

A Guide to Mobilizing Your Community School Network

Congress needs to hear from you and your Community Schools network so that they understand the powerful impact Community Schools have on students, families, and communities!

The Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) program, housed in the Department of Education, provides support for the planning, implementation, and operation of full-service community schools that improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for children attending high-poverty schools, including high-poverty rural schools.

Funding for the Full-Service Community School Grant Program is not guaranteed for Fiscal Year 2026. President Trump's FY2026 budget proposal zeroes out this grant. If Congress follows this proposal and does not appropriate funds to this program, FSCS grantees across the nation stand to lose up to \$150 million. We need your help in spreading the word, standing with the Community Schools that stand to lose their grant dollars, and raising our voices to let Congress know that this program matters.

A key strategy to increase the likelihood Congress continues to fund the FSCS Grant Program in the upcoming fiscal year is to reach out to your Congressperson and Senators to let them know what's at risk if they do not continue to fund the program.

In this guide, you will find an email template to mobilize your community and advocacy action examples.

To maximize the impact of your message to Congress, we ask that you encourage your community to reach out by **Friday, July 18, 2025**.

We truly appreciate your partnership in helping to advocate for the FSCS Grant Program!

Warmly,
The IEL Policy Team

The Community Ask Email Template:

Subject Line: Join the Challenge: Tell Congress Our Community Schools Matter

Hello,






I hope you all are having a great summer! I'm reaching out to ask for your help in urging Congress to fund the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) Grant Program in FY26.

Funding for the Full-Service Community School Grant Program is not guaranteed for Fiscal Year 2026. President Trump's FY2026 budget proposal zeroes out this grant. If Congress follows this proposal and does not appropriate funds to this program, FSCS grantees across the nation **stand to lose up to \$150 million**. If Congress does not act, multi-year plans will be cut short, and Community Schools may lose critical support before they can implement and measure impact. **We need your help in spreading the word, standing with our fellow Community Schools, and raising our voices to let Congress know that this program matters.**

FSCS is the *only* federal funding stream dedicated to advancing Community Schools. Now more than ever, Congress needs to hear from those closest to this work—educators, families, partners, and students.

How to Advocate for Community Schools

Want to make your voice heard? It only takes 5 minutes!

-  **Step 1: Use this Call & Email Template**
 -  Add your Community Schools story, your name, and your school.
 -  Includes FAQs and step-by-step instructions to help you contact your Members of Congress.
-  **Step 2: Ask 3 of your friends to join the challenge. We are stronger together!**
 -  Forward them this email!





 **Deadline: Friday, July 18th at 11:59 PM ET**

Let Congress know why Full-Service Community Schools matter—your story is powerful, and your advocacy matters.





Thank you,
(Your name)

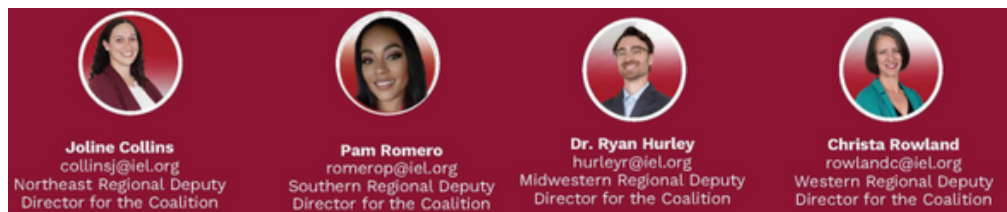
Advocacy Actions: Present & Future

Present:

-  Distribute the “Join the Challenge” Email Template to your network
-  Host a space (virtual or in-person) for your community to advocate together
-  Check out IEL’s Congressional Outreach Toolkit
-  Amplify the Message: Join our Media Storm and post on social media at 2pm ET.

Future:

-  Sign up for our Monthly Policy Newsletters
-  Attend an Advocacy Training to sharpen your skills for future campaigns
-  Share your Community Schools story and build relationships with state and local officials and partners to strengthen your school's advocacy base.
-  Work with your Regional Director to organize a site visit for Members of Congress or their staff



**“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.
We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”**

— Barack Obama