

Community Schools

Definition, Elements, Research & Funding






A Strategy, Not a Program

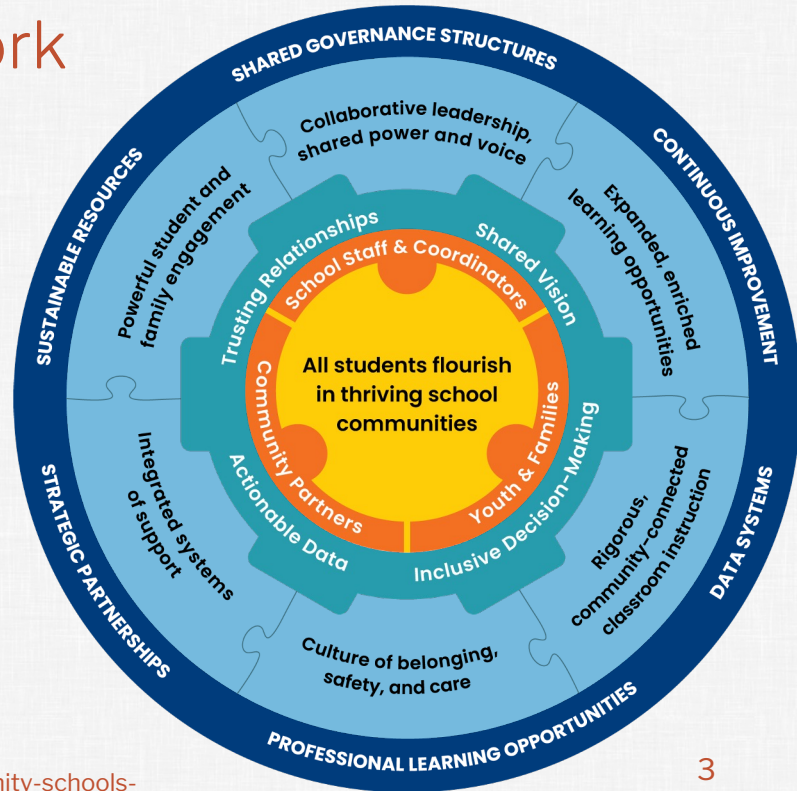
“A strategy for organizing the resources of the school and community around student success...”

**Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent
St. Paul Public Schools**

A Shared Framework

LEGEND

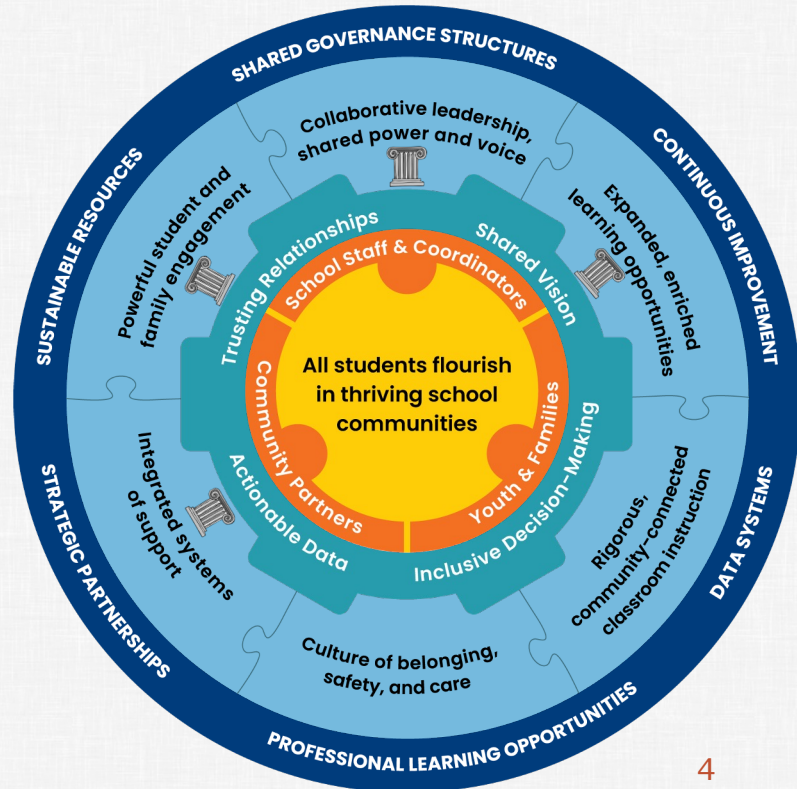
-  Why we do this work
-  Who drives this work
-  Enabling conditions
-  Key practices
-  Supportive infrastructure



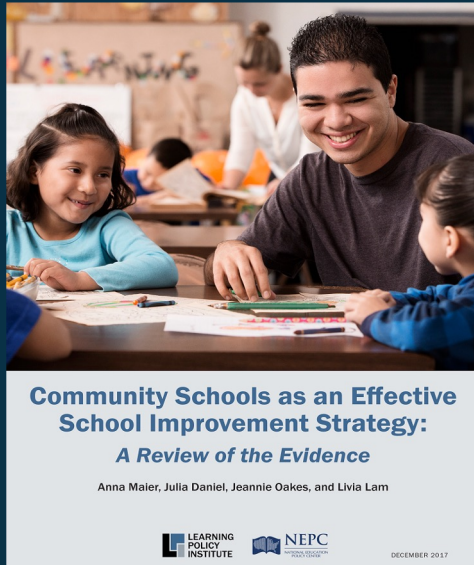
Four Key Elements

Language from federal FCS grant notice (2022):

