



Community Schools Forward Task Force

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As federal, state, and local governments marshal unprecedented resources to support the recovery from the disruption and harm inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a significant and growing interest in the community school strategy.

With strategic and financial support from the [Ballmer Group](#), four national partners – the [Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution](#), the [Coalition for Community Schools \(CCS\)](#), the [Learning Policy Institute \(LPI\)](#), and the [National Center for Community Schools at Children's Aid \(NCCS\)](#) – are collaborating with practitioners, researchers, and leaders across the country to elevate areas of alignment and consensus across various community school approaches to further align, build, and scale community schools.

This effort comprises three core strategies:



Align: foster increased cohesion around core community schools concepts and frameworks, and articulate a shared logic model that describes what a community school is, how they “work,” and the outcomes that they achieve.



Build: identify strategic priorities for technical assistance and professional learning that promotes high-quality implementation and improvement supports, and responds to the specific capacity-building needs of practitioners; map existing capacity-building organizations and document the types of technical assistance support they offer.



Scale: guide and inform investment strategies, supportive policies, and effective messaging to expand and sustain community schools at scale, including developing tools to guide leaders on understanding, budgeting, and financing community schools that can be adapted to reflect diverse fiscal contexts.

Consistent with the values and practices of effective community schools, the partnering organizations are committed to engaging many groupings of stakeholders in every facet of the project to ensure that we honor and learn from the field’s expertise and experience as we collectively shape and promote the future of this work.



Project Partners

The [Center for Universal Education at Brookings](#) is a leading policy center focused on universal quality education and skills development around the world. The center plays a critical role in accelerating education change so that all learners can thrive in a rapidly changing world. CUE helps inform the development of policy related to global education and promotes actionable strategies for governments, civil society, and private enterprise.

The [Coalition for Community Schools \(CCS\)](#) is represented by leaders of all ages, stages and contexts from youth to grandparents; from educators to elected officials; from families to institutions; from health & human services to out of school time; and from government agencies to grassroots organizations. Together, we work to grow excellent and sustainable Community Schools. The Coalition is dedicated to advancing this mission through a shared set of principles: to build on community strengths, invest in trusting relationships, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

The [Learning Policy Institute \(LPI\)](#) conducts and communicates independent, high-quality research to improve education policy and practice. Working with policymakers, researchers, educators, community groups, and others, the Institute seeks to advance evidence-based policies that support empowering and equitable learning for each and every child. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, the Institute connects policymakers and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels with the evidence, ideas, and actions needed to strengthen the education system from preschool through college and career readiness.

The [National Center for Community Schools at Children's Aid \(NCCS\)](#) is a leader in the movement to transform schools into partnerships where every child feels safe, nurtured, challenged, and inspired and where children have a sense of belonging and possibility. The center helps communities design exceptional schools that challenge and nurture children. They are unique in that they directly operate 20 community schools and collaborate with other communities to build them.

#CSForward #alignCS #buildCS #scaleCS