

# Community Schools & Educator Preparation

## Partnerships for Innovative Practice



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*Community schools are both a place and a set of relationships between the school and community resources.*

— Coalition for Community Schools



## Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy:

### *A Review of the Evidence*

Anna Maier, Julia Daniel, Jeannie Oakes, and Livia Lam



DECEMBER 2017

# Research Review

Over 140 studies of community schools and their associated features



# Four Pillars of Community Schools



A dedicated staff member coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families.

Mental and physical health services support student success.

**Integrated  
Student Supports**

# Four Pillars of Community Schools



Enrichment activities emphasize real-world learning and community problem solving.

After-school, weekend, and summer programs provide academic instruction and individualized support.

**Expanded and Enriched  
Learning Time and Opportunities**

# Four Pillars of Community Schools



Promoting interaction among families, administration, and teachers helps families to be more involved in the decisions about their children's education.

Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting student success.

**Active Family and  
Community Engagement**

# Four Pillars of Community Schools



Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities

**Collaborative Leadership  
and Practices**

# Research Findings

- ▶ Benefits associated with community schools include...
  - Increased academic achievement
  - Increased attendance
  - Higher graduation rates
  - Improved peer/adult relationships and attitudes toward school
  - Reduced racial and economic achievement gaps
  
- ▶ Cost-Benefit savings of up to \$15 for every dollar invested



# COVID-19 Response



# Federal and State Investments

- ▶ Both community schools and ed prep programs can be supported by federal recovery funds
  
- ▶ Ed Prep allowable uses:
  - Teacher residency programs; Induction and mentoring programs; Recruiting and retaining diverse and effective teachers
  
- ▶ Community school grant programs:
  - Federal recovery funds used in CA (plus one-time state funds), VT, NYC (plus local funds), and Cincinnati (plus local funds)
  - State funding in MD, NM, NY

# A few additional thoughts...



- ▷ The four pillars reinforce each other, but you don't have to tackle all four at once
- ▷ Programs/services will vary across community school sites
- ▷ Complexity in definitions for both ed prep and community schools