



Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act

Introduced by Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), Rep. David Trone (D-MD), Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI), and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

The Need:

- Across the United States, we have seen significant constraints on education, health, and other government services, seriously impacting families' stability and students' well-being and growth, particularly following the pandemic.
- Cuts to state and local programs have had profound negative impacts on the health, safety, and well-being of students across the country, making wraparound services that address out-of-school barriers to learning even more essential.
 - Unable to meet basic needs off school grounds, many students have struggled keeping up their academics, mental health, and physical health—not to mention developing key life skills and preparing for further education and careers.
 - In Nevada, cuts have limited class size reduction initiatives, Read by Grade 3, and teacher school supply reimbursements, as well as teacher incentives, like college and career readiness programs, school safety, and financial literacy.
 - There have also been reductions for Nevada Medicaid recipients from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with significant implications for the hundreds of thousands of Medicaid recipients in the state.
- Nevada's more recent budgets have restored funding to many key programs, and federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan has gone a long way in offering relief our schools, families, and students with limited resources.
- However, the well-being of Nevadan students is too important to leave up to ebbs and flows in state funding.
 - We need to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential, with reliable access to the supports and wraparound services they need and deserve.
- To meet the significant need, and to prepare our schools and youth for success, we must stand up a modernized, fully resourced Full-Service Community Schools Program. Our youth, our schools, and our families depend upon it.

What Community Schools Do:

- As defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, community schools provide a range of high-quality academic and enrichment programs and integrated supports to students and their families to address in- and out-of-school barriers to learning.
 - A full-service community school is a public elementary or secondary school that participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate educational, developmental, family, health, and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships; and provides in-school access to such services to students, families, and the community.
 - This access includes during the school year, before and after school – including on weekends – and during the summer.

- A community school's approach to delivering student services may be identified through a needs assessment, during which students, families, and community members collaborate to determine the gaps in services or opportunities that exist in their community.
 - After these initial needs are identified, a community school will collaborate with non-profit organizations, private organizations, and public agencies to meet those needs while leveraging the assets of the community.
- Built on four key pillars—integrated student supports, expanded learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership and practice—community schools promote conditions and practices found in high-quality schools and address out-of-school barriers to learning.
- According to a [survey](#) of research conducted by the Learning Policy Institute, well-implemented community schools can yield up to \$15 in savings for every dollar invested, while delivering real strides for improving student outcomes and support the educational needs of students, particularly low-income students in high-poverty schools.

What This Bill Does:

- The *Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act* would increase funding for the Full-Service Community Schools Program to \$1 billion over five years, in order to meet the demand across the country for wraparound services to support struggling students and families.
 - This bicameral, comprehensive bill will assist schools and districts in bringing in wraparound supports – including medical, mental, and nutrition health services, mentoring and youth development programs, technical assistance, and continuing education courses – to serve students, families, and communities.
 - This legislation would also provide essential resources for school districts to plan for, implement, and expand community schools, and would further develop the infrastructure to support these schools.
- Specifically, the *Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act* would:
 - Invest \$3.65 billion over the next five years to plan, implement, expand, and support full-service community schools serving low-income students;
 - Provide renewable grant opportunities and additional resources to existing community schools to build collaborative leadership structures and strengthen wraparound services that support the needs of students, families, and neighborhoods;
 - Build out community school infrastructure by funding the establishment of state-level teams that provide professional development opportunities and resources for community school staff, work with schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop and implement restorative justice principles, and collaborate with LEAs on integrating supports for community schools; and
 - Set aside up to 5% of funds for technical assistance and support to leverage federal, state, and local resources that address healthcare and early childhood education, and connect LEAs with other statewide institutions and funding opportunities.

Support for the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act:

- “We have to come together as a community to help our students overcome the barriers in their lives and achieve their dreams. This Act is not only about learning what the needs of students and families are, but also what their vision for their community is. NSEA shares in those goals and stands in support of the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act sponsored by Rep. Susie Lee.”

- **Rachel Croft, NEA Director of the Nevada State Education Association**

- "Communities In Schools of Nevada is grateful to Congresswoman Susie Lee for introducing the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act. The proposed increased funding for this competitive and proven federal grant opportunity comes at a time when child poverty has doubled across the nation and student chronic absenteeism is at an all-time high. As the leading provider of Integrated Student Supports in Nevada, one of the four pillars of the Community Schools model, we applaud the Congresswoman's leadership and know that this bill will surround students and families with the support they need to succeed in school and beyond."

- **Tami Hance-Lehr, CEO & State Director for Communities In Schools of Nevada**

- **Endorsements:** The National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Indian Education Issue, the Institute for Educational Leadership, the Coalition for Community Schools, First Focus on Children, Communities in Schools New Mexico, the National Association for Elementary School Principals, the National Association for Secondary School Principals, MENTOR, Journey 4 Justice, the School Superintendents Association, Maryland State Education Association, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland
- **House Original Cosponsors:** Reps. David Trone, Jill Tokuda
- **Senate Companion:** Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) lead the *Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act* in the Senate with 14 cosponsors: Sanders, Hirono, Fetterman, Padilla, Casey, Heinrich, Kaine, Klobuchar, Cardin, Durbin, Duckworth.

For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact Nelisha Silva, nelisha.silva@mail.house.gov, in Congresswoman Susie Lee's office.