

# Recent Funding Approaches and Sources for Community Schools

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[Community schools](#) (also referred to as full-service community schools and community hub schools) are public schools that integrate [student supports](#), [extended learning opportunities](#), [family and community engagement](#), and [collaborative leadership](#) to [support student success](#). About [8,000 to 10,000 U.S. schools now identify as community schools \(CSs\) in more than 100 districts and cities](#). The breadth of services and programs that characterize the CS strategy requires schools and districts to combine [diverse funding sources](#), both public (e.g., federal, state, district, and municipal agencies) and private (e.g., businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local and national foundations). A 2010 report on CS financing indicated that, on average, [72 percent of CS funding came from public sources and 28 percent came from private sources](#). While this balance of funding may have shifted in the past decade—CSs are increasingly recognized as a valuable strategy to improve educational outcomes for underserved students—public grants and programs remain primary sources of CS funding.

There are multiple federal funding streams that can be used to fund CSs. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 includes provisions for funding that can be used to implement individual components of CSs or the whole strategy. Total funding amounts vary by local and state education agencies as federal funds are disbursed either through formula or discretionary grants. Districts can access up to \$176.3 billion from one-time relief funds such as The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II and ESSER III). These have been [significant sources of investment for CSs in California, Vermont, and New York City](#). In addition to funding through the Department of Education, other federal funding streams include [Medicaid](#), [Food and Nutrition Programs](#), [Project AWARE](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Healthy Schools Program](#).

State investment in CSs range from \$3 million to \$3 billion; these allocations are authorized through state legislation and generally administered through competitive grants as shown in [the funding table](#). At the district and municipal levels, sources of financial support for CSs vary, but largely result from school board policies or major investments from [backbone](#) organizations such as the [United Way](#), [Children's Aid](#), and [Communities in Schools](#) that often serve as lead or coordinating agencies responsible for identifying partners, hiring coordinators, and providing training and technical assistance. For example, in [Cincinnati, OH](#), the Board of Education approved an initial investment of [\\$1 billion for its nearly 60 Community Learning Centers](#), and in [Hartford, CT](#), CSs are funded and supported through institutions in the [Hartford Partnership for Student Success](#) (HPSS). In 2017-2018, the HPSS' total investment in CSs was [approximately \\$2.5 million](#). Thus, the funding landscape for CSs is diverse. Although there are increasingly dedicated public funding streams for CSs, implementation of the strategy will continue to benefit from blending and braiding multiple sources of support to achieve goals for students' learning and success.

# Community Schools Funding Table<sup>1</sup>

This table provides a list of federal sources that can be used to fund different components of CSs or the entire model. It also includes information on how different states and districts approach funding CSs, and backbone organizations that provide resources and support for implementing the CS strategy. While this list is not exhaustive, it provides a comprehensive overview of how CSs can be funded to holistically meet students' learning needs.

Examples of Public and Private Funding Sources for Community Schools	Integrated student services <sup>2</sup>	Expanded learning opportunities <sup>3</sup>	Family and community outreach and engagement <sup>4</sup>	Collaborative leadership and practices <sup>5</sup>
<b>Federal<sup>6</sup></b>				
<a href="#">Title I, Part A</a> - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies	X	X	X	X
<a href="#">Title I, Part D, Subpart 2</a> - Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk	X			
<a href="#">Title II, Part B, Subpart 2, Section 2222</a> - Comprehensive Literacy State Development	X	X	X	
<a href="#">Title II, Part B, Subpart 2, Section 2226</a> - Innovative Approaches to Literacy	X			
<a href="#">Title III, Part A</a> - English Language Acquisition State Grants	X		X	
<a href="#">Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1</a> - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	X		X	
<a href="#">Title IV, Part B</a> - 21st Century Community Learning Centers		X	X	
<a href="#">Title IV, Part F, Subpart 2, section 4624</a> - Promise Neighborhoods	X	X	X	X

<sup>1</sup> This table contains diverse funding streams available for CSs. Some funding streams are only eligible to fund specific services or specific populations.

<sup>2</sup> Including supports for academics, mental and behavioral wellness, nutrition, and physical health

<sup>3</sup> Including literacy programs and out-of-school time, programs for vulnerable populations

<sup>4</sup> Including family literacy programs

<sup>5</sup> Including hiring community school coordinators and providing professional development on community schools to site-based leadership teams

<sup>6</sup> The information in the table reflects how Federal sources can be used generally; however, given the complexity of Federal funding sources, users of the table should confirm specific allowable uses of funds for each of the Federal funding streams from Federal websites and program offices.

