

Community Schools Initiatives funded by the New York State Education Department

New York State Board of Regents

June 13, 2016

Agenda

- What are Community Schools?
 - Community Schools Defined
 - Community Schools Best Practices
- Overview of Community Schools Initiatives
 - 1980s and 1990s - Community Schools Program Grants
 - 2013-14 and 2014-15 - Community Schools Grant Initiative
 - 2015-16 - Persistently Struggling Schools in Receivership
 - 2016-17 – Persistently Struggling and Struggling Schools in Receivership
 - 2016-17 - State Aid Foundation Set Aside
 - Other Funding Sources Used By School Districts for Community Schools Models
 - Next Steps

What are Community Schools?

Community Schools Definition:

“a *strategy* for organizing the *resources* of the community around *student success*.”*

Through extended hours, services and relationships, community schools reconceive education as a *coordinated, child-centered effort* in which schools, families and communities *work together* to:

- **Support students’ educational success;**
- **Build stronger families; and**
- **Improve communities.**

Building Community Schools: A Guide for Action. (2014) National Center for Community Schools.

Community Schools Best Practices

Community Schools share three foundational pillars*:

1. A **rigorous academic program** with strong supports to prepare all students for college, careers, and citizenship;
2. A **full range of school-based and school-linked programs and services** that, based on a needs assessment of the community, address the comprehensive needs of the students and their families *e.g., access to health, dental, mental health, housing, legal services as well as before and after school programs; and*
3. **Partnerships that demonstrate collaboration with the local community**, including engaging families and other community stakeholders *e.g., YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Children's Aid Society.*

* *Building Community Schools: A Guide for Action. (2014) National Center for Community Schools.*



“Can someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”

Community Schools Best Practices

- ✓ Begin with a Needs Assessment that includes input from families and the community (*academic support, enrichment, health, mental health, social services, nutrition, among others*);
- ✓ Designate a Coordinator to manage the community school strategy: recruit and coordinate strong community partners and ensure responsiveness of community partners to school and community needs;
- ✓ Focus on Family Outreach to those who represents the community;
- ✓ Provide continuous support aligned with the results of the Needs Assessment with an emphasis on the “Whole Child”;
- ✓ Offer Expanded Learning Opportunities, including extended hours; and
- ✓ Plan for Sustainability.

Community Schools Initiatives Administered By the State Education Department

1. 1980s and 1990s Community Schools Program Grants
2. 2013-14 & 2014-15 Community Schools Grant Initiative
3. 2016-17 Struggling and Persistently Struggling Schools in Receivership (\$75M)
4. 2016-17 State Foundation Aid Community Schools Set Aside (\$100M)

** Note: In addition, the 2015-16 enacted State budget provided \$75 million to support turn around strategies in Persistently Struggling schools. Although this funding was not specifically targeted for Community Schools models, districts were allowed to use the funding for this purpose.*

2013-14 & 2014-15 Enacted State Budget: Community Schools Grant Initiative

The Community Schools Grant Initiative (CSGI):

The 2013-14 enacted State budget appropriated \$15 million and the in 2014-15 enacted State budget, an additional \$15 million was appropriated. CSGI builds on the evidence of promising practices from successful community schools models across the nation and states.

Cohort 1: 30 Schools Awarded July 1 2013 – June 30, 2016

(12 CBOs in NYC and 18 schools in Rest of State)

Cohort 2: 32 Schools Awarded – July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017

(13 CBOs in NYC and 19 schools in Rest of State)

TOTAL - 62 Schools Awarded

Community Schools Grant Initiative

CSGI Recipients are using grant funding to provide a wide variety of services in their communities:

Service	% of Recipients Offering
Academic Support/Enrichment	93.55%
Mental Health Services	91.94%
Youth Development	91.94%
Family Education	90.32%
Nutrition	90.32%
Physical Fitness/Wellness	90.32%
Health Services	88.71%
Tutoring/Mentoring	87.10%
Drug/Violence Prevention	79.03%
Character Education	74.19%
Family Literacy	74.19%
Art, Music, Dance, Theater	56.45%
Access to Housing	38.71%
Legal Services	37.10%

2015-16 Enacted State Budget Allows Funds for Community Schools in Persistently Struggling Schools

Section 211-f of the Education Law provides persons or entities vested with the powers of a receiver new authority to, among other things, convert schools to community schools providing wrap-around services.

A Community School is defined in section 100.19(a)(8) of the Commissioner's regulations as a school that partners with one or more agencies with an integrated focus on rigorous academics and the fostering of a positive and supportive learning environment, and a range of school-based and school-linked programs and services that lead to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. When a school is placed in receivership, the independent receiver is required to convert the school to a Community School.

Current Commissioner's Regulations on Community Schools: Section 100.19

Community Schools must:

1. Address social services, health, and mental health;
2. Provide access to services in the school community to promote a safe and secure learning environment;
3. Encourage family and community engagement;
4. Provide access to nutrition services, resources, or programs;
5. Provide access to early childhood education;
6. Offer access to career and technical education as well as workforce development services; and
7. Offer expanded learning opportunities that include afterschool, summer school, science, technology, engineering, arts, math programs, mentoring, and other youth development services.

2016-17 Persistently Struggling and Struggling Schools in Receivership \$75M

Section 211-f of the Education Law provides persons or entities vested with the powers of a receiver new authority to, among other things, convert schools to community schools providing wrap-around services.

The 2016-17 State Budget included \$75M specifically to provide grants to districts to support the operating and capital costs associated with the transformation of Persistently Struggling and Struggling Schools into community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition, counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families.

2016-17 State Aid Foundation \$100 Million Set-Aside

Community Schools Foundation Aid Set-Aside

- Included in the 2016-17 State Budget: \$100 Million Community Schools Set-Aside appropriated for 225 school districts.
- Each school district shall set aside from its total foundation aid funds to support new or expand Community Schools strategies defined in statute as: *“the transformation of school buildings into community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition, counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families to support costs incurred to maximize students’ academic achievement.”*

Other Funding Sources that May Be Used to Help Support Activities for Community Schools Models

- Federal ESEA School Improvement Grant
- Federal ESEA School Innovation Fund Grant
- Federal ESEA Title I Funds
- Private Insurance
- Local Foundations or Not-For-Profit Organizations
- Other Tax Levy Dollars

Next Steps

1. Draft proposed Commissioner's Regulations for Board consideration in accordance with the 2016-17 enacted State budget re: Persistently Struggling and Struggling Schools in Receivership (\$75M).
2. Support districts with the Implementation of the \$100 M Foundation Aid Set-Aside for Community Schools.
3. Release the 2016 School Improvement Grant (SIG 7) Request for Proposals that includes a Community Schools Option.
4. Continue to review the new ESSA provisions for allowable funding opportunities for Community Schools-related activities.

