Community Schools

What are Community Schools?

A community school is a "whole-child" school improvement strategy. The district and school work closely with teacher, students, families, and partners to promote equity and educational excellence for each and every child. This approach strengthens families and community.

Because each community school is a reflection of local needs, assets, and priorities, no two look exactly alike. What they do share, however, is a commitment to partnership and to rethinking- and at times rebuilding-relationships based on a strong foundation of trust and respect.

cde.ca.gov and "Community Schools Playbook"

Four key pillars of Community Schools:
1. Integrated student supports
2. Expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities
3. Active family and community engagement
4. Collaborative leadership practices
### CA Community Schools Framework

#### Key Conditions for Learning
- Supportive environmental conditions that foster strong relationships and community
- Productive instructional strategies that support motivation, competence, and self-directed learning
- Social and emotional learning (SEL) that fosters skills, habits, and mindsets that enable academic progress, efficacy, and productive behavior
- System of supports that enable healthy development, respond to student needs, and address learning barriers

#### Cornerstone Commitments
- Assets-driven and strength-based practice
- Racially just and restorative school climates
- Powerful, culturally proficient and relevant instruction
- Shared decision making and participatory practices

#### Proven Practices
- Community Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis
- Community School Coordinator
- Site-based and LEA-based advisory councils
- Integrating and aligning other relevant programs

#### Key Roles
California has developed multiple layers to support the implementation of community schools statewide.
Why are Rural Schools Ideal for Community Schools?

Community Schools use established partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations to provide well-rounded educational opportunities to meet the academic needs and the social, emotional, physical, and mental health needs of students. They are not a new idea, especially for rural schools:

- Schools in rural settings act as the hub for the community.
- The school holds historical context to the community.
- A community schools eliminates transportation barriers, offering student and families access to resources.
- Strong school-parent relationships already exist, as relationships are the core value of rural schools.
- Rural schools have pre-existing relationships with community-based organizations.

Every community determines the unique needs of their community school. There is no one size fits all!
CA Community Schools Partnership Program Grant (CCSPP)

**Planning Grant**
- Up to 2 Years
- $200,000 Total
- Awarded to LEA

Offers a district up to two years to create an implementation plan to establish community school.

**Implementation Grant**
- 5 Years
- Up to $500,000 Annually (amount awarded dependent on student enrollment)
- Awarded to schools

Implementation Grants are targeted for schools with existing community schools.

**KCSOS Community of Practice for Community Schools**

**Purpose of the CoP:**
- Support planning, coordination, and alignment of the planning and implementation of Community Schools.
- Creates opportunities for learning, building capacity, and sharing knowledge.

**Dates:**
- Wednesday, 9/7/22
- Wednesday, 11/2/22
- Thursday, 1/19/23
- Wednesday, 3/8/23
- Wednesday, 5/17/23

**Time:** 2-3:30pm

**Join Zoom Meeting:** 462 436 8809

**Who should attend?**
- School districts who received planning or implementation grants.
- Community School Coordinators (District and Site)
- District and/or site administrators supporting CCSPP grants.

**Kern County Superintendent of Schools**

1300 17th Street- CITY CENTRE
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Lourdes Bucher, Director**
School Community Partnerships
lobucher@kern.org

**Anita Cruz, Coordinator**
Community Schools Support
ancruz@kern.org

kern.org/communityschools/