

A Guide to Utilizing Data in FSCS Advocacy For New Grantees

Congress needs to hear from you so that they know how impactful your federally funded Full-Service Community School (FSCS) grant has been for your school, students, families, and community!

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. This strategy will be even more impactful if the outreach comes from current grant recipients.

This guide is to support FSCS grantees who are within the first two years of their grant. Dependent on your current data reporting, we have provided instructions on how to utilize data from our RPN Clearinghouse of Community Schools Studies and Publications in conjunction with storytelling. We hope this information is useful in your outreach efforts to your Members of Congress.

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

Warmly,
The IEL Policy Team

How to Use the RPN Clearinghouse of Community Schools Studies and Publications:

Q: How do I access the Clearinghouse & find information on my state/type of area?

- A: The Clearinghouse can be accessed [here](#).
- A: To locate Community Schools research that is useful for your outreach, you can use the Ctrl+F feature to look up either your city or state (found under "Geographical Location"), type of region (rural, suburban, urban), or by services (i.e. clinics, parental/family engagement).

Q: How do I use Clearinghouse data in the template?

- A: We recommend adding a sentence in the second paragraph of the Email Template. This sentence can include information from one study found in the Clearinghouse that directly supports your main priorities for federal dollars in FY26. The goal is to communicate that Community Schools work whether its at rural or urban schools, in all regions of the country, etc.

No.	Title	Author(s)	Year	Location of Resource (Link, Hard Copy, etc.)	Research Question(s)	Theoretical Framework	Methods	Sample Size	Geographic Location	Key Findings
41										3. Student-centered instruction: le Family outreach: Basic communicat Correlations Between Academic Op
488	Teachers'	Galindo, Claudia	2022	https://www.proquest.	1. What levels of ac the effectiveness of instruction, and out of professional prac	The study is fram A mixed method	40 teachers ci	An urban full-serv		4. Higher academic optimism was f Beliefs about FSCs (r = 0.48**), Student-centered instruction (r = 0 Advanced outreach efforts (r = 0.4 Challenges Identified
		Galindo, Ardava	2022	https://www.proquest.	How can commun The study employ How do systemic in What role does corr	The integration fr	Conceptual pap	Not as	Approximately 100	was well-received by systemic inequities were exacerbat
			2022	https://www.proquest.	How can elementar The integration fr					5 Teachers expressed Teachers acknow
					What are the differ		This study emp			
						This study applie		The study invc	The focus is on ru	The study fi

FAQs:

Q: How do I find my Senator or Congressperson's phone number or email address?

- A: You can search by your address or zip code on [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). This will give you the contact information for both your Senators and Representative.

Q: Is writing to my member of Congress considered lobbying?

- A: No, writing to your member of Congress is not lobbying, it's advocacy. To be considered lobbying, you have to ask a member of Congress to vote a specific way on a specific bill. In this case, you are advocating for continued funding beyond Fiscal Year 2025, since the current funding is not guaranteed for FY26. You are asking your member to ensure that a program you support or rely on remains supported, not urging a position on a specific bill.

Q: Which is better, emailing or calling?

- A: Both! You should reach out in any way you are most comfortable. Calling is great for when you only have a few minutes, and emailing is perfect if you have a lot you want to share with your Congressperson or Senator. Note: if you choose to call your Congressional Members, be sure to use their Washington office phone number rather than their district phone offices' phone numbers.

Q: Will I be speaking or corresponding directly with my Member of Congress?

- A: Most likely, no. If you call, chances are you will be leaving a voicemail. If anyone answers the phone or responds to your email, it will be a staffer or intern. However, if you do want to speak to your member of Congress, you can always request a meeting with them.

Q: Should I include a specific dollar amount in my phone call or email?

- A: You can say how much you've received or have yet to receive for your federal grant, but it's best to ask that "Congress fund the FSCS Program at the highest level possible."

New FSCS Grantee Phone Call Script:

**This is a sample script of what to say when calling a member of Congress. You can personalize or adapt this script as needed. You will most likely be leaving a voicemail, but in the event you speak with a person in the office, you can use the same template.*

Hello, my name is _____, from _____ (town/school district/school). I am calling about the Full-Service Community School Grant Program. We received a grant award in _____(year), and this program has made such a difference in our community.

Because of these federal funds, we have been able to _____ (list examples of how the grant-funded dollars have made a positive impact in your school or community). We need Congress to continue to fund the Full-Service Community School grant program in FY26 to ensure we receive the grant dollars we were awarded to keep making these positive changes for our students, families, and community.

As we are in our ____ year of the grant, we look to _____ (list examples of how the grant-funded dollars will be used in the remainder of the grant).

Without this funding _____ (cite an example of something that will no longer happen or a negative consequence of no longer being able to employ the Community School strategy [e.g. attendance rates, academic outcomes, etc.]).

Please continue to fund the Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program in FY26 so that my school can continue to receive the funds already promised to us.

Thank you.



New Grantee Email Template:

**This is a template of what to write when emailing a member of Congress. You can personalize or adapt this template as needed.*

Subject Line: Please continue to fund the Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program in FY26

Hello, my name is _____, from _____ (town/district/school). I'm writing to you today to ask for your continued support in funding the Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program in FY26. We received a Full-Service Community Grant Program award in _____ (Year), and it has made a huge difference in the lives of students, families, and for our community. For example, because we have received these grant dollars, we have _____ (share your wins/areas of improvement/academic accomplishments).

Community Schools are a federally recognized evidence-based strategy where public schools actively engage parents and students in designing opportunities for better learning and a better life. Years of evidence point to the positive impacts Community Schools have had on academics, family engagement, community development, collaborative leadership, and return-on investment in communities across the country. Community Schools are an effective strategy to coordinate and align school and community resources to increase family and community engagement for students' success while also addressing urgent student, family, and community needs.

If we do not receive the remainder of our awarded funds, we risk losing _____ (cite an example of something that will no longer happen or a negative consequence of no longer being able to employ the Community School strategy [e.g. attendance rates, academic outcomes, graduation rates, etc.]). As we are in the early years of this grant, it is a critical time in building family and community engagement and partnerships, systems of support, and momentum that directly impact student academic achievement.

Please continue to fund the Full-Service Community Schools Grant Program in FY26 so that my school can continue to receive the funds already promised to us.

Thank you,
(Your name)

