

The  
**REVOLUTION**  
of the



**Unity for Every Child's Opportunity**

A

**STRATEGIC COMMITMENT**

JULY 2019 – DECEMBER 2025

**25,000 Community Schools by 2025**



## BACKGROUND

The Coalition for Community Schools has evolved since 1998 as an ecosystem of national, state and local cross-sector leaders that promote community schools as an equity-driven, research based strategy, and fights for justice and investments for young people’s access to resources, supports and opportunities they deserve to advance their hopes and fulfill their social responsibility.

The strength of the Coalition are the relationships between thousands of grassroots to grass tops leaders, organized in networks to prepare, support, and mobilize expanding knowledge, skills, practices, and advocacy to disrupt the status quo and eliminate systemic and structural barriers to equitable outcomes. Our networks include:

## NETWORKS

CORNERSTONE	CORE	SUPPORT	ALLIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Next Generation Coalition (Youth)</li><li>➤ Coordinators Network</li><li>➤ Community School Leadership Network</li><li>➤ State Coalitions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Steering Committee</li><li>➤ University Assisted</li><li>➤ United Way Learning Community</li><li>➤ Research Practice Network</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ School District Leaders</li><li>➤ State Chiefs</li><li>➤ Philanthropic Community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Federal Policy Workgroup</li><li>➤ Elected Officials</li><li>➤ National Intermediary Organizations</li></ul>

## PURPOSE

Notwithstanding numerous reforms and incremental progress, we have not as a nation been able to achieve equity in education and workforce development over the last 55 years. As a focal point of IEL’s big idea, we believe we can improve opportunity and outcomes and close gaps in access and achievement in education and workforce development through innovation, leadership development and mobilization. If we invest in community leaders of all ages, stages, and sectors, we can change the odds.

Stimulated by the Coalition, there has been an insurgence of proof through research, and growth activity in the community school field where there are now approximately 5,000 community schools across the country, with growing demand in rural, suburban, and urban communities, and emerging international interest. With nearly 100,000 public schools, the Coalition Steering Committee set an ambitious goal of **25,000 Community Schools by 2025** that will reach over **10,000,000 children and youth** galvanizing a tipping point of public schools that are creating the conditions, capacities, cultures and policies necessary for everyone to succeed.



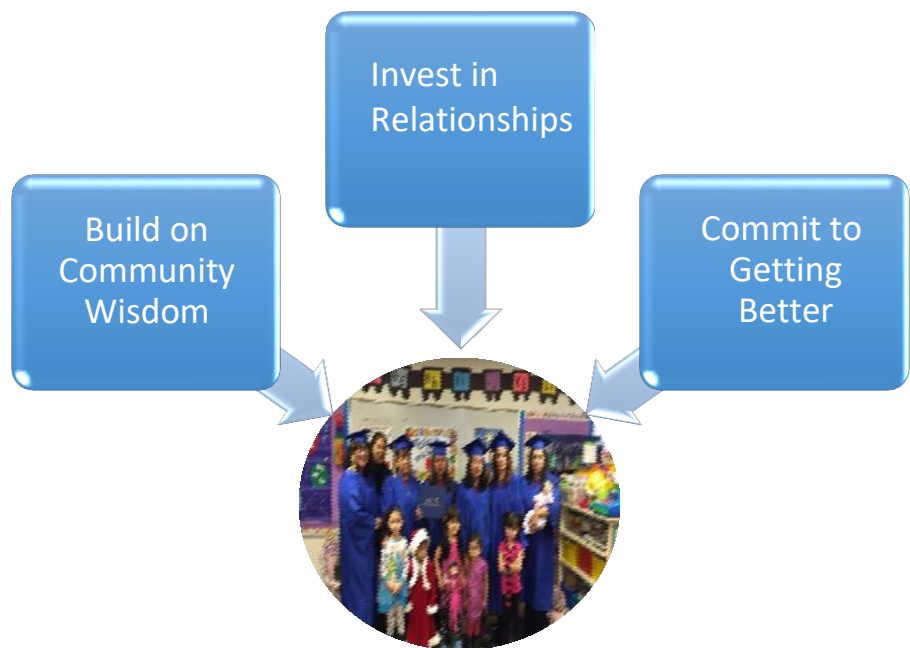
## A VALUE PROPOSITION

We are a value driven alliance that execute three core strategies toward achieving 25,000 excellent and sustainable community schools. The core strategies are supported with key initiatives which stimulate projects and campaigns. All with an emphasis of remaining united with our values at our core to improve meaningful and cross-cutting population wide indicators.