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<a href="#">Title IV, Part F, Subpart 2, section 4625</a> - Full-Service Community Schools	X	X	X	X
<a href="#">Title IV, Part F, Subpart 4, Section 4644</a> - Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program	X	X		
<a href="#">Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title IX, Part A of ESSA)</a> - Education for Homeless Children and Youths	X	X	X	
<a href="#">Medicaid</a>	X			
<a href="#">Head Start and Early Head Start</a>	X		X	
<a href="#">SAMHSA Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)</a>	X			
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Programs</a>	X			
<b>State</b>				
<b>California</b> - The <a href="#">Community Schools Partnership</a> is a \$2.8 billion-dollar statewide investment launched in 2021 for the planning, implementation, and sustainability of community schools.	X	X	X	X
<b>New Mexico</b> - The <a href="#">Community Schools Act</a> provided \$2 million in 2019 and <a href="#">\$3.3 million</a> in 2020 for planning and implementation.	X	X	X	X
<b>Florida</b> - Through the <a href="#">Community School Grant Program</a> , first implemented in 2014, the Florida legislature matches funds raised through the University of Central Florida's Community Schools Model. In the <a href="#">2020-2021 fiscal year</a> , \$7.1 million was allocated.	X	X	X	X
<b>Maryland</b> - The <a href="#">2019 Blueprint for Maryland's Future</a> legislation allocated an estimated \$54.6 million for statewide grants for	X	X	X	X

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community schools through the <a href="#">Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program</a> .				
<b>New York</b> - Since passing the <a href="#">Community Schools Act</a> in 2017, New York state has allocated funds for the implementation and sustainability of community schools, most recently allocating \$250 million in their <a href="#">2020-2021 budget</a> , which is the same amount as <a href="#">2019-2020</a> .	X	X	X	X
<b>Vermont</b> - With the <a href="#">Community Schools Act</a> of 2021, Vermont signed into law a competitive grants program for the development of community schools. They appropriated about <a href="#">\$3.4 million dollars</a> in funds from the American Rescue Plan for this act.	X	X	X	X
<b>Texas</b> - Funded in part by the <a href="#">Texas Education Code</a> Subchapter E. Communities in Schools Program, Communities in Schools of Texas includes 27 grantees operating statewide. During the fiscal year 2021, they allocated over <a href="#">\$30 million in state funds</a> to support community schools.	X	X	X	X
<b>District of Columbia</b> - Though the <a href="#">Community Schools Incentive Act</a> , DC has been providing funding for community schools since 2012. For the fiscal year 2022, they have allocated more than <a href="#">\$1.3 million</a> in funds to support eligible grantees.	X	X	X	X
<b>Minnesota</b> - Since passing <a href="#">legislation</a> establishing community schools in 2015, Minnesota has been providing grants to full-service community schools. Most recently, they offered <a href="#">up to \$5 million</a> in grants to support eligible community schools in Minnesota.	X	X	X	X
<b>Kentucky</b> - Through the <a href="#">Family Resource and Youth Services Centers</a> , Kentucky provides community services to approximately 1,200 schools.	X		X	

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<b>District/Local Funding</b>				
<b>Philadelphia Community Schools</b> - Includes <a href="#">17 schools</a> funded through the city-wide <a href="#">Philadelphia Beverage Tax</a> .	X	X	X	X
<b>Hartford Community Schools</b> - Supported by the <a href="#">Hartford Partnership for Student Success</a> .	X	X	X	X
<b>Chicago Public Schools</b> - Included in the <a href="#">Chicago Teachers Union</a> labor contract and funded at \$10 million.	X	X	X	X
<b>Cincinnati</b> - Has <a href="#">44 Community Learning Centers</a> and the district funds coordinator positions, training, and coordination with lead agencies.	X	X	X	X
<b>Private/Philanthropy<sup>7</sup></b>				
<b>United Way</b> - An <a href="#">international network</a> of fundraising affiliates, United Way manages the funding and implementation of numerous community schools across the United States.	X	X	X	X
<b>StriveTogether</b> - A <a href="#">nonprofit</a> that funds programs to advance equity for children and youth, including providing grants for community schools.	X	X	X	X
<b>Communities in Schools</b> - A <a href="#">nonprofit</a> that is the nation's largest provider of integrated student supports.	X			X
<b>Children's Aid</b> - A <a href="#">nonprofit</a> that establishes and operates community schools in New York City.	X	X	X	X

<sup>7</sup> These are "[backbone organizations](#)" that contribute to the success of community schools through resource mobilization, partnership development, and funding oversight.

