



COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS APPROVED SEPTEMBER, 2016

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF 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. Partnerships are essential to the Coalition's work and success. All partners are guided by the Coalition's shared vision, mission, and principles:

Vision: Schools are centers of flourishing communities where everyone belongs, works together, and thrives.

Mission: To unite school, community and family for young people's success.

Principles: Partners in the Coalition for Community Schools believe that public education is essential for strong communities and a flourishing economy and democracy. We pledge to lead across organizational and institutional boundaries to ensure that all young people are prepared for college, careers, and citizenship. These principles guide our work together:

- Equity
- Learning and Development
- Community Engagement
- Family Engagement
- Youth Leadership and Engagement
- Results-Driven Partnership

What does it mean to be a Coalition Partner? An organization is a “partner” in the Coalition when they have agreed to support the growth of community schools around the country. Partners promote the Coalition’s shared vision through communications, events, advocacy, and participation in Coalition meetings. They also encourage local affiliates to support community schools in their work with local partners.

Partners vary in their specific work around community schools. For some of our partners, their core work focuses explicitly on community schools. Other partners devote fewer resources to community schools but promote the strategy because it is consistent with their organization’s mission. Further, all partners operate in a space filled with myriad reforms, programs, campaigns, and collaboratives.

The commitments described below are intended to guide Coalition partners in how they should interact in this busy environment. Acting together as trusting partners maximize our goal of growing quality community schools that give every child every chance.

The Coalition’s partners recognize that collaboration and partnership can be hard – but working through challenges is essential in order to maximize our impact for all children.

Coalition Partner Commitments

The following commitments will help guide the ways in which partners work together to promote community schools.

Partnership

- Respect one another's work, offer constructive feedback, build trust through open and honest communication, and act like partners.
- Know the expertise of partners and reach out to collaborate.
- Strengthen Coalition partners because that strengthens our movement.
- Commit to continuous learning about what works and contribute to a growing body of evidence for the principles of community schools.
- Actively communicate first with one another (or appropriate parties), and then Coalition staff and Steering Committee members when issues arise in a place or around an opportunity.

Local and State Action

- Look for opportunities to connect one another's local affiliates.
- Scan the environment before acting to see what community schools-related work is happening and what other partners are doing with schools around implementation, funding, and policy.
- Recognize that communities will have different needs, and consider which partners may be the best fit.
- Adhere to a common understanding of community school principles and when appropriate, standards.
- Be transparent when starting work in new places in order to build connections with existing partners' work and demonstrate a unified vision to local policymakers and leaders.

Representing the Coalition for Community Schools

- As partners, represent the Coalition and community schools in your advocacy and communications (e.g., website, newsletter), at your conferences and in your work, in research, and with others in your organization, wherever possible.
- Share Coalition commitments with members and affiliates at state and local levels.

Coalition actions to support commitments:

- Hold bi-annual meetings and regular newsletters for Partners and Steering Committee. Facilitate other networks (e.g., Community Schools Leadership Network) as needed and work to connect partners across networks.
- Map where partners are supporting local community schools to facilitate partner communications about what they are doing to grow community schools and where.
- Share information about partner institution expertise (e.g., website links, newsletter partner features, research, etc.).
- List partners on the Coalition website with links to partner websites.
- Coalition policy actions and publications will be based on an agreed-upon vision and principles for community schools.
- Partner names will not be included on any Coalition policy positions without their explicit approval.