

The power and promise of Community Schools for NC

The North Carolina Community Schools Coalition, launched in 2023 with a grant from the Department of Education, aims to improve the academic, mental, and physical health of North Carolina students through the development of Full-Service Community Schools across the state.

Community schools are an evidence-based approach to improving schools identified as chronically low-performing.

Community schools are public schools that **partner with families and community organizations** to remove barriers to student success by aligning supports such as out of school enrichment time, volunteers, medical clinics, basic need pantries and other priorities. Community schools coordinate the delivery of services to avoid duplication and maximize student supports.

Studies find that every \$1 invested in a community schools strategy results in up to a \$15 return to the community.

At their most comprehensive, **community schools are academic and social centers** where educators, families, and neighbors come together to support innovative learning and to address the impact of out-of-school factors which can undermine the effectiveness of in-school opportunities.

What makes a school a community school in NC?

These foundational components are key to developing successful community schools:



Community School Coordinator

- Full-time role in the school
- Guides assets and needs assessment
- Supports expanding and developing programs and partnerships to meet identified needs



School Advisory Board with funds

- Governing body comprised of students, guardians, community members and staff;
- Discretionary funds to support school-based community services and develop school-specific programming



Family Resource Center

- Dedicated physical space with resources to meet basic student and family needs
- Leverages existing community organizations and partnerships to streamline support for students and families



Partnerships and programs

- Social services
- Mental/physical health support
- After school and out-of-school programs
- Academic tutoring, workshops, mentoring
- Staff wellness and professional development

Western expansion planned for SY 2026-27

August '24 (Purple)

August '25 (Teal)

January '26 (Orange)

By spring of 2026, Community Schools will

● August '24 ● August '25 ● January '26

We're already beginning to see the results of these through:

66 new services were offered across 9 community schools in 2024-25, including after-school academic instruction, mental and physical health services, and meeting basic needs

When we address issues such as healthcare, housing and food security, academic growth follows.

In state ratings, P.W. Moore Elementary improved from an F to a C over its first two years of Community Schools implementation.

“We know our young people, staff and families struggle to access health care providers. Because of the NC Community Schools Coalition, we’ve been able to secure new partnerships to launch telehealth services at P.W. Moore Elementary and two other schools where students, staff and families will have access to a qualified medical provider through telehealth right inside the public schoolhouse.

We've wanted to do this for awhile. It would not have happened without the community schools coalition. We don't have the internal infrastructure. We don't have the ability to rally at the speed and intensity that the coalition has been able to. Now, it's happening."

Keith Parker, Superintendent, Elizabeth-City Pasquotank Public Schools



NORTH CAROLINA
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COALITION

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