



The Rockland BOCES Community Schools COSER 533 represents a strategy to organize resources so that academics, social and emotional needs and medical and dental services and supports are integrated into the fabric of schools. This strategy helps to remove obstacles to learning and serve the needs of the whole child, allowing teachers to teach and students to learn.

By aligning resources, the Community Schools COSER will result in improved student learning, stronger families and healthier neighborhoods. Specifically, the new COSER will provide for students' social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs through the following menu of services:

■ **Family Resource Center Services (Basic Service via Rockland 21C):** The Family Resource Center will provide coordination of information and referral services and programs to promote optimal growth and development of all students while strengthening family-school partnerships. Family Resource centers connect students and families to the services they need. Rockland 21C will provide oversight of and coordinate services for the Family Resource centers.

■ **Early Learning Opportunities/Parent-Child:** The services will provide high-quality comprehensive early learning opportunities for children between the ages of two and nine and their parents that nurture development and learning so children are prepared to enter school. Specifically, staff will provide early literacy supports and services to at-risk families in their homes and/or in schools to better prepare parents and their children for school. These services offer a successful school readiness platform for students.

■ **Medical Director:** Oversight, consultation and support in implementation of all aspects of school health services as required by New York State Education Law, Article 19.

■ **Mental and Behavioral Health Services:** The services will provide for the social and emotional needs of students through comprehensive intervention and prevention services so that students are healthy both socially and emotionally.

■ **Dental Services:** Dental services will provide primary care such as plaque index score, oral health instructions, examinations, x-rays, restorative care (i.e., dental fillings), prophylaxis (dental cleaning), fluoride treatment, sealants, and referrals, thus removing some of the physical obstacles to learning.

Family Resource Centers recognize that families play critical roles in children's development and school success, therefore strengthening family engagement in school. Research shows that family engagement is critical to successful education and to closing the achievement gap where they exist. Specifically, when families are engaged in their children's education, students' test scores and grades are strong, while their attendance, attitudes, and behavior are optimal. Also, students are more likely to take higher-level classes, graduate from high school, and continue to post-secondary education.