

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ARIZONA PILOT PROGRAM

Community Schools

Community schools bring together academics, health and social services, youth and community engagement, with the goal of helping students overcome barriers that cause them to lose focus from their education. Community schools share a common vision to create an integrated set of learning opportunities and services that help young people develop academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.

Characteristics of Community Schools:

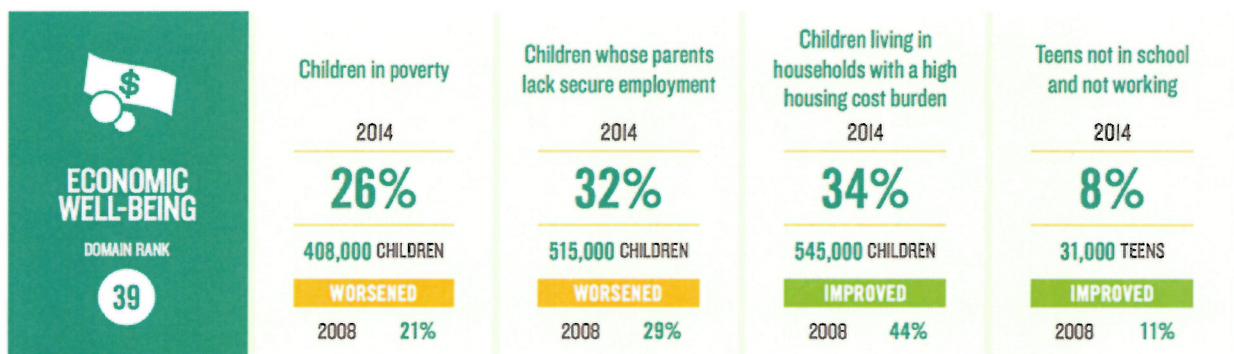
- Coordination of services
- Comprehensive and thorough array of services
- Community and family engagement

Benefits:

- When student's needs are met, learning increases significantly.
- Garnering additional resources that directly support schools while reducing demands on school staff.

Arizona Child Poverty

- 51% percent of children in Arizona are residing in low-income households.
- 26% of Arizona's children live in poverty; this equates to approximately 408,000 children.
 - The national average is 22% - equating to 16.1 million children.
- 29,500 public school students were homeless in 2016. Many of these students struggle daily, miss class, repeat grades, and even drop out of school entirely.



[Arizona Children's Actions Alliance – 2016 Kids Count Profile](#)

Creating an Arizona Pilot Program

While national organizations are working to implement the community schools model nationwide, each has a different strategy. A suggested plan for community schools in Arizona potentially includes:

- Assembling a team of funders to create a planning group.
- Selecting the schools that would participate in the pilot program.
- Assisting the schools with implementation of the program.
- Preparing a final report on the results of the pilot.

SB1462 (2016) establishes a 3-year pilot program to assist middle schools and junior high schools in developing community school plans. The bill requires schools that participates in the pilot program to hire a new employee or designate an existing employee to serve as a community school coordinator. Provisions for 2017 legislation allow for the program to be funded through public-private partnerships and revises bill language to allow for the participation of elementary and middle schools.

Community Schools – Arizona Pilot Program

Community Schools

Effective public education is the foundation of democracy. Community schools combine the best educational practices with vital in-house programs and services. (NCCS)

A community school is both a place and set of partnerships between a school and other community resources. While no single uniform model exists, community schools share a common vision to create an integrated set of learning opportunities and services that help young people develop academically, emotionally, physically, and socially (Coalition for Community Schools). Community schools have multiple goals, many of which include:

- School readiness;
- Student academic success;
- Physical, social, and emotional health;
- Parent and community engagement.

Schools are able to help students overcome barriers outside of school that affect their ability to learn through the collaboration of several partners, volunteers, and by providing essential services on the school campus. By providing these services, Community Schools strengthen students, support parents and build up neighborhoods. The goal of community schools is to provide students a fair shot, an equal opportunity to be able to effectively learn and grow.

