



Coalition for Community Schools 118th Congress Federal Policy Agenda

The Coalition for Community Schools is dedicated to advancing a shared vision of “schools as centers for creating communities where everyone belongs, works together, and thrives”, and is grounded through a shared set of principles: build on community strengths, invest in trusting relationships, and commit to continuous improvement.

Increase Funding for Key Programs and Initiatives that Support Community Schools: The Coalition for Community Schools will pursue policy initiatives that strengthen technical assistance, evaluate the effectiveness of Community Schools as an equity-based strategy, and support equity-focused formula funding.

- **Take the lead in** growing the Full-Service Community Schools Program, specifically:
 - Secure 5% for technical assistance for Full-Service Community Schools
 - Increase federal funding for the Full-Service Community Schools Program which includes funding for evaluation to measure the impact of Community Schools and grow the evidence base, as well as grant dollars to fund core programmatic elements.
 - Support the integration of resources from other administrative agencies for Full-Service Community Schools.
- **Support Congress** to increase funding to Titles I, II, and Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant of the Every Student Succeeds Act, IDEA Part B (state grants), Promise Neighborhoods Program, Statewide Family Engagement Centers, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, increased funding for the E-rate program for broadband, and other key programs within and beyond the Department of Education that support children and youth.

Advance Whole-Child Policies that Address the Pandemic-Related Learning Loss and Shape a New Vision for Education: The Coalition for Community Schools will advocate for legislation that promotes a high-quality, equitable education, inclusive of all students' physical, social, and emotional well-being, and increases whole-child health resources such as school-based health centers and trauma-informed care.

- **Support Congress to reintroduce and** co-sponsor/support the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act of 2021 (S. 385/H.R. 1241 from the 117th Congress), which awards 5-year grants to implement and expand full-service community schools at the district and state levels.
- **Support Congress** to reintroduce and co-sponsor/support the DIPLOMA Act (H.R. 9454/S. 5204 from the 117th Congress), which awards 5-year grants to states and local consortia to develop and implement a child and youth strategy that assesses children's needs and assets within the state/community that can be mobilized, coordinated, and integrated to achieve progress toward a broad set of results for children and youth.
- **Support the Administration's** efforts to expand resources for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Learning Recovery initiative to develop and support innovative approaches



to addressing student learning and closing opportunity gaps because of the pandemic, including providing technical assistance.

Promote Strategies that Support Student Learning and Close Opportunity Gaps: The Coalition for Community Schools will advocate for new policy initiatives that address the unique needs of families across the country, promoting children’s academic advancement and development.

- **Support the Administration** in collecting data, outcomes, and trends, and disseminating evidence-based best practices and resources to Full-Service Community Schools.
- **Support the Administration** in establishing a White House Office of Rural Affairs within the Domestic Policy Council to focus on the unique needs of rural communities, including in education.
- **Support the Administration** in establishing a White House Office of Children and Youth within the Domestic Policy Council to elevate the needs of children, youth, and their families and to align and integrate relevant federal funding, programs, and strategies across agencies that impact children’s wellbeing.
- **Support Congress** in renewing the Expanded Child Tax Credit to continue to reduce child poverty and support whole-child development by providing families with more financial resources to meet their children’s academic and health needs.