Community Schools
An Evidence-Based Strategy for ESSA School Improvement

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November 14, 2017
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

AN EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY FOR EQUITABLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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June 2017

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Community schools are “both a place and a set of relationships between the school and community resources.”

— Coalition for Community Schools
The Four Pillars of Community Schools

- Integrated student supports
- Expanded learning time & opportunities
- Family & community engagement
- Collaborative leadership & practices
Our Research Review

Studies of
• Comprehensive programs

Studies of
• Each of the 4 pillars

Total reviewed
• 139 studies, including 47 research reviews
Overall Findings

• A wide range of models yield benefits, including...
  • Increased academic achievement
  • Increased attendance
  • Higher graduation rates
  • Improved peer/adult relationships and attitudes toward school
  • Reduced racial and economic achievement gaps

• Cost-Benefit savings of up to $15 for every dollar invested

• Community schools meet the ESSA evidence standard
Research-Based Lessons

- Take a comprehensive approach with all 4 pillars, and pay attention to implementation
- Address local assets and needs through data-driven planning, and engaging family/community
- Provide enough time for planning and collaboration
Opportunities with ESSA Implementation

- Use community schools as an evidence-based improvement strategy

- Funding
  - Title I School Improvement set-aside (7%)
  - Title I Direct Student Services set-aside
  - Title II PD Support

- Stakeholder engagement requirements
Federal Budget

• Title IV Funding:
  • Full Service Community School Grants
  • Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
  • 21st Century Community Learning Centers
• Medicaid