



**New Mexico Community Schools**  
**Kata Sandoval, Deputy Secretary**  
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**Secretary of Education**

# 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>
  - 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



NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT

# 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

