CONSENSUS MEMORANDUM:
PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RESEARCH PRACTICE NETWORK

Sept 26, 2018

In response to the growing needs of the educational research and practitioner communities, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) will lead the development of the Community Schools Research Practice Network. This Network, designed to foster collaboration across researchers and practitioners, will:

- Create, maintain, and execute a research agenda focused on improving implementation and outcomes for students, community schools, families, and community members;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for research and implementation level best practices;
- Convene community school stakeholders around areas for collaboration and joint research;
- Identify new funding streams to support high-quality research on community schools.

The Network proposes a research agenda focused on the following six priority areas for future research and collaboration:

1. leading and lagging indicators of implementation and outcomes;
2. leadership, governance, and capacity building;
3. teaching and learning in community schools;
4. evaluation of community schools;
5. public and political will; and
6. funding for community schools research, implementation, and evaluation.

Within these priority areas, IEL partners have identified in May 2018 key guiding research questions:

- What are strategies for organizing support for new research among community school service and support providers, community school governance, advocacy groups, and coalitions?
- What measures of success can district research partnerships use that go beyond traditional measures of performance?
- What do we need to understand and research about leadership skills, governance models, and capacity building in community schools?
- What does teaching and learning look like in a community school, and how can that be measured and evaluated?
- What is the community school strategy? Is it universal, and how can it be measured in a consistent way, if at all, across research-practice partnerships?
- What will compel the funding community to support new research on community schools?

The Network will facilitate bi-monthly webinars, a quarterly RPN feature in the Community Schools newsletter, and two in-person convenings of the RPN during the 2018-2019 academic year, among other activities informed by RPN member feedback.

*This Network is a partnership of the Institute for Educational Leadership, the National Education Policy Center, and the New York Department of Education. We welcome interested parties in joining this partnership.*