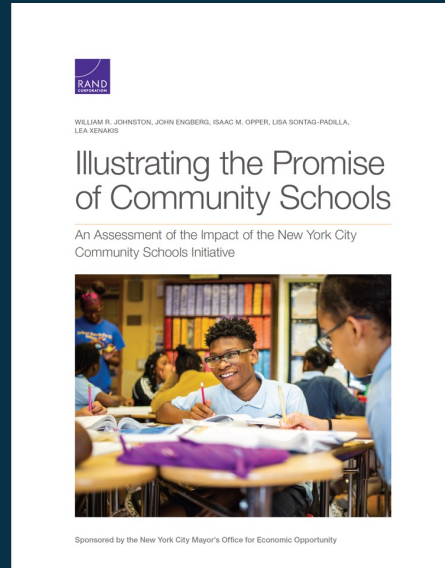
1. Integrated student supports
2. Expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities
3. Active family and community engagement
4. Collaborative leadership and practices



Community School Research



Reviewed 140+ studies of community schools and their associated features



Evaluated the implementation & outcomes of the NYC Community Schools Initiative

Research Findings

- ▶ Research review found benefits associated with community schools, including...
 - Increased academic achievement
 - Increased attendance
 - Higher graduation rates
 - Improved peer/adult relationships and attitudes toward school
 - Reduced racial and economic achievement gaps

- ▶ The RAND study confirmed many of these benefits in NYC

- ▶ Cost-benefit ratio of up to \$15 for every dollar invested

State Support for Community Schools

Illinois

- \$100M in ESSER funding to support competitive Community Partnership grants administered by IL SBE

New York

- School funding formula set aside for high-need districts (\$250M in FY 2022)
- 3 regional technical assistance centers

Vermont

- \$3.4M in ARPA funding to support community school pilot grants in small/rural districts

California

- \$4B investment in competitive state planning, implementation, & extension grants for all high-poverty schools (80% + FRPM) to become CS over 7 years
- 8 regional technical assistance centers with central hub

Maryland

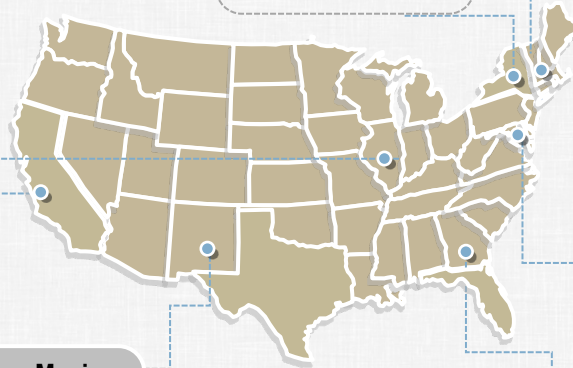
- School funding formula support for high-poverty schools (currently 70% + FRPM) through Concentration of Poverty entitlement grant
- Approx. \$250k annually for CS coordinator & healthcare worker, plus additional per-pupil funding for high-needs students

New Mexico

- \$8M investment in competitive planning and implementation grants
- Grantees include small/rural initiatives and tribal partnerships

Georgia

- Whole child/ community school certification process led by GA DOE Office of Whole Child Supports



Blending & Braiding Funding

▶ **Federal resources** include:

- COVID relief funds (ESSER, ARPA)
- Full-Service Community Schools grant program (\$74M in FY 2023)
- Title I funds for low-income schools
- 21st Century Community Learning Center grants for afterschool programming
- ESSA Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants
- Statewide Family Engagement Centers
- Medicaid for school-based health services
- AmeriCorps staffing
- Funding in addition to USED: Health and Human Services (physical/mental health care), Labor (career training), Justice (mentoring), Agriculture (nutrition assistance), HUD (housing resources)

▶ **Plus state, local, and private/philanthropic resources**

- School districts can collaborate with city and county partners to support networks of community schools
- Private philanthropy, local business, and nonprofits/CBOs can partner
- States can provide funding (formula or grant) and offer TA/capacity-building support

Resources

- ▶ **Federal funding brief:** [Federal Funding Sources for Community Schools](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/federal-funding-sources-community-schools-report)
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/federal-funding-sources-community-schools-report>
- ▶ **State funding brief:** [State Strategies for Investing in Community Schools](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/state-strategies-investing-in-community-schools-report)
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/state-strategies-investing-in-community-schools-report>
- ▶ **State technical assistance brief:** [Technical Assistance for Community Schools: Enabling Strong Implementation](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/technical-assistance-community-schools-brief)
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/technical-assistance-community-schools-brief>
- ▶ **Research review:** [Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy: A Review of the Evidence](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/community-schools-effective-school-improvement-report)
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/community-schools-effective-school-improvement-report>
- ▶ **NYC research:** [Illustrating the Promise of Community Schools: An Assessment of the Impact of the New York City Community Schools Initiative](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3245.html)
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