

2026-2027 Faculty Fellow Application

PURPOSE

The Maryland Center for Community Schools Faculty Fellow will support a COE faculty member who is committed to learning about and participating in research and practice related to community schools. The Fellow will engage in learning about community schooling while collaborating on a **research project or professional development** work aimed at supporting a Maryland community school. The fellow will also contribute to conversations (strategy) around how to engage more COE faculty and students in the work of the MCCS.

- **Applications due September 23, 2026 to mccs@towson.edu by 5pm.**
- **Fellowship Term:** One Academic Year with stipend of \$10,000

EXPECTED FELLOWSHIP OUTCOMES

The MCCS Community Schooling Faculty Fellow is expected to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, practice, and policy related to community schools. By the conclusion of the fellowship period, fellows will have completed the following activities and deliverables.

Required: Develop a COE engagement strategy: Completed by April 2027

We are excited to grow engagement in community schools within the COE. The fellow will contribute to strategy to grow the engagement of COE faculty and students with community schools:

- Support at least one community school site visit with COE faculty and/or students
- Survey COE faculty/students about interest in community school key practices
- Participate in one COE event on community schools for faculty/students
- Contribute to discussion and planning for future engagement of COE faculty/students

OPTION #1: Research Product: Deliverables submitted by April 2027

Our fellow will be supported to engage in one of the following:

- Submission of a peer-reviewed journal manuscript
- Research report
- Policy brief
- Practitioner-focused publication

Our fellow will also be expected to make a concrete contribution to at least one of the following:

- National or international conference presentation
- State or regional conference presentation
- College of Education research symposium
- MCCS Annual Conference
- National Community Schools Conference

- Community partner dissemination event
- District or practitioner workshop

Publication submission and plan for presentation **completed by May 2027/National or international plan submitted by April 2027**

OPTION #2: Professional development and technical assistance: Completed by April 2027

Demonstrate meaningful engagement with community school stakeholders through activities such as:

Choice of two of the following options for professional development:.

- Teacher or principal partner consultation
- Capacity-building workshops
- Attendance at regional community schools meetings
- Participation in peer feedback sessions
- Information sharing with COE faculty and students through seminars or lunch and learns
- Contributing to the evaluation of professional development work

Report on the contribution to professional development due in April 2027

Preferred Outcomes

Fellows are encouraged to pursue one or more of the following:

- Interdisciplinary research collaborations
- Student research mentorship
- Development of new community-COE partnerships
- Creation of practitioner resources
- Public scholarship
- Leadership in community school research/professional development

These outcome expectations provide clear accountability while allowing flexibility for faculty at different career stages and across diverse methodological traditions. They also align well with promotion and tenure expectations in Colleges of Education by emphasizing scholarship, external funding, community engagement, and impact.

APPLICATION FORM

Applications due September 23, 2026 to mccs@towson.edu by 5pm.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Academic Rank: ☐ Assistant Professor ☐ Associate Professor ☐ Professor ☐ Other _____

Department/Program: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Years at Institution: _____

Previous Work: List up to five relevant publications, presentations, grants, or community-engaged projects.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Dean/Chair Support (Optional)

Department Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

1. Interest Statement

In no more than 1,000 words, describe:

1. Your interest in community schooling and its [key practices](#)
2. How your teaching or scholarly interests align with the field of community schools. (What if they do not currently have an alignment? and how your participation in this fellowship would advance your research, teaching, or service agenda and how you plan to balance your work as a fellow with your other commitments.
3. Please choose one of the research or professional development projects below you would like to participate in, explain why you have made that choice, and what about the` project excites you.

2. Potential Research Projects

Please select among the following ongoing research projects to understand the community schools initiative and explain why you would like to be involved and what you could contribute:

1. Making sense of the experience of COE intern experiences in community schools. About 40% of COE interns are in community schools. What is the experience like for them? What are they learning about community schools? How is that experience contributing to their understanding of the work of teaching?
2. Impact of community schools on teaching. What do teachers understand their role to be in community schools? How has their teaching practice shifted because they are in a community school? To what degree has the community school strategy impacted teacher retention?
3. Understanding what voices are at the table in community school steering committees and what obstacles and opportunities there are to create a more democratic approach: To what degree is inclusive decision-making present across our community schools?
4. Community schools are a place-based initiative: How is place/neighborhood/community defined by community schools? How does the work of community schools create sense of place for students and families? What impact do community schools have on the neighborhood/community outside of the school?

3. Potential professional development projects

Please select among the following ongoing research projects to understand the community schools initiative and explain why you would like to be involved and what you could contribute:

1. Teacher deep dive series: K12 teachers will be participating in a workshop series where they learn about community schools and community-based teaching. Through the work, they will develop lessons grounded in principles of community-based teaching.
2. Annual convening: March 2027 will be our third annual statewide convening where community schools staff from all over Maryland come to Towson to share their promising practices. Help plan this convening and curate a professional learning event that provides important learning for those in the work.
3. Toolkit series: District leaders and principals will be invited to a leadership series on understanding the enabling conditions for community school success using the [MCCS toolkit](#) as a resource.
4. Steering committee community of practice: An important part of community schools is that all of the stakeholder voices (families, students, community partners, and school staff) are participating in creating a shared vision and making decisions to ensure the school's success. Steering committee members from around the state will be invited to a community of practice that will help support them in addressing the need for an inclusive set of voices and in addressing power differentials that inevitably arise in school-based committees.

SELECTION RUBRIC

Criteria	Exemplary (5)	Strong (4)	Satisfactory (3)	Emerging (2)	Limited (1)
Alignment with Community Schooling	Proposal demonstrates an interest and understanding of community schooling.	Strong interest and alignment with community schooling concepts and goals.	Adequate connection to community schooling.	Limited connection.	Minimal or no connection.
Potential Impact	High potential to contribute to research or professional development project	Strong potential to contribute to research or professional development project.	Moderate to contribute to research or professional development project	Limited to contribute to research or professional development project	Minimal to contribute to research or professional development project
Commitment	Time for and interest in the work of community schooling. Has the capacity to grow research or teaching capacity	Good evidence of expertise.	Sufficient qualifications.	Limited evidence of expertise.	Insufficient experience.

REVIEW SECTION: FOR MCCS PURPOSES ONLY

Strengths

Areas for Improvement

Funding Recommendation

☐ Fund ☐ Fund if Resources Permit ☐ Alternate ☐ Do Not Fund

Reviewer Name: _____

Date: _____