

8 Key Messages for Community School Advocacy



Community Schools are an effective & efficient strategy for improving education & supporting our kids.

They are an investment in children, families, and our shared future. Quality Community Schools support higher student achievement and graduation rates and lead them to become contributing members of society by increasing opportunities for ALL students.

A Community School strategy is well-suited to address urgent student, family, and community needs in times of crises.

Community Schools are able to mobilize their community in times of uncertainty or hardship, through well-established partnerships built on trust.

Community Schools are hyper-local.

A CS strategy puts more power in the hands of parents and families.

Districts and States want to adopt this strategy.

There are many districts that want to adopt this strategy--more than could be funded in prior FSCS competitions. More funding will help give more districts what they need to plan, build, implement, and sustain Community Schools.

Children and young people have more than just academic needs. Community Schools support the whole child, while increasing student outcomes.

Kids and families do better when communities work together. More public funding can ensure that ALL students and families benefit from the holistic framework that Community Schools offer--including urban, suburban, and rural communities. It is also a great way to address the needs of parents and students who need specialized support--such as children with disabilities and English language learners.

Significantly increasing public funding for FSCS would enable hundreds more communities to coordinate the assets of their schools, families, and community partners for students' immediate and long-term success.

The demand for scaling Community Schools far exceeds the

ability of many communities to fund one or more Community Schools, at least at first. This is why the federal Full-Service Community Schools program is so important. This program has enabled dozens of hard-strapped communities to start and scale Community Schools, and then sustain this work through allocating portions of public funds like Title I and private funds to keep the work going. Pre-pandemic there were over 40,000 Title I schools with concentrations of students in poverty who would significantly benefit from the coordinated and enhanced supports.

Private dollars leverage and extend this public investment.

Community Schools collaborate with private funders and organized intermediaries to catalyze public investment for what we know works.

Community Schools are committed to sustainability.

Being part of a FSCS grant puts schools on a different trajectory--they learn how to braid and blend diverse funding sources (often non-education dollars) and how to engage partners who can bring a different set of human resources into their schools.