



How the 116th Congress Can Support Community Schools

The Coalition for Community Schools, an alliance of over 100 national, state and local partners is dedicated to the mission of uniting school, family and community for young people's success. Grounded in our values of equity, democracy, and harmony, we call on Congress in the 116th Congress to:

Increase Funding for Key Programs and Initiatives that Support Community Schools and Children and Youth:

We call on Congress to increase the overall share of spending on children. Specifically, an increase for the following:

- Full-Service Community Schools Program: \$50 million
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$1.32 billion
- Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant
- Titles I and II of ESSA; for Title II: \$2.295 billion
- IDEA
- Early childhood
- Medicaid reimbursements for school-based health
- Comprehensive funding for opioid and drug prevention and response, school safety and school infrastructure.

Advance Whole-Child Policies: We call on Congress to promote legislation that supports the whole child to address children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Specifically, support for:

- School safety that includes preventive measures such as comprehensive supports for mental health, trauma-informed care, and restorative practices; and recognizes the key roles that a child's family and community play in the safety of children/youth
- Issues that directly impact child well-being, including homelessness, nutrition, and substance abuse; in addition to the well-being of children's families and communities to be able to be successful and support their children.
- The DIPLOMA Act (H.R. 7204) which provides five-year grants to states and local consortia to develop and implement a child and youth strategy that assesses children's needs and the assets within the state/community that can be mobilized, coordinated, and integrated to achieve quantifiable progress toward a broad set of results for children and youth.

Capacity-Building for Adults Who Work with Children and Youth: We call on Congress to promote legislation that strengthens the capacity of our adults, including school-based and community-based staff, as well as parents/families and community members to be able to support the growth and well-being of our children and youth. Specifically, support for:

- Protecting student loan forgiveness programs and expanding eligibility to include community school coordinators
- Strengthening the pipeline of high-capacity adults to work in high-need schools and communities

**Find contact information for your congressional education staffer [here](#).



- Professional development aligned with a whole-child approach, including focus on social-emotional learning, cultural competence, and trauma-informed care and practice.