



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS?

Communities know best what they want and need. The key is to figure out how to make sure communities can share decision-making power in all the different ways that affect their health and well-being. Community schools offer a powerful model for how to include multiple stakeholders in an essential institution of community life.

The New Mexico Community Schools Act was first passed in 2013 then amended in 2019 to align with national research and best practice and to create a grant program managed by NMPED. Its purpose is to “provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for student success in New Mexico” (Community Schools Act, Ch. 22, Art. 32, NMSA 1978).

There are currently 91 community schools with grant funding from legislative appropriations and estimated 150 community schools in total throughout the state.

The National Education Association of New Mexico (NEA-NM) has been at the forefront of the community school movement in New Mexico. We create paid mentorship opportunities, host workshops for training educators, assist educators

in getting their certification, and serve as a liaison between educators and their communities to make these schools powerful centers of learning and growth.

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL IMPACT

Evidence shows that when community schools are implemented with fidelity, they can lead to improvements in student outcomes, including attendance, academic achievement, high school graduation rates, and reduced racial and economic achievement gaps as well as educator retention and recruitment.

## 6 ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

1. Empowering Student & Family Engagement
2. Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power & Voice
3. Expanded, Enriched Learning Opportunities
4. Rigorous, Culturally Relevant, Community Connected Classroom Instruction
5. Culture of Belonging, Safety & Care
6. Integrated Systems of Support

More Than Just:	Community Schools ARE:
A Grant Program:	A locally driven school transformation strategy that promotes child well-being
Programs and Wrap-Around Services	A system that ensures the right students/families have access to the right support at the right time
An Experiment	An evidence-based approach that is driven by local power & voice
External Partnerships	Rigorous community-connected classroom instruction - culturally and linguistically responsive

**Want to be part of transforming public education in your community?**

**Become a member and get connected!**

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