

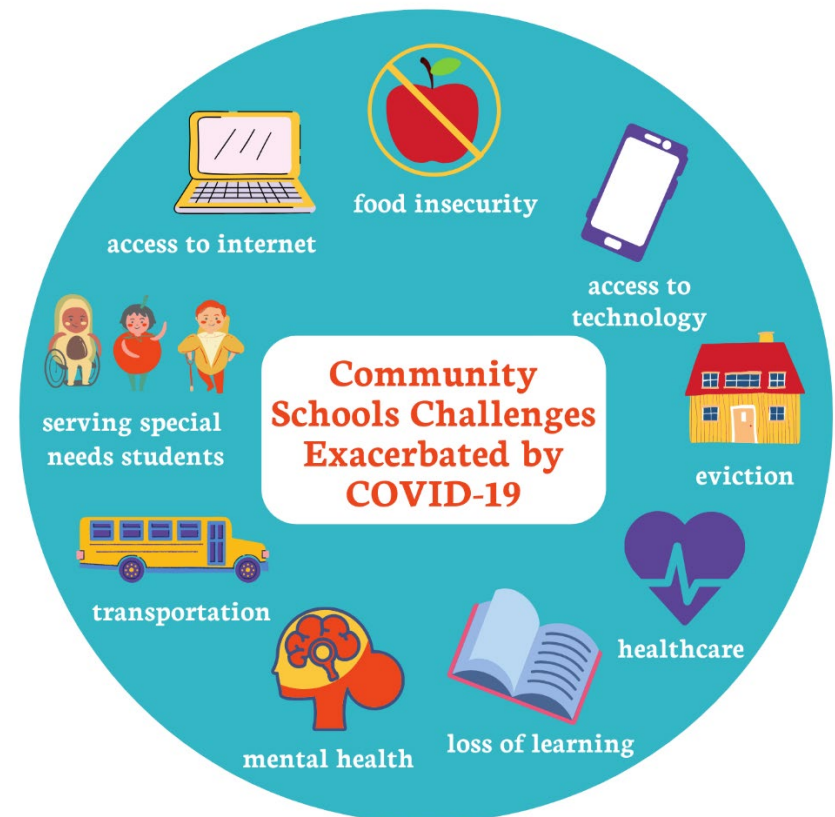


## Community Schools: An Effective Strategy During the Coronavirus Crisis



### What are Community Schools?

Community schools are public schools that partner with families and community organizations to provide well-rounded opportunities and supports for students' school success and their families' well-being.



## How are community schools uniquely qualified to respond to these challenges?

**1. Strong coordination and leveraging of school and community resources through the role of a Community School Coordinator and collaborative leadership at the school district levels**



**2. Immediate access to health and social services needs such as food and childcare for essential personnel**

**3. Continued access to school-based health and mental health services including for uninsured families**

**4. Support for adults (families and community members) including connections to health and food services, job search support, financial literacy, etc.**



## How are community schools responding?

Community schools from all around the country are proving to be innovative, nimble and resourceful in their response to the COVID-19 crisis.



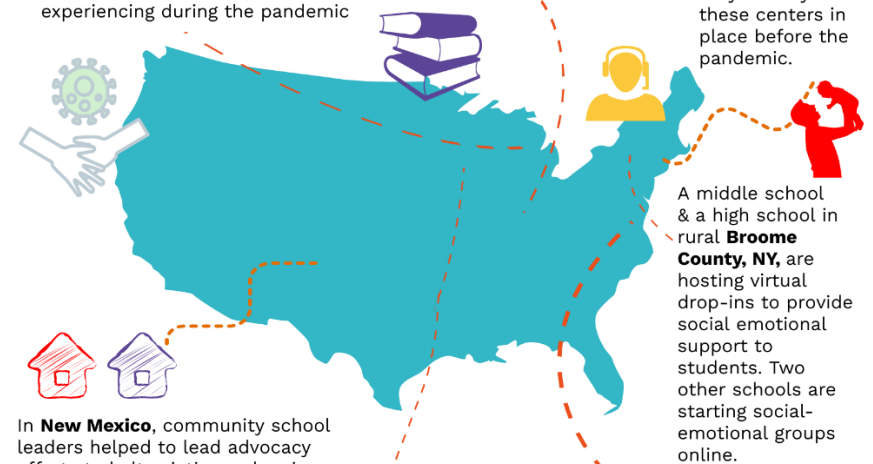
In **Kent County, Michigan**, community school coordinators are:

- continuing referrals from teachers for mental health services and supports
- organizing volunteers for mobile food pantries
- hosting Facebook live reading times
- connecting with families through text, phone, Facebook or emails to see what needs they are experiencing during the pandemic

In **Bloomington, Illinois**, community school coordinators are:

- hosting virtual parent hang-outs & student lunch groups
- planning for food distribution and coordination of community partners
- continuing to support on-site behavioral health programs through an on-line platform

In **New York City**, 100 community schools are now operating as childcare centers for essential workers since they already had these centers in place before the pandemic.



In **New Mexico**, community school leaders helped to lead advocacy efforts to halt eviction orders in tenant-landlord cases in 2 court orders in the wake of COVID-19

Community schools in **Minnesota** are launching technology, and specifically laptop, drive-through distribution centers for all students in participating secondary schools.

In **Baltimore, Maryland**, community schools are partnering with community recreation centers and other community services to offer food distribution and grab and go snacks and dinner from 2-7 PM daily. These distribution centers also offer hygiene and baby items for families.

