



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Building a **GROUNDWELL**
in partnership with the Prichard Committee

KENTUCKY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

**What does this do for Kentucky schools?
What is the primary purpose of
Community Schools?**

- Through ongoing collaboration between families, educators, and community members, the Kentucky Community Schools Initiative (KCSI) minimizes the non-academic barriers to learning, such as health care needs, transportation issues, after-school and enrichment opportunities, and mental health needs so schools can get back to the core business of schooling --student learning.
- A community schools approach helps meet family and student needs by increasing coordination between the school and existing, underutilized community assets rather than new, school-based programming.

What does this mean for families?

- A community school gives families a seat at the table to ensure schools are “doing with” families instead of “doing to and for” families.

What does this mean for educators?

- A community school supports teachers by minimizing non-academic barriers to student learning so teachers and administrators can focus on high-quality teaching and learning.

What does this mean for communities?

- A community school supports communities by bringing diverse groups together to collaborate and problem solve to enhance student and family success.



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FAQ

What is the money for KCSI being spent on and who makes these decisions?

- Each of the 20 pilot districts are receiving approximately \$1.5 million dollars to implement the KCSI in two schools in their district.
- Through a needs assessment, asset mapping and action planning process, families, community members and educators, together decide how to best spend the funding each year.
- KCSI budgets support a Community Schools District Director to oversee the implementation and sustainability plan for the district.
- Two school budgets for each district focus on removing barriers and increasing access to current services in the community. Ex. Transportation costs, translating promotional materials, and providing onsite childcare. And, creating a stronger and sustainable coordination system between community and school. Ex. Staff time to build relationships and bridges throughout the community, and training for families, educators and community members to learn about working in a collaborative leadership structure.

How are we measuring if KCSI is working?

- #/% improvements in chronic absenteeism, behavior incidents, Kindergarten readiness, 3rd and 8th grade reading and numeracy, and graduation rates,

- #/% of families, students, and community members being served throughout the 40 schools and across all 4 pillars and 8 pipelines
- #/% of new community partnerships established for each school
- #/% of teachers and administrators who state they have more time for teaching because non-academic barriers of students are being met
- # policy and practice changes implemented to ensure the continued success of the KCSI
- See website for full list of metrics

What is the timeline for KCSI? What happens when the grant ends?

- Year 1 (2023-2024 School Year)- Identify and staff the 20 districts and 40 schools. Begin community conversations and draft the first collaborative KCSI School Action Plan for each of the 40 schools
- Year 2 (2024-2025 School Year)- 1st full year of KCSI implementation. Year of learning what works for true community-school collaboration, asset mapping and needs assessments.
- Year 3 (2025-2026 School Year)- Beginning to formalize a community schools model that works for the 40 pilot schools and what that means for scaling these best practices statewide.
- Year 4 (2026-2027 School Year)- Continued learning and modifications to the community schools model that works for Kentucky and what implications this has for state, district and local systems.
- Year 5 (2027-2028 School Year)- Final grant year. Moving into scaling recommendations and testing outside the 40 schools while anchoring the work in FRYSC and KDE systems.
- Sustainability of the community schools initiative post-grant is based on scaling the learning from the 40 pilot schools (20 districts) to improve state and district structures so enhanced local coordination practices are possible statewide.

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