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<b>Institute for Educational Leadership</b> - A nonprofit organization that houses <a href="#">Coalition for Community Schools</a> which prepares and supports leaders of community schools.				X

# Annotated Bibliography for Recent Funding Approaches and Sources for Community Schools<sup>8</sup>

## Reports and articles

Blank, M., Jacobson, R., Melaville, A., & Pearson, S. (2010). [Financing Community Schools: Leveraging Resources to Support Student Success](#). Washington, DC: Coalition for Community Schools, Institute for Educational Leadership.

This study described how 49 community schools across seven community school initiatives were funded and how their resources were used. The study found that community schools used a mix of funding. On average, community schools got 26 percent of their funds from districts, 20 percent from federal sources, 14 percent from state funds, 13 percent from private foundations, 12 percent from city government, and 15 percent from a mix of community-based organizations, (such as the United Way, in-kind support, which included local building use and volunteers), and smaller amounts from county, local, private, and individual donor contributions. Community schools used their resources on developing learning competencies (57%), providing health and mental health services (19%), staffing sites (12%), and supporting families (12%).

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Boston College Center for Optimized Student Support, & Center for Promise. (2019). [Building Systems of Integrated Student Support: A Policy Brief for Local and State Leaders](#). Washington, DC: America's Promise Alliance.

This brief provides state and local level leaders with policy recommendations and guidelines for integrating and coordinating siloed support systems that are available to children and youth. It highlights different ways that communities have improved access to services through resource alignment, resource concentration, or resource coordination. There are also examples of how different communities are undertaking this integration. The brief concludes with spotlights of policymakers supporting integrated support services at both state and local levels.

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Communities in Schools. (2019). [Quick-Start Reference: Funding Integrated Student Supports](#). Arlington, VA: Communities in Schools.

This guide provides resources on funding integrated student supports using funds from the *Every Student Succeeds Act* and other federal funding sources including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. It also outlines how community schools can braid funding streams to increase and sustain funds while also improving quality and outcomes for students.

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Deich, S. & Neary, M. (n.d.). [Financing Community Schools: A Framework for Growth and Sustainability](#). Washington, DC: Partnership for the Future of Learning.

This resource provides guidelines to help leaders develop financing plans and strategies to implement community schools. The report recommends three main strategies with increasing complexity: accessing existing resources, coordinating and leveraging available resources, and developing new resources. The report describes what each of these strategies looks like in practice depending on the stage of CS

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<sup>8</sup> Community schools (also referred to as full-service community schools, and in Boston, community hub schools), are public schools that include these four pillars- [integrated student supports](#), [extended learning opportunities](#), [family and community engagement](#), and [collaborative leadership](#)- to support student success and they rely on a variety of sources to fund individual components of the strategy or the entire model.

development (i.e., exploring, emerging, exceling). It concludes with examples of community school leaders who are putting their financing strategies to work.

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Healthy Schools Campaign. (2022). [\*A Guide to Expanding Medicaid-Funded School Health Services\*](#). Chicago, IL: Health Schools Campaign.

With the 2014 shift in Medicaid reimbursement in schools, this guide provides recommendations to help states align their Medicaid plans and expand access to school health services.

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Jenkins, D., & Duffy, M. (2016). [\*Community Schools in Practice: Research on Implementation and Impact. A PACER policy brief\*](#). Philadelphia, PA: Research for Action.

This brief summarizes the research on the implementation and impact of community schools, with a focus on advancing implementation in Pennsylvania. It includes case studies of the United Way of Lehigh Valley's Community Schools and the School District of Cincinnati, describing services, programming, leadership, and funding streams for each location.

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Kingston Roche, M., Blank, M., & Jacobson, R. (n.d.). [\*Community Schools: A Whole-Child Framework for School Improvement\*](#). Washington, DC: Coalition for Community Schools and Institute for Educational Leadership.

This resource outlines a framework for establishing community schools as a strategy for school improvement, including how states and federal organizations can provide financial and policy support for the implementation of community schools.

