and place-based initiatives should clearly outline how they will mobilize and leverage assets of the school, as well as the community, to help students succeed.

### MAPPING PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

The importance of aligning resources of schools and communities to improve academic achievement is even more apparent with the increased federal attention to place-based initiatives. The Coalition has cross-walked the following place-based initiatives:

- **Community Schools:** We have included places with Scaled-Up or Scaling-Up community school initiatives (members of our Community School Leadership Network) and Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) grantees from 2008 and 2010.
- **Promise Neighborhoods:** This includes all Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood Planning Grantees (2010-2011) and Implementation Grantees (2010).
- **Choice Neighborhoods:** This includes all Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhood Grantees from 2010 and 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Education, "Impact in Place: A Progress Report on the Department of Education's Place-Based Strategy". June 2012.

## HIGHLIGHTING THE COMMON GROUND

The following cities have more than two place-based initiatives (*Figure 1*). Please review the [interactive map](#) for more information on place-based initiatives, accompanying lead partnerships and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) within those cities.

**Figure 1. Cities with Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods.**

Community Schools and Choice Neighborhood (35 Choice grantees)		Community Schools and Promise Neighborhoods (41 Promise grantees)		Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, and Choice Neighborhoods	
New Orleans	LA	Fresno	CA	San Francisco	CA
Baltimore	MD	Los Angeles	CA	Washington	DC
Kansas City	MO	Lawrence	MA	Chicago	IL
Cincinnati	OH	St. Paul	MN	Boston	MA
Cleveland	OH	New York City	NY	Buffalo	NY
Providence	RI	Nashville	TN	Tulsa	OK
Seattle	WA			Philadelphia	PA

Our results show that at least two out of five Choice Neighborhood grantees and at least one out of three Promise Neighborhoods grantees have community school initiatives located in these cities. We expect that this overlap is most likely higher: we know that community schools are included in other Promise Neighborhoods grants and possibly Choice grants as well.

With over \$218 million dollars in federal funding, place-based initiatives around the country are supporting around 175 schools by partnering with 900 public and private partners, including approximately 70 IHEs (*Figure 2*).

**Figure 2. The number of schools served with the support from partnerships and federal funding.**

	PARTNERSHIPS	SCHOOLS	INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION	FEDERAL FUNDING
<b>TOTAL</b>	906	175	77	\$ 218,997,064.00
<b>AVERAGE</b>	9.34	4.00	0.84	\$ 2,257,702
<b>FSCS Min-Max</b>	3 – 15	1 – 9	0 – 3	Max \$ 2,500,000
<b>Promise Min-Max</b>	0 – 26	1 – 9	0 – 2	Max \$ 5,664,925*
<b>Choice Min-Max</b>	2 – 22	n/a	0 – 4	Max \$ 30,500,000*
*Implementation Grantees				

## ENGAGING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Our interactive map also includes a list of IHEs that may be involved in, or located near place-based initiatives in the cities mentioned above. We have identified IHEs that partner with the Coalition and those participating in the [Anchor Institution Task Force \(AITF\)](#). The AITF, coordinated by the University of Pennsylvania, functions as an ongoing think tank, developing long-term strategies, and making the case for the crucial role of anchor institutions in education, and economic and community development. Our goal is to assure that IHEs in cities with place-based initiatives are working in tandem with those efforts.

## CONCLUSION

In addition to the major place-based federal funds mapped in this report, other federally funded grants such as School Improvement, Race to the Top and Investing in Innovation grants have also been supporting various community schools and other place-based initiatives. Furthermore, this report only cross walks the grantees of funded place-based initiatives. More than 250 applicants have not received federal grants but may still be working at some scale within their communities (e.g., evidence suggests that Promise “runners up” continue to work on Promise Neighborhood strategies with our partners at the Promise Neighborhood Institute, and we know that the same is true with FSCS grants).

The Coalition hopes to identify ways to expediently accelerate linkages between these different efforts and promote broader, more systemic efforts in each city.



**COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
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## MORE INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Website: [www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)

Email: [ccs@iel.org](mailto:ccs@iel.org)

Coalition for Community Schools,  
Institute for Educational Leadership,  
4455 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 310,  
Washington, DC 20008

T: 202 822 8405

F: 202 872 4050

## ABOUT THE COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Coalition for Community Schools, housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership, is an alliance of national, state and local organizations in education K-16, youth development, community planning and development, family support, health and human services, government and philanthropy as well as national, state and local community school networks. Our mission is to advance opportunities for the success of children, families and communities by promoting the development of more, and more effective, community schools.

The Coalition for Community Schools believes that strong communities require strong schools and strong schools require strong communities. We envision a future in which schools are centers of thriving communities where everyone belongs, works together, and succeeds. The Coalition is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC.

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, DC, that works to build the capacity of people, organizations, and systems—in education and related fields—to cross boundaries and work together to attain better results for children and youth. IEL envisions a society that uses its resources effectively to achieve better futures for all children and youth.