Key characteristics of community schools

Currently there are as many as 5,000 community schools operating in 44 states and the District of Columbia, serving an estimated 5.1 million students. Although community schools throughout the country have adopted different models, many of them share similar characteristics, including the following (National Center for Community Schools):

- Coordination of services - Coordination of student and family services and integration of these services with the core instructional program.
- Comprehensive array of services - Community schools often provide expanded learning opportunities before and after school and during the summer; adult education and parent engagement classes and workshops; and access to health, dental, and mental health services.
- Community and family engagement - At the heart of the community school model is the principle that meeting the comprehensive needs of children requires working closely with students' families and other adults in the community.
- Change - Most community schools seek to transform schools with respect to issues such as fostering a student-centered school climate, creating a wellness environment at the building level, and developing school-community interventions focused on achieving a culture that promotes good school attendance and achievement

Benefits

- If kids are growing up in an environment where they are healthy and eating well, and where their parents are committed to their own growth and development, and have opportunities for good jobs, the chances of our students being able to learn better go up significantly.
- Building social capital – the value attached to the social networks and relationships that support learning and create opportunities for young people while strengthening their communities
- Garnering additional resources that directly support schools' teaching and learning goals while reducing demands on school staff
- By paying attention to both academic and non-academic learning, community schools reach the whole child and encourage the growth and development of a range of reinforcing competencies—social, emotional, physical, and academic. In community schools, engagement precedes achievement—and intensifies it—in classrooms and community-based learning opportunities.

ESSA

New provisions under the Every Student Succeeds Act earmark funds for full-service community schools grants. The law also contains provisions that advance the community schools strategy, including supportive programs such as Promise Neighborhoods and 21st Century Community Learning Centers; tools and resources for professional development for educators to work more effectively with families and communities. (IEL)

Arizona

- 51% percent of children in Arizona are residing in low-income households
 - The risks associated with child homelessness including low-wage jobs for parents, single parenting, and economic disparity are so prevalent in our state that the National Center on Family Homelessness ranks Arizona the worst for risk of child homelessness.
- 26% of Arizona's children live in poverty, this equates to approximately 408,000 children. (The national average is 22% - 16.1 million children)
- 29,500 public school students were homeless in 2016. Many of these students struggle daily, are isolated from peers, miss class, repeat grades, and even drop out of school entirely.

Creating an Arizona Pilot Project

While each national organization is working to implement the community schools model nationwide, each has a different strategy. The team that is assembled to create the Arizona pilot program will ultimately decide the specific architecture of the program for the state. A suggested plan for community schools in Arizona potentially includes:

- **Assembling a team of funders to create a planning group** – Once the team is in assembled, the planning group would choose a coordinating member that is tasked with collaborating with the group, conducting a needs assessment and assembling a supportive group of state, local and non-profit education entities and human services providers to assist with program design. This larger group would work together to develop a competitive bid proposal for a three-year pilot program and remain in place to serve as an advisory team for the duration of the pilot. This group would also enlist the support of university-based

researchers to design and provide the data collection and analysis needed for the pilot program in order to make the case for further expansion of the program statewide.

- **Select the schools that would participate in the pilot program** – Assist the schools with the selection of a site coordinator and work with the school to plan the program rollout on their campus.
- **Assist the schools with implementation of the program** – As the pilot progresses into the implementation phase, the advisory group and program coordinator would monitor each site's progress, adjust the program to fit the specific needs of the campus community and conduct ongoing evaluations of the program including the analysis of data showing the relative progress of each site.
- **Prepare a final report on the results of the pilot** – Using the data collected throughout the pilot program, the final report would detail the efforts that were undertaken, analyze the results and make recommendations for next steps to expand the program.

