

# Community Schools Top 10 of 2017

The Coalition's Top 10 achievements from 2017 showcase the amazing growth and momentum of the community schools movement.

## 1 Research Demonstrates Effectiveness of Community Schools

The National Education Policy Center and the Learning Policy Institute released two important reports this year that characterize community schools as an evidence-based strategy that lead to improvements in student and school outcomes:

- "Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for Equitable School Improvement" and
- "Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy: A Review of the Evidence".



Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy:  
A Review of the Evidence

Anna Maier, Julia Daniel, Jeannie Oakes, and Livia Lam

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## 2 New Leadership

New leadership was the theme this year. Marty Blank, one of the forefathers of the community schools strategy, retired as the Director of the Coalition and President of the Institute for Educational Leadership. Dr. Johan Uvin was appointed President of IEL and José Muñoz became the new Director of the Coalition. We also celebrated Tauheedah Jackson and Ryan Hurley for becoming co-chairs of the Community School Leadership Network and United Way Community School Learning Community respectively.

## 3 Awards for Excellence

The Coalition honored three community school initiatives and three community schools during our Community Schools Awards for Excellence Symposium. The Awardees included:

- NYC Community Schools Initiative
- Community Achieves (Nashville)
- Enlace Chicago
- PS/MS 188 The Island School (NYC)
- Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School (Nashville)
- Oakland International High School

## 4 March Advocacy Month

The Coalition launched the inaugural community schools advocacy month in March. With the support of our partners, advocates educated legislators at the local, state, and federal levels about the community schools strategy.



## 5 First Annual Coordinators Appreciation Week

Our first Coordinators Appreciation Week was a huge success with almost 1,000 tweets that reached over 700,000 unique Twitter users on why #CoordinatorsRock! Everyone from Vancouver, WA to Lincoln, NE; from Albuquerque, NM to Philadelphia, PA; and from Hartford, CT to Knoxville, TN joined the social media campaign to thank their community school coordinators.

## 6 Increased State-Level Action

Community schools continued to gain traction at the state level in 2017. 36 states included chronic absence as the new non-academic indicator in their Every Student Succeeds Act state plans, opening the door for them to consider community schools as a proven strategy to address chronic absence. Pennsylvania's ESSA state plan in particular, lifts up community schools as an effective strategy for school improvement.

## 7 New Publications

In 2017 the Coalition released voluntary standards for individual community school sites and initiatives.

The Coalition also released "Community Schools: A Whole-Child Framework for School Improvement" that offers a framework for the community school strategy.

## 8 Media Mentions

The Coalition maintained a strong media presence in 2017. The Coalition was featured in the following publications:

- Education Week
- EdSource
- The Hechinger Report
- Inside Philanthropy
- RealClearEducation

## 9 Fueling Partners

The Coalition partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Build a Culture of Health in 5 communities, and worked with Communities In Schools, StriveTogether, the Ford Foundation, and the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative to put Students at the Center.

## 10 Network Newsletter

The Coalition launched its first ever Network Newsletter in September. This newsletter serves as a bridge connecting the Coalition's networks and fosters cross-network communication. Reaching over 500 network members each month, the newsletter spotlights a special network member and shares valuable resources, tools, and opportunities.