

May 9, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Cole, and Ranking Member Blunt:

We thank you for the historic increase to the Full-Service Community Schools program for FY 2022 to \$75 million. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, **the undersigned organizations encourage you to significantly increase funding for the Full-Service Community Schools Program (Title IV Part F of the Every Student Succeeds Act) to match President Biden's 2022 budget request of \$468 million, and the need for this effective strategy across the country.**

As our nation's schools continue to address the impact of the ongoing pandemic, Community Schools demonstrate an effective strategy to coordinate and align school and community resources and increase family and community engagement for students' success while addressing urgent student, family, and community needs. By providing [equity-based integrated services](#), Community Schools effectively address urgent needs such as the growing mental health crisis in which [27% of teens](#) report having at least one mental health concern, supporting the [14.8% of children experiencing food insecurity](#), and offering aid to the [4.2 million youth](#) and young adults experiencing homelessness. Research and evaluations show Community Schools are an effective, [evidence-based strategy for school improvement](#) and we can [point to](#) several examples of the power of Community Schools to transform high-poverty, low-performing schools into thriving schools including a recent [RAND study of NYC's Community Schools](#). They are also a smart investment: the coordination of resources at both the school and system levels translates to [a return on investment](#) of over \$7 for every \$1 invested in a Coordinator's salary.

Throughout the pandemic, Community Schools were able to mobilize quickly and effectively to support the social, emotional, physical, and learning needs of students and their families. Community Schools are demonstrating how their strong relationships, relational trust, agility, and coordination are helping schools and their communities better respond to and recover from the pandemic. The [Greater Salt Lake City Area](#), now home to approximately 30 Community Schools, has been able to mobilize strategic partnerships to improve academic outcomes while also addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on families. According to the [Promise Partnerships Regional Council](#), academic performance improved on five out of eight baseline measures, including Kindergarten readiness, middle school math proficiency, and high school graduation rates. Similarly, [Robeson High School](#), a community school in Philadelphia, partners with the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center to effectively evaluate and address learners' needs. Teachers at Robeson collaborate with community leaders and the Netter Center to create opportunities for students exposed to new career paths, develop a community garden, or participate in the Wharton School's Bridges to Wealth program, which teaches entrepreneurship and financial literacy. As a result, Robeson now boasts some of the highest performance indicators in the district. Significantly increasing funding for the Full-Service Community Schools program would enable hundreds more communities to coordinate the assets of their schools, families, and community partners for students' immediate and long-term success.

Congress has highlighted Community Schools as an effective strategy during this Congress: first through federal legislation -the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act (S. 385/H.R. 1241)- that calls for \$500 million for the program and increasing to \$1 billion by 2025; and through reference in the American Rescue Plan of Community Schools as an allowable use of funds for school districts for mental health services.

We support the President’s budget request of \$468 million for FY 2023 and request that you match this amount for the program in the FY 2023 appropriations process. The Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act noted above provides an effective path and structure for this increased investment and this level of funding would also help to meet the need and demand for the program from communities across the country.

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 more students have all the conditions they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance
American Federation of Teachers
American Psychological Association
ASCD
ASPIRA Association, Inc.
Center for Supportive Schools
City Year, Inc.
Coalition for Community Schools
Communities in Schools
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Covenant Keeping Outreach Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Ltd.
EDGE Consulting Partners
Essien Education Group
Every Hour Counts
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
First Focus on Children
Forum for Youth Investment
GLSEN
Neighborhood House Association
Healthy Schools Campaign
Inner Explorer
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Public Life and Work
Linked Learning Alliance
MENTOR
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Education Foundations, Inc.
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Center for Community Schools
National Center for Families Learning
National Education Association

National Louis University
Netter Center, University of Pennsylvania
Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)
Pacific American Foundation
Partners for Rural Impact
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
ReachWell
Rural Schools and Community Trust
Save the Children
School-Based Health Alliance
Social Current
Southern Education Foundation
Starr Commonwealth
StriveTogether
Teacher-Powered Schools
The Family Focused Treatment Association
The NEA Foundation
YMCA of the USA
Youth Guidance