2017 Legislation

2016's SB1462 Arizona community schools pilot program was a first step to initiating the conversation about community schools in Arizona. Provisions for 2017 legislation include:

- Establishing a 3-year pilot program to assist elementary and middle schools in developing community school plans.
- Requiring a school that participates in the pilot program to hire a new employee or designate an existing employee to serve as a community school coordinator.
- Allows the pilot program to be funded through third-party organizations, tax credit contributions, and public-private partnerships and would include a robust data collection requirement for the purpose of quantifying the return on investment.

Leveraging the National Effort for Success in Arizona

The implementation of the community schools concept nationwide has been varied and diverse. There is probably not one right way to approach design and implementation of an initiative but there is wealth of technical support and assistance available with efforts underway nationwide. The goal of this proposal is to build a team of funders that will agree to underwrite the development of an Arizona-specific pilot program that can generate the data from the field to make the case for a broader statewide implementation.

There are several national groups that have been advocating for the community schools concept and assisting state and local jurisdictions with implementation issues nationwide for decades; including:

The Coalition for Community Schools

<http://www.communityschools.org>

The Coalition for Community Schools is housed at the Washington, DC based Institute for Educational Leadership. The coalition focuses on policy implementation at the local, state and national level and was very involved in successfully advocating for the inclusion of community school initiatives in the recently enacted federal reauthorization of The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Communities in Schools

<https://www.communitiesinschools.org>

Founded in 1970, this Arlington, Virginia based non-profit works with a host of national partners and focuses on implementation of a specific integrated school support model which is centered around a school site coordinator to manage all aspects of the program.

The National Center for Community Schools

<http://www.nccs.org>

The Children's Aid Society in New York City, in partnership with the New York City public schools, opened it's first community school in 1992 and two years later, launched the National Center for Community Schools. The center works with stakeholders throughout the country on implementation issues, and provides training and technical assistance to nearly all of the country's major community schools initiatives.

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona community schools pilot program

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-third Legislature
First Regular Session
2017

S. B. _____

Introduced by _____

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE ARIZONA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PILOT PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Arizona community schools pilot program;
3 requirements; grants; community school
4 coordinators; tax credit; delayed repeal;
5 definitions

6 A. A three-year Arizona community schools pilot program is
7 established in the governor's office to assist public elementary and
8 middle schools in developing and implementing community school plans and
9 participating in the pilot program. The governor's office shall select
10 three schools to participate in the pilot program, at least one of which
11 is an elementary school.

12 B. From monies donated for this purpose, the governor's office
13 shall award three-year grants to eligible schools. Each grant may not
14 exceed the sum of:

15 1. Sixty thousand dollars each academic year to pay the salary and
16 benefits of a full-time community school coordinator.

17 2. Twenty-five thousand dollars each academic year to develop and
18 implement a community school plan.

19 C. On application from a school, a grant awarded under this section
20 may be extended by the governor for an additional year.

21 D. A public elementary or middle school is eligible to apply for a
22 grant under this section if the school demonstrates a commitment to both:

23 1. Participating in the pilot program by establishing both:

24 (a) A school-community partnership team to function as the
25 campus-level planning and decision-making committee composed of school
26 officials and community representatives.

27 (b) A partnership with a community-based organization, a social
28 service provider or an education or youth services organization that has
29 experience in developing and implementing a community school plan.

30 2. Developing and implementing a plan for sustaining the community
31 school plan beyond the end of the pilot program.

32 E. Grants awarded under this section may not be used for direct
33 programs for students or families or for other activities that are not
34 related to developing or implementing a community school plan.

35 F. Each school that participates in the pilot program shall hire a
36 new employee or designate an existing employee to serve as the full-time
37 community school coordinator for that school. A community school
38 coordinator who is compensated with grant monies issued pursuant to this
39 section must have relevant experience as a school district employee, a
40 charter school employee or an employee of a community-based organization
41 with experience in developing and implementing a community school plan and
42 in coordinating the process of developing and implementing such a plan.
43 The coordinator's duties include:

44 1. Recruiting community partners and building community support for
45 the school.