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Kotting, J. & Kimner, H. (2022). [\*Community Schools in Utah's Salt Lake City Region Thrive on Place-Based Partnerships and Family Engagement\*](#). Community Leader Insights. Washington, DC: Brookings.

This resource outlines the growth of community schools within the Greater Salt Lake City region of Utah. It describes how United Way of Salt Lake, StriveTogether, the National Center for Community Schools at Children's Aid, and the Coalition for Community Schools have served as backbone organizations in the success of community schools through resource mobilization (including encouraging the Utah State Legislature to provide funding to community schools) and funding oversight.

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Learning Policy Institute. (2021). [\*How Can States and Districts Use Federal Recovery Funds Strategically? Investing in Community Schools\*](#). Washington, DC & Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

This resource provides information regarding federal funding sources for community schools, including one-time funding allocations like The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which provide states and local educational agencies (LEAs) with \$176.3 billion through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II and ESSER III). Additionally, this resource describes how other federal Title funds such as Title I, Title II, Title IV, and Medicaid can be blended and braided to fund activities within community schools.

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Maier, A., Klevan, S., & Ondrasek, N. (2020). [\*Leveraging Resources Through Community Schools: The Role of Technical Assistance\*](#). Washington, DC & Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

This resource describes New York state's systemwide community school initiative, which provides community school funding and technical assistance through regional units based at universities to all high-poverty schools. The state allocated \$100 million in 2016–17 and \$250 million in 2019–20, which

the state maintained in its enacted 2020–21 budget, to support new community school initiatives and sustain existing community school programs.

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Maier, A., & Niebuhr, D. (2021). [\*California Community Schools Partnership Program: A Transformational Opportunity for Whole Child Education\*](#). Washington, DC & Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

This brief describes California's \$3-billion investment in the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) in 2021 to expand community schools in the state. The funding is allocated through June 2028 and will support three grant types to LEAs and schools: planning grants (up to \$200,000), implementation grants (up to \$500,000), and coordination grants (up to \$100,000). This brief examines key elements of CCSPP, how they align with the core features of high-quality community schools, and provides recommendation on the necessary technical assistance for high quality implementation.

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McDaniels, A. (2018). [\*Building Community Schools Systems: Removing Barriers to Success in U.S. Public Schools\*](#). Washington, DC: Center for American Progress.

The report provides case studies of how three urban schools districts - Union Public Schools in southeast Tulsa, Oklahoma; Oakland Community Schools; and Hartford, Connecticut Community Schools - adopted a community schools strategy. These districts are sustaining their schools primarily through a mix of federal, state, and local funds. Union Public Schools use Title I funds to pay for coordinators who are responsible for fund raising. Oakland uses funds from the Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state community school and out of school time program grants. Hartford is funded by institutions that comprise the Hartford Partnership for Student Success (HPSS), which is a partnership of education and civic leaders from Hartford Public Schools, the city of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

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Medina, M. A., Cosby, G., & Grim, J. (2019). [\*Community Engagement Through Partnerships: Lessons Learned from a Decade of Full-service Community School Implementation\*](#). *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)*, 24(3), 272–287.

This paper analyzes the challenges and achievements of community schools in two neighborhoods in Indianapolis, Indiana. The authors offer recommendations for funding, collaborative structures and processes, and organizational responses to change that improve the effectiveness of community schools.

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Oakes, J., & Espinoza, D. (2021). [\*Community Schools the New Mexico Way\*](#). Learning Policy Institute. Washington, DC & Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

This report describes how New Mexico uses community schools as an evidence-based and culturally responsive strategy to tackle education inequality, especially for students categorized as at-risk for negative school outcomes. In 2019, the state allocated 2 million dollars to the previously unfunded Community Schools Act and in 2020, they awarded 3.3 million.

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Partnership for the Future of Learning. (n.d.). [\*Community Schools Playbook\*](#). Washington, DC: Partnership for the Future of Learning.

This guide provides tools and recommendations for implementing and advancing community schools including background information on community schools, policies that advance community schools, resources that can be used to implement, fund, and sustain community schools as well as community schools in ESSA state plans. Some of the federal funding streams to support community schools are Title I, Part A, Title II, and Title IV.

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Task Force on Next Generation Community Schools. (2021). [Addressing Education Inequality with a Next Generation of Community Schools: A Blueprint for Mayors, States, and the Federal Government](#). Washington, DC: Brookings.

