



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Shama Jamal
202 822 8405 ext. 153
jamals@iel.org

FOLLOW THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL BUS TOUR IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, DC – The Coalition for Community Schools is pleased to support Sen. Carol Liu’s (D-La Cañada, Flintridge) [*Pathways to Partnership: Community Schools Strategies in Action*](#), a statewide bus tour that begins on October 14. The bus tour will explore the community schools strategy as a vehicle for aligning the resources of an entire community at our public schools to ensure students learn and develop and to strengthen families and communities.

The tour will begin in the Los Angeles area on October 14 and culminate in a Senate hearing on Community Schools in Sacramento on October 16. Along the way Liu, her staff, city, county, and school board officials and other state policymakers, and education and business leaders will visit sites in Pasadena, Los Angeles, Fresno, Redwood City, and Oakland with innovative and effective community school efforts. They will learn more about promoting community schools partnerships, institutionalizing relationships, and overcoming the challenges to aligning collaborative efforts.

Among the leaders present will be state Senator Loni Hancock, Mayor Bill Bogaard of Pasadena, superintendents Gary Yee (Oakland), John Gundry (Pasadena) and Jan Christensen (Redwood City), and city council member Barbara Pierce. Robert Mahaffey, co-chair of the Coalition for Community Schools Steering Committee will be presenting at the Senate hearing.

“California can lead the nation in community schools collaboration.” said Liu. “With limited resources in our state, this tour will highlight cross-agency partnerships across California that have aligned services to guarantee that every child has access to academic, health, and social support that he or she needs to succeed in school and in life.” Sen. Liu is advocating state level support for community schools. ([Listen to Liu’s views here](#))

California is joining the tide of states advocating for and implementing the community schools strategy. Ten states and the District of Columbia have started to pass legislation, provide funding, and/or implement statewide activities promoting the community schools strategy. New York State, with the leadership of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has seen increased attention to community schools, anchored by an investment of \$15 million. Other states, such as New Mexico, Connecticut, and Illinois, have passed legislation authorizing community schools in their education codes.

“Senator Liu’s tour reflects the enormous growth in community schools efforts across California, and the growing attention to these strategies by policymakers in Sacramento,” said Martin Blank, director of the Coalition for Community Schools and president of the Institute for Educational

Leadership. “Other localities and states have a lot to learn from the work in California and many other places to make partnerships the engine of school reform.”

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About the Coalition for Community Schools

The [Coalition for Community Schools](#), housed at the [Institute for Educational Leadership](#) (IEL), is an alliance of national, state and local organizations in education K–16, youth development, community planning and development, higher education, family support, health and human services, government, and philanthropy as well as national, state, and local community school networks. The Coalition advocates for community schools as a strategy to leverage local resources and programs, changing the look and feel of the traditional school structure to best meet the needs of children and families in the 21st century.

About the Institute for Educational Leadership

For a half-century, the [Institute for Educational Leadership](#) has championed the need for leaders at all levels to shake off their institutional constraints and work across boundaries to address the needs of young people and their families. Bound by no constituency, IEL serves as a catalyst that helps policymakers, administrators, and practitioners at all levels to bridge bureaucratic silos and undo gridlock to improve outcomes for all young people and their families. The work of IEL focuses on three pillars required for young people and their communities to succeed: Involving the broader community with public education to support the learning and development of young people; building more effective pathways into the workforce for all young people and supporting the transition to adulthood; and preparing generations of leaders with the know-how to drive collaborative efforts at all levels