

## Your Question:

You asked for examples of recent state legislation related to community schools.

## Our Response:

Community schools are public schools that partner with community and government agencies to provide integrated services including academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement. Many of these schools serve children and adults, often in low-income neighborhoods, with the aim of improving student learning and creating healthier families and communities. These schools often serve as a community hub and are open all day, every day, to provide services.

According to a [recent report](#) from the Learning Policy Institute, while the programs offered vary depending on local context and need, there are four features common to most community schools:

- 1) integrated student supports;
- 2) expanded learning time and opportunities;
- 3) family and community engagement;
- 4) collaborative leadership and practices.

Several states have enacted policies related to community school development and improvement in recent years. Below, please find a sampling of such policies as well as a list of further resources for your review.

### **State Legislation**

Education Commission of the States tracks and summarizes enacted state legislation on a variety of education topics in our [state policy database](#). For a more comprehensive list of policies related to community schools, please review our [integrated/full service schools](#) page. On this topic, the Institute for Educational Leadership and the Coalition for Community Schools have compiled a [list of state legislation](#) in 2016 and 2017.

Bills still under consideration in 2017:

- [Minnesota HF 146](#) would provide additional funding for community schools. This bill is currently in the house.
- [Texas SB 193](#) would establish the essential components of a “Texas Community School,” including the nature of programs offered, the transition process, and oversight model. This bill also lists community schools as a strategy that can be implemented for low-performing schools. This bill is currently in the senate.
- [Washington HB 1618](#) would provide funding for family and community engagement coordinators at the district level. This bill is currently in the senate.

Enacted in 2016:

- [California SB 527](#) established the Learning Communities for School Success Program, authorizing the department of education to administer grants and coordinate assistance to local education agencies to, among other options, establish a community school. In this bill, “community school” is defined as “*a public school that participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate educational, developmental,*

*family, health, and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships with one or more community partners for the delivery of community services that may be provided at a school-site to pupils, families, and community members.”*

- [Maryland HB 1139](#) required the state department of education to notify school districts of the federal funding available for community schools, and to provide technical assistance to school districts for the use of Title I funds to pay for expenses related to community schools. [Maryland HB 1402](#) provided \$7.5 million each year through 2021 in grants to community schools and other entities for the creation or expansion of extended day and summer enhancement programs.
- [Minnesota HF 2749](#) approved an appropriation of \$1 million to create more full-service community schools across the state.

Enacted in 2015:

- [Minnesota SF 1206](#) established full-service community schools, and outlined eligibility for funding and reporting requirements. Required that full-service community school sites undergo review every three years.
- [Ohio HB 70](#) (attached) authorized community schools to transition into community learning centers to provide comprehensive services to students, families, and community members. Required that public hearings be held to approve changes and that needs assessments be performed. Placed requirements around consent and confidentiality for the provision of health services.
- [Nevada SB 432](#) created the ‘victory school’ designation for schools with (1) a high percentage of enrolled students from families below the federal poverty level and (2) the lowest performance ratings. Required that a majority of the funding be used for certain programs and services, including at least one of the following: free pre-K, full-day kindergarten expansion, summer academy, additional instruction, professional development, teacher recruitment and retention, reading skills centers, and more. Required the performance of a needs assessment and included reporting requirements.

Enacted in 2013:

- [Connecticut SB 1002](#) allowed local or regional boards of education to establish a community school or schools to participate with community partners to provide various educational and social services to families, students and community members. Outlined steps for the creation of a community school and reporting requirements.
- [New Mexico HB 542](#) created the community schools act to organize community resources to ensure student success while addressing the needs of the whole student. Specified that a community school may be created in any public school in the state and must include extended learning programs, school-based or school-linked health care, and family engagement and support services. Outlined an ongoing evaluation process.

## Further Resources

- A [June 2017 report](#) from the Learning Policy Institute and the National Education Policy Center examines the research on community schools and explores the role of this strategy in ESSA. This report also provides support to education leaders as they consider community school intervention in their school improvement strategies. Several research-based recommendations are outlined for policymakers who want to incorporate a community school strategy in their ESSA state plans.
- [The Coalition for Community Schools](#), housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership, is an alliance of national, state, and local organizations supporting community schools throughout the nation. This organization [publishes in-depth reports](#) and maintains a page of [relevant resources](#).