

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MESSAGING

### Tagline for the Coalition

Partnering so students learn and thrive.

### Elevator Speech

A Community School is a public school – the hub of its neighborhood, uniting families, educators and community partners to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to succeed in school and in life.

### Overview

Community schools are the kind of public schools that families want and children deserve.

- Where students are safe, loved, and challenged;
- Where families and educators partner with doctors, nurses, social workers, community agencies, businesses, higher education, and others to provide the comprehensive academic and non-academic supports that meet each student's unique needs and taps his/her unique talents. Counseling and health care for some. Food and shelter for others. GED and job training for community residents. Quality instruction, enrichment, and extracurriculars for all;
- Where schools are open 24/7: early mornings, late afternoons, nights, weekends, and during the summer;
- Where teachers are given the time and space to help students master the more challenging academics they need to thrive in an increasingly complex world;
- Where educators work with local companies, nonprofits, higher education, and local governments to offer students engaging, real-world projects that make learning more relevant, and open the door to future opportunities;
- Where students have a voice in what their school looks like; where families are respected and engaged; where neighbors gather; where the wisdom and assets of the community are respected; and where students, families, neighbors, and community partners work with school staff to shape the school's priorities.

Instead of fragmenting neighborhoods, these hyper-local schools unify them. Instead of inventing another "silver bullet," community schools offer a proven approach that's rooted in our democratic values and retooled for the 21st-century, with neighbors helping neighbors, and schools serving as the hub of their communities.

Community schools, 7,500 and growing, represent a national movement with a multi-decade track record of improving achievement, empowering students and families, and strengthening neighborhoods. They are flourishing in a growing number of cities, suburbs, and rural America, in regular public schools and public charter schools. Community schools offer an approach that builds on core American values to meet 21st-century needs. They are more relevant than ever.