**EQUITY:** Because opportunities and pathways to success are not equitably available to all children, we advocate for and work toward eliminating systemic racial and socio-economic barriers that historically have faced our most vulnerable children, youth, and families.

**DEMOCRACY:** Because quality public education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy, we advocate for and work toward ensuring that our public education system provides *all* young people with the resources needed for them to achieve productive adulthood—as workers, citizens, and family members.

**HARMONY:** Because the well-being of children depends in large part on the willingness of adults to work together on their behalf, we advocate for and work toward investments of human and financial resources that are commensurate with the awesome responsibility of supporting the healthy development of future generations.



**Attendance** = indicates schools becoming irresistible for students and families through improved climate and culture.

**Family Stability** = indicates decreased mobility rates through integrated community relationships and resources.

**Enrollment** = indicates a transformed school reputation by revitalized quality neighborhood public schools.

**Academic Growth** = indicates student’s academic progress by fostering a challenging and engaging learning environment.

## EXECUTING STRATEGIES

- I. **CATALYZE COLLABORATION:** The Coalition will support and mobilize Network leaders and local affiliates to engage elected officials and executive leaders to create ecosystems of cross-sector collaborative leadership to sustain and scale Community Schools.

### Performance Measures:

How much we are doing:	How well we are doing it:	Impact:
1. # of Elected Officials/Executives supporting in Community Schools	1. Amount of braided & blended funding for Community Schools	1. # of Community Schools (new and sustained)

### Game Plan:

- A. Strengthen and expand **State Coalitions** by supporting national intermediary organizations in mobilizing local and state affiliates to connect, organize, and advocate for supportive policies and funding.
- B. Prepare and mobilize youth leaders as a **Next Generation Coalition** to connect and stimulate young people in Coalition communities as advocates and change agents locally, state-wide, and nationally.
- C. **Grow Champions** among Principals, Superintendents, Mayors, County Executives, State Chiefs, School Boards, key elected officials, and the philanthropic community.
- D. **Harmonize the intersection of policy development and financing strategies** in briefs, tools, and guides for the field to develop blended and braided funding models to sustain and scale.
- E. Develop experienced Community School Leaders into **Coalition Coaches** to increase responsiveness to the growing number of communities that desire to create a system of community schools.
- II. **CULTIVATE QUALITY:** The Coalition will prepare and support Community School professionals and partners to improve the quality and outcomes of community schools.

### Performance Measures:

How much we are doing:	How well we are doing it:	Impact:
1. # of leaders engaged in building capacity	1. % of Community Schools fully implementing national standards.	1. % of community schools demonstrating equitable impact.

### Game Plan:

- A. Foster **virtual community platforms** across networks and groups to increase knowledge sharing to innovate and spread of best practices.
- B. Mobilize **community learning exchanges** for knowledge sharing within networks to dive deeper into best practices and for continuous improvement.
- C. Evolve Standards as a **Community School Commitment to Quality** tool for effective implementation.
- D. Accelerate **integrated professional development opportunities** between Coordinators, educators, family members and community partners through national intermediary organization technical assistance and support.



- III. **CELEBRATING SUCCESS:** Become influencers by lifting up transformative and innovative local solutions and stories of impact.

**Performance Measures:**

How much we are doing:	How well we are doing it:	Impact:
1. # of Community School success stories shared	1. Amount of free/earned media 2. # of community schools completing formal research and evaluations	1. Amount of funding leveraged 2. # of supportive policies adopted

**Game Plan:**

- A. **Highlight community school stories** through short video testimonies, blogs, articles, webinars, podcasts.
- B. **Award exemplar community schools annually** who are leading the way in improving crosscutting indicators with financial allocations and scale lessons learned by publishing case studies.
- C. **Unify the Community School field** around a common narrative and values of community schools as an equity strategy.
- D. **Build local communication capacity** with the tools and messaging necessary to strengthen their ability to share their success stories.
- E. Create a **research agenda** that informs practices and provides proof of impact.
- F. Increase the number of **Community Schools that are site-visit-ready** to grow understanding and build the movement’s public and political capital.

