

July 27, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
2308, Rayburn House Office
45 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
50 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Coalition for Community Schools thanks you for your continued support of Full-Service Community Schools in FY 2023 by funding the program at \$150 million. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, on behalf of the Coalition for Community Schools, **we the undersigned organizations encourage you to restore funding for the Full-Service Community Schools Program (Title IV Part F of the Every Student Succeeds Act) to \$150 million, with a 5 percent set-aside for technical assistance, to continue to meet the need across the country to develop community schools to reinvigorate education and economic efforts in urban and rural communities. We also encourage you to restore funding to previously cut education programs that serve at-risk students and communities.**

During the FY 2022 Full-Service Community School request for proposals, over 400 communities submitted letters of intent to apply, a 200% increase over the previous year, with over 200 organizations applying, doubling the number of applications of the prior grant round. This demonstrates that leaders from across the nation recognize the efficacy of Full-Service Community Schools in rural, tribal, and urban areas as a means by which to help students achieve academically.

Community Schools are an effective strategy to coordinate and align school and community resources and increase family and community engagement for students' success. Doing so proves to be a wise investment: coordinating resources at the school and system levels translates to a [return on investment](#) of over \$7 for every \$1 invested in a Coordinator's salary. At [Northeast Early College High School](#) in Austin, Texas, school and district leaders partnered with 30 community non-profits and businesses to develop resources designed to keep students in school. Within five years of adopting a Community School strategy, Northeast decreased student mobility by 33%, doubled enrollment, and increased the graduation rate from 48% to 98%. [Leslie Full-Service Community Schools](#) in Berea, Kentucky, received a \$2.5 million FSCS grant in 2020 to provide comprehensive services to 1,750 pre-K through 12th-grade students. By focusing on family and community engagement and cross-sector partnerships to create opportunities for parents to participate in cradle-to-career school-readiness programs, financial planning classes, and enriched afterschool programs, Berea Community Schools now boast a 97.4 % graduation rate, well above the state average of 91%, and 30% of high school students have taken at least one AP exam.

Community Schools effectively address urgent needs such as the growing mental health crisis in which [20 million children](#) ages 3-17 report having at least one mental health concern, supporting the [12.5% of children experiencing food insecurity](#), and offering aid to the [81,000 families and youth experiencing homelessness](#).

We appreciate Congress' recognition of Full-Service Community Schools as a strategy to help children and families succeed by continuing to fund this vital program. We believe restoring funding for Full-Service Community Schools to the FY 2023 funding level —**\$150 million, with a 5 percent set aside for technical assistance, as well as restoring funding to previously cut education programs that serve similar populations**—will reach over 250,000 students in schools and communities that have shown a need for this program.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Schools. We look forward to working with you to deliver increased investments in this effective strategy and federal program so that more students have all the conditions they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance
American Federation of Teachers
Center for Supportive Schools
Coalition for Community Schools
Coalition on Human Needs
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Cultural Competence Center, LLC
De Tablan Consulting, LLC
EDGE Consulting Partners
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foster Care Alumni of America
GLSEN
Highlander Institute
Institute for Collaborative Leadership
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Public Life and Work
MENTOR
National Academy Foundation School
National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Community Schools
National Center for Families Learning
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Museum for Mexican Art
Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania
Pacific American Foundation
Parents for Public Schools, Inc.
Partners for Rural Impact
Policy Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Advocacy for Kids
Purpose Built Communities Foundation, Inc.
ReachWell
Rural Schools Community Trust
Save the Children
School Biz Match
School-Based Health Alliance
Social Current
Starr Commonwealth
StriveTogether
United Way Worldwide
United Parent Leaders Action Network
Yale School of the 21st Century
Youth Guidance

State Organizations

ACT Now, IL
American Federation of Teachers-Maryland, MD
Arkansas United, AR
Binghamton University Community Schools, NY
Campus Clinic, LLC, CA
Children & Families First, DE
Children's Aid, NY

