

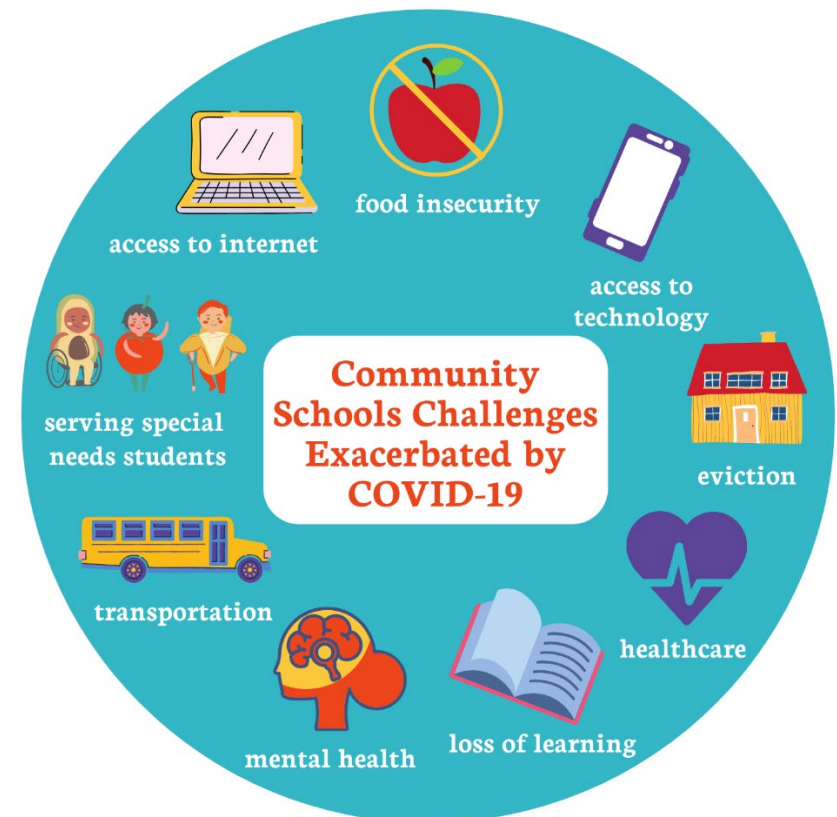


Community Schools: An Effective Strategy During the Coronavirus Crisis



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.



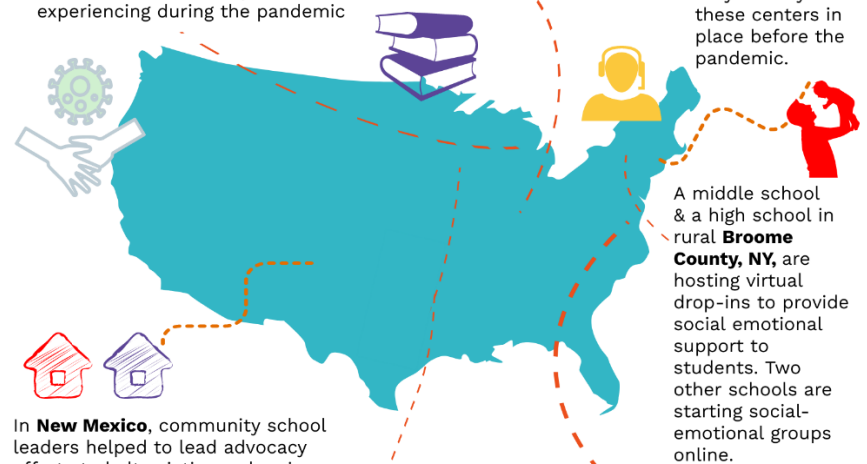
In **Kent County, Michigan**, community school coordinators are:

- 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.