This report provides insights and recommendations, including suggestions to policymakers at all levels, for further scaling and improving community schools to address challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. They suggest sustaining community schools through increased federal funding, the reinvigoration of the Promise Neighborhood Grants program, incentivizing districts to include community schools in their Title I plans, and braiding funding streams.

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The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). (2019). [Federal Funding Streams and Strategies to Improve Conditions for Learning: A Resource Guide for States](#). Washington, DC: CCSSO.

This guide provides information on various federal funding streams that can be used, blended, and braided to support students and develop strategies to improve conditions for learning. It also provides guidelines that state leaders may consider as they prepare to address conditions for learning. Federal funding streams include: Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), Medicaid, Food and Nutrition Programs, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B: Grants to States, HRSA School-Based Health Centers Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Healthy Schools Program, National Activities for School Safety, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Corporation for National and Community Service, and Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants.

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Venkateswaren, N., Rosen, J., Feldman, J., Nelson, M., Ottem, R., & Robles, J. (2020). [Hartford Community Schools: A 10-Year Retrospective Study](#). Berkeley, CA: RTI International.

This 10-year retrospective study, funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, describes the implementation of community schools in Hartford, Connecticut. In particular, the study highlights funding challenges and proposes multiple strategies (e.g., leveraging university partners, governmental agencies, medical services, and diverse funding sources) to sustain implementation of community schools in the district.

## Web-based sources

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America's Promise Alliance. (n.d.). [Funding Opportunities](#). Washington, DC: America's Promise Alliance.

This website lists over 50 private funders and/or grants that are currently accepting applications to support advancements in K-12 education. These grants can be applied to fund aspects of community school initiatives, such as planning, implementation, and sustainability. While some funding opportunities are location-specific, most of them are open to applications from all locations. Grants that can be applied to support these initiatives include: the Harry Chapin Foundation Education Grant, which supports community education programs that identify and address community needs; the Arts and Culture Place-Based Community Grant, which is focused on community development centered on arts, health, environment, and human services; the Leona Gruber Trust Grant, that supports organizations with a focus on youth, healthcare, community, and education; and more.

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Coalition for Community Schools (n.d.) [Federal Funding](#). Washington, DC: Coalition for Community Schools and Institute for Educational Leadership.

In this article, the Coalition for Community Schools outlines strategies to apply federal funding to implement a comprehensive plan for community schools. They propose having state education agencies source funding from a variety of federal funds across departments in order to support different aspects of community schools, including community school infrastructure, engaged instruction, health and social services, early childhood, community engagement, and more.

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District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). (n.d.). [Community Schools Incentive Initiative](#). Washington, DC: District of Columbia OSSE.

This website describes the Community Schools Incentive Initiative that was created by the Community Schools Incentive Initiative Act of 2012. The Act initially provided funding to six grantees to create community schools. OSSE currently administers funding to 17 grantees. The total funding available for the [FY22](#) is approximately \$14 million and OSSE may award up to nine grant awards of up to \$152,728 to eligible consortia.

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Maryland State Education Association. (n.d.). [Community Schools](#). Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Education Association.

The Maryland State Education Association summarizes the benefits of community schools in the context of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a plan to convert one third of Maryland's public schools into community schools by 2027.

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National Education Association. (2018). [ESSA Federal Funding Guide](#). Washington, DC: National Education Association.

This funding guide describes federal Title programs administered through the Department of Education. It has information on current funding streams, program purposes, allocation processes, allowable costs, and fiscal requirements.

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NEA Foundation. (n.d.). [Other Grant & Fellowship Opportunities](#). Washington, DC: The NEA Foundation.

This website details a variety of grants that support family and community partnerships to improve the educational attainment of children, particularly those in underserved communities. They also share a list of private grants that can be used to support various aspects of community schools. Some funding opportunities are location-specific; however, most of them are open to national applicants. Some examples of grants include the Braitmayer Foundation Grants for Innovation in Education, which fund innovative practices for K-12 education; the State Farm Foundation Grants, which support safety, community development, education; and more.

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UCF Center for Community Schools. (n.d.). [Community Partnership Schools](#). Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida.

In this resource, the University of Central Florida (UCF) Center for Community Schools outlines the framework and funding sources for community schools in Florida. Funding sources include a mix of state funding, state university funds, and private donations (to the UCF Center that leads implementation of community schools in Central Florida). They offer recommendations for sustainability, technical assistance, and university partnership for Florida community schools.

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