Children's Home Society of Florida
Communities in Schools of Indiana
Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania
Community Schools Learning Exchange (CSLX), CA
D.C. Autism Society, D.C.
Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, RI
Duke University, NC
Florida Memorial University, FL
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance, HI
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, HI
Higher Ground: A Resource Center, AZ
Indiana Community Schools Network, IN
Innovation Bridge, CA
Louisiana Association of Educators, LA
LRSD Stephens Elementary Community Site Hub, AR
Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, MD
Maryland Out of School Time Network, MD
Massachusetts Teachers Association, MA
Memphis Business Academy, TN
National Education Association-New Mexico Center for Community Schools, NM
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, NE
New Jersey Community Schools Coalition, NJ
New Mexico Highlands University, NM
New York State Community Schools Network, NY
New York State Network for Youth Success, NY
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, OR
Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders, CA
The Prichard Committee, KY
Promise Partnership Utah, UT
Rural Community Alliance, AR
Save Our Schools New Jersey Community Organizing, NJ
Seneca Family of Agencies, CA
Southwest Institute for Transformational Community Schools, NM
Tennesseans for Student Success, TN
Texas State Teachers Association, TX
United Community Schools, NY
University of Central Florida, FL
Vermont Agency of Education, VT
Youth Healthcare Alliance, CO

Local Organizations

A+ Schools, Pittsburgh, PA
A Plus Charter Consulting, CA
Albuquerque Bernalillo County (ABC) Community School Partnership, NM
Aligned Impact Muscatine County, IA
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, MN
Art Tatum Zone, OJ
Aurora Public Schools, CO
Batavia City School District, NY
BestSelf Behavioral Health, NY
Boston Community Hub Schools, MA
Bright Key-Dothan City Schools, AL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, IL
Caldwell School District #132, ID
CEC16, NY
Cecil County Public Schools, MD

Cedar Rapids Education Association, IA
Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy, IN
Charlotte Community Think Tank, NC
Chicago Public Schools, IL
Children's Institute Inc., CA
Clifford Beers Community Care Center, CT
Coeur d'Alene School District, ID
Communities in Schools-Galveston County, TX
Communities in Schools-Pittsburgh Allegheny County, PA
Community Impact Network of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster Counties, NE
Community School Strategy, NM
Community Schools United, GA
Connect ED (Connected Community Schools), NY
Copperview Elementary, UT
Deep Creek Middle School, MD
Des Moines Public Schools, IL
Dominican Development Center, MA
Durham Public Schools Foundation, NC
Edna Martin Christian Center, IN
El Tejon School, CA
Family Service Lincoln, NE
Genesee School District 282, ID
Gerald E. Talbot Community School, ME
GFW Schools, NM
Gilbert Alternative Ed, CA
Greece Central School District, NY
Growing Well, OH
Hartford Public Schools, CT
Hazel Park Community Schools, MI
Healthi Kids Coalition at Common Ground Health, NY
Homewood Children's Village, PA
Introspect Youth Services, Inc., IL
John Boner Neighborhood Centers, IN
Kent School Services Network (KSSN), MI
Kids in Common, CA
KIPP Indianapolis Public Schools, IN
Laton Joint Unified School District, CA
Lew Wallace Elementary School, NM
Lincoln Community Learning Centers, NE
Live Oak Elementary School District, CA
Loyola University Chicago, IL
Make Mellow Therapeutic School Spaces, CA
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY), In
MECAdvising, LLC, PA
Mercer Street Friends, NJ
Multnomah County, OR
New Brunswick Public Sc
One Annapolis, Inc., MD
Osage County Interlocal Cooperative, OK
Ottawa Community Schools Network, MI
Para Los Niños, CA
Parent Education for Exceptional Children, GA
Partnership with Children, NY
Paterson Alliance, NJ
Poughkeepsie City Schools, NY
Project Success of Vermillion County, IL

Purpose and Destiny Family School Community Resource Network, SC
Red Bank Borough Public Schools, NJ
Robbinsdale Area Schools, MN
Rome Teachers Association, NY
Roswell Independent School District Community Schools, NM
San Jacinto Teachers Association, CA
Santa Fe Public Schools, NM
Seeding Success, TN
Seneca County Community Schools, NY
Sioux Falls School District, SD
Stephens Elementary Community Site Hub, AR
St. Paul City School, MN
Stamford Cradle to Career, CT
Taos International School, NM
The Center for Health Care Services, TX
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health, CA
The ZONE, WA
TLC Public Charter, CA
Toledo Public Schools, OH
United Federation of Teachers-New York, NY
United Federation of Teachers-Albany, NY
United Way for Southeastern Michigan, MI
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, NY
United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut, CT
United Way of Erie County, PA
United Way of Greater Knoxville, TN
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, WI
United Way of Massachusetts Bay, MA
United Way of Montcalm-Ionia Counties, MI
United Way of Northern Utah, UT
United Way of Salt Lake, UT
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, TX
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, GA
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, PA
United Way Quad Cities, IA
Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership, CT
Wayne Maximizing Out of School Time (MOST), NY
YMCA of Greater Boston, MA
YMCA of Greater New York, NY
YWCA of Western New York, NY
Zone 126, NY