1 2. Coordinating all of the following:
2 (a) The school-community partnership team's planning and training
3 activities.
4 (b) Planning and evaluation efforts between the school and
5 community partners.
6 (c) Academic and student and family support programs.
7 (d) After-school, summer and enrichment programs for students.
8 3. Encouraging community and parent engagement in the school.
9 4. Seeking available resources for implementing community school
10 programs and services.
11 5. Conducting an annual needs assessment of the school in
12 coordination with the school-community partnership team.
13 6. Acting as a liaison between the school, other community schools,
14 the school district or the charter school and community partners.
15 7. Developing a plan for sustaining the community school plan
16 beyond the end of the pilot program.
17 G. Before a community school plan may be implemented, the plan and
18 the application to participate in the pilot program must be approved by
19 the school district governing board or the charter school governing body.
20 H. In developing or implementing a community school plan, a school
21 that participates in the pilot program may seek assistance from other
22 community schools, regional education service centers or technical
23 assistance providers.
24 I. A school that is selected to participate in the pilot program
25 shall both:
26 1. Hold a community meeting at least twice each year to both:
27 (a) Inform community stakeholders about the school's progress in
28 implementing the community school plan.
29 (b) Seek community input regarding any improvements or changes that
30 could be made to the community school plan.
31 2. Annually report to the school district governing board or the
32 charter school governing body regarding the school's progress in
33 implementing the community school plan.
34 J. The governor's office shall select a third-party organization to
35 solicit and accept monies to fund the pilot program and to coordinate with
36 the governor's office for the disbursement of these monies. The
37 third-party organization and schools that are selected to participate in
38 the pilot program may seek additional funding through public-private
39 partnerships and may seek and accept gifts, grants, donations and monies
40 from federal, state and private sources for purposes related to the pilot
41 program.
42 K. For taxable years 2017, 2018 and 2019, a credit is allowed
43 against the taxes imposed by title 43, Arizona Revised Statutes, for the
44 amount of voluntary cash contributions by the taxpayer or on the
45 taxpayer's behalf during the taxable year to the governor's office or to

1 the third-party organization selected by the governor's office for the
2 purpose of funding the pilot program. The amount of the credit shall not
3 exceed fifty thousand dollars in any taxable year. If the allowable tax
4 credit exceeds the taxes otherwise due under title 43, Arizona Revised
5 Statutes, on the claimant's income, or if there are no taxes due under
6 title 43, Arizona Revised Statutes, the taxpayer may carry the amount of
7 the claim not used to offset the taxes under this title forward for not
8 more than five consecutive taxable years' income tax liability. The
9 credit allowed by this subsection is in lieu of any deduction pursuant to
10 section 170 of the internal revenue code and taken for state tax
11 purposes. Pursuant to section 43-223, Arizona Revised Statutes, the
12 legislature enacts the credit under this subsection to encourage taxpayers
13 to contribute to the funding of the Arizona community schools pilot
14 program.

15 L. In addition to the monies specified in subsection J of this
16 section, the governor's office may use monies allocated for community
17 schools pursuant to federal law to distribute grants to eligible schools.

18 M. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2020.

19 N. For the purposes of this section:

20 1. "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or
21 association that is located in close proximity to the population the
22 organization serves and that supports the academic success of students
23 through the provision of health care, mentoring, college-readiness
24 programs or job training.

25 2. "Community school" means a public elementary or middle school
26 that partners with one or more community-based organizations to coordinate
27 academic, social and health services to reduce barriers to learning and
28 improve the quality of education for students in the community and that
29 offers a variety of programs and services that may include one or more of
30 the following:

31 (a) Early childhood education.

32 (b) After-school and summer school academic and enrichment
33 programs.

34 (c) College and career preparation.

35 (d) Service learning opportunities, such as internships and
36 community service programs.

37 (e) Leadership and mentoring programs.

38 (f) Activities to encourage community and parent engagement in
39 students' education.

40 (g) Parenting classes and health and social services, including
41 services provided by licensed social workers, for students and families.