State Organizations

ACT Now Coalition, IL
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, MA
BAIN Inc.,GA
Binghamton University Community Schools, NY
California AfterSchool Network, CA
California Association for Bilingual Education, CA
Children & Families First, DE
Children's Home Society of Florida, FL
EduCare Foundation, CA
Excel by Eight, AR
GW Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, Washington, D.C.
Hawaii Afterschool Alliance, HI
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, HI
Indiana Community Schools Network, IN
IRCO, OR
JADe Strategies, FL
Los Angeles Education Partnership, CA
Make the Road New York, NY
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc., IN
New Jersey Community Schools Coalition, NJ
New York State Community Schools Network, NY
New York State United Teachers, NY
NYSUT, NY
Our Children/Our Schools, NJ
Rural Community Alliance, AR
Save Our Schools NJ Community Organizing, NJ
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE
UNM Medical Group, NM
Words Scar, IL

Local Organizations

A+ Schools, PA
ABC Community School Partnership, NM
Alpha Wealth Advisors, NE
Anaheim Union High School District, CA
Anne Arundel County Public Schools, MD
Batavia City School District, NY
BestSelf Behavioral Health, NY
Boston Public Schools, MA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington, WA
Bright Key Community School—Dothan City Schools, AL
Brooklyn Center Community Schools, NY
Brooklyn Landmark Elementary School, NY
CEC16, NY
Center for Educational Justice (CEJ), CA
Charlotte Community Think Tank, Inc., NC
Children's Aid, NY
Children's Institute, CA
Communities In Schools Pittsburgh-Allegheny County, PA
Communities in Schools, Washington, D.C.
Community Preschools, TX
Cornerstones of Care, MO
CPS Community Schools Initiative, IL
Cultural Competence Center LLC, NE
Duquesne University, PA
East Bay Asian Youth Center, CA
Fairfax County Public Schools, VA
Family Services Association of Lincoln, NE
Gardner Pilot Academy, MA
Gerald E. Talbot Community School, OR
Greece Central School District, NY
Godwin Heights Public Schools, MI
Growing Well, OH
Hayward Unified School District, CA
Henrico Education Foundation, Inc., VA
Horeshoe Bend School District, ID
Huber Heights City School District, OH
Indianapolis Coalition for Community School Partnerships
Introspect Youth Services, Inc, IL
John Boner Neighborhood Centers, IN
Kent School Service Network, MI
Kids in Common, CA
KSSN/Burton Elementary, MI
La Clinica de Pueblo, MD
Lincoln Community Learning Centers, NE
Live Oak Elementary School District, CA
Mercer Street Friends, NJ
Moriarty Elementary School, NM

New Brunswick Board of Education, NJ
Northeastern Suburban Teacher's Union Local 1211, IL
Notus, Idaho Community Schools, ID
Office of Community Engagement, Family School and Neighborhood Engagement IUPUI, IN
Para Los Ninos, CA
Park Forest Chicago Heights SD 163, IL
Paterson Alliance, NJ
Portland Public Schools, OR
Prescott CLC, NE
Prince Georges County Public Schools, MD
Say Yes Buffalo, NY
SB Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, MA
Seeding Success, TN
Seneca Falls CSD, NY
Seneca Family of Agencies, CA
Solvay School District, NY
St. Paul City School, MN
Stephens Elementary, AR
Sun Prairie Area School District, WI
Sycamores, CA
The Child Center of New York, NY
The Kids Club, VA
The Place of Forsyth, GA
The Tabernacle, OH
The ZoNE at Northeast Community Center, WA
Toledo Public Schools, OH
UCLA Department of Social Welfare, CA
UMB SWCOS/Promise Heights, MD
United Federation of Teachers / United Community Schools, NYC
United Way for Southeastern Michigan, MA
United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, NC
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, NY
United Way of Erie County, PA
United Way of Greater Knoxville, TN
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, GA
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, PA
United Way of Treasure Valley, ID
Wilder School District, ID
Williston CJC, VT
YMCA of Greater Toledo, OH
YMCA Western New York, NY
Zone 126, NY