New Mexico Community Schools
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What are community schools or full-service schools?

Community schools provide comprehensive academic, social and health services for students, students’ family members and community members that will result in improved educational outcomes for students.

Meeting the needs of the Whole Child = Community Schools
Evidence-Based Success

- The Learning Policy Institute at the National Education Policy Center published its research brief in December 2017, which examined 143 research studies on community schools across the country.
  
  [https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/community-schools-equitable-improvement-brief](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/community-schools-equitable-improvement-brief)

  - Well-implemented community schools lead to improvement in student and school outcomes.

  - Well-designed community schools are an evidenced-based intervention under ESSA.

    » NM’s ESSA plan includes Community Schools as a possible intervention for schools requiring a more rigorous intervention.
The Community Schools Act

• Strategy to organize the resources of a community while addressing its needs.
• Focus on the whole student/whole child, including cultural and linguistic needs.
• Early childhood programs to high school graduation.
• Partnering with state, local and tribal governments and community-based organizations.

22-32-2 NMSA, 1978
Four Pillars of Community Schools

- Active Family and Community Engagement
- Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities
- Collaborative Leadership and Practice
- Integrated Student Supports

Source: Learning Policy Institute
Active Family and Community Engagement

Values experiences of people from diverse backgrounds

• Empowers partners in decision making
• Develops and promotes a vision for student success
• Offers courses and services for parents and community members
• Creates structures and opportunities for shared leadership
Expanded and Enriched Learning Time & Opportunities

Before-school, after-school, weekend, summer and year-round programs:

• Additional academic support
• Enrichment activities
• Social, emotional and life skills
• Aligned with school’s curriculum
Collaborative Leadership and Practice

- Culture of professional learning, collective trust and shared responsibility

- Minimum requirements:
  - Site-based leadership team
  - Community school coordinator
Integrated Student Supports

Addresses non-academic and out-of-school barriers:

• Partnerships with social and health service agencies
• School-based or school-linked health care
• Case management services and family stability supports
Community Schools
Intervention and Prevention

Intervention
• Community Schools Act
  – School Improvement
• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  – Restructure and Redesign option for schools needing a more rigorous intervention
  – 2020-2021 school year

Prevention
• Not dependent on an ESSA designation
• Open to any single school, school district or consortium of schools
New Mexico Community Schools Act: Requirements for Schools – School Improvement

- Meaningful and collaborative annual assessment:
  - understand local needs and assets
  - conducted by the community school coordinator
  - informed by site-based leadership team
  - alignment of programs and services

- Lead partner agency or community-based organization to coordinate programs and services

- Early childhood services and supports identified as a need, shall prioritize strong partnerships with early childhood providers
Community Schools: Additional Requirements

• Application process for a competitive grant
  – Applications must support a continuum or community school development
• Single school, school district or consortia of schools can apply

• Must have demonstrated partnerships with the local community to:
  – establish,
  – operate, and
  – sustain the community school framework
• Funding three or more schools – lead agency must employ a director or manager
Community Schools: Additional Requirements

- One-year, one-time planning grant of **up to $50k**
  - Conduct initial school and community needs assessment
  - Identify supports and services through asset mapping
  - Establish site-based leadership team

- Within 6 months of receiving planning grant, submit letter of intent to apply for an implementation grant

- Annual grant $150k/year for three years

- After three years, eligible applicants can submit for a one-year renewal grant

- School district shall bear indirect costs associated with establishment and implementation
Coalition for Community Schools

• Members appointed by the PED
• Statewide representation
  – Local community school content experts
  – Culturally responsive content experts
  – Tribal leaders representing the nations and pueblos of New Mexico
• Input on competitive grant process
• Reviewing of applications for funding
• Making recommendations for awards
Evidence-based Community Schools

- Rigorous, transparent, equitable and evidence-based evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the implementation
- Flexibility in programming, curriculum, staffing, budgeting and scheduling = comprehensive community school framework = whole child

- Ongoing, high-quality professional development that
  - Aligns with the school’s instructional program
  - Facilitates effective teaching and learning
  - Supports the implementation of school reform strategies