

Organized in 1998, the Coalition for Community Schools is now at the heart of a burgeoning network of school districts, communities and leaders dedicated to the principle that schools and communities must work in purposeful and sustained partnership to improve results for students, and to strengthen families and communities. A “top ten” list below offers a summary of our most compelling developments in 2013. Going into 2014, we are excited about the commitment from our over 200 partners and community school leaders on the ground who demonstrate that the community schools strategy harnesses the collective efforts of a community to provide students the full range of services and opportunities they need and deserve to thrive in school and in life.

### 2013 Top Ten Highlights

1. **The number of community school initiatives across the country continues to grow, and our network strengthens:** In 2013, we grew to 88 communities across the country that are implementing a community school strategy, versus 33 communities in 2007. Newer additions include: Detroit, MI; Pasadena, CA; Richmond, CA; New Haven, CT; and Washington, DC. The Coalition worked with community school leaders in California, Florida and Massachusetts to bring together people from across the state to scale up and strengthen the community schools strategy statewide.
2. **States charging ahead in legislation and funding to support community schools:** 2013 saw 2 states approve funding for community schools (New York and D.C.); 2 states pass legislation explicitly recommending the community school strategy (Connecticut and New Mexico); and several states develop initiatives to build capacity for a dramatic expansion of community schools in those states (Maryland, West Virginia, Michigan, and California). See summary of state activity in the appendix.
3. **Cincinnati draws attention as a premier model from the Coalition and *The New York Times*:** In 2013, Cincinnati’s Community Learning Centers (CLCs) were recognized by the Coalition’s National Awards for Excellence as one of two outstanding community school initiatives (along with Hartford, CT) for its exemplary results and growth. The CLCs also welcomed several NYC mayoral candidates interested in expanding community schools—including newly elected Mayor Bill de Blasio (and his competitors) and gained [coverage](#) from *The New York Times*, further elevating Cincinnati’s recognition. Cincinnati’s achievements led the Coalition to bring its national forum there April 9-11, 2014.
4. **Superintendents become stronger champions of community schools, and our other networks grow:** More superintendents across the country are embracing the community school strategy as a district-wide approach. Approximately 44 district leaders

have committed to the Coalition's Superintendents Leadership Council run in partnership with the AASA, the School Superintendents Association.

The Coalition now has 69 places represented in the Community Schools Leadership Network and 260 coordinators in the Community Schools Coordinators Network. We hosted 1,350 people at our 2012 National Forum and expect some 1,600 people to attend our 2014 Forum in April. The Coalition has both a substantial following and a far reach: Since the redesign of our website, we have grown from 52,382 unique visitors in 2009 to 338,132 in 2013. We also utilize our email database of 15,000 members to disseminate Coalition information, with an open rate of 10-15%. And, our newsletter has nearly 4,000 self-subscribed readers. (See the appendix for our partner and impact growth over time.)

5. **Media bring a sharper way to measure our impact:** Community schools captured attention in the airwaves, sound waves, and print, from a multi-series feature on NPR's Marketplace highlighting a community school in Cincinnati, OH; to Director Martin J. Blank's appearance on the PBS's American Graduate; to the [Peabody Journal of Education](#) focused on the role of higher education initiatives in school reform and community engagement. *Education Week* and *Education Daily* are giving more consistent coverage to community schools as well.
6. **The Coalition releases publications on key policy and practice issues:** Our reports have demonstrated the connection between community schools and related strategies and emphasized the importance of partnerships: [The Growing Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities](#), [The Role of Community Schools in Place-Based Initiatives](#), and [Community Schools Results, 2013](#). We recently issued [Achieving Ambitious Educational Outcomes through School and Community Partnerships](#) with Chapin Hall synthesizing insights from thought leaders in our field. Our partners at the National Center for Community Schools also issued an important [case study](#) demonstrating the social return on investment of community schools.
7. **Federal policy includes community schools in legislation and funding:** Key language supporting the community schools strategy gained traction in the Senate's draft bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Key terms – partnerships, coordination, family and community -- increased from the previous bill, and community schools were noted as an effective strategy in Title I language. The Race to the Top-District competition for 2012 gave priority to community schools and, as a result, grantees in New Haven, CT and Puget Sound, WA were able to deepen and expand their community schools efforts. The 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes \$10 million for the renewal of a national community schools grant program, a clear signal

that community schools are gaining traction even in tough budget times and amidst cuts to other programs.

8. **Our partnerships continue to burgeon:** The United Way Worldwide has partnered with us to create a Community Schools-United Way network to strengthen and connect our local leaders. This is particularly significant given the community intermediary role that United Ways are playing with local community school initiatives. [AFT's Reclaiming the Promise](#) campaign champions the community school strategy as well.

Collaborations on new publications are in the works; including with the National Association of School Psychologists on a paper about the relationships between community partners and student support personnel, and with the National School Boards Association and the Opportunity to Learn Campaign on a paper on how partnerships can address 'school pushouts.'

The Coalition continues to add new partners that will enrich our work and perspective: the Young Elected Officials Network, AfterSchool All-Stars, and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) among others. The Coalition now counts more than 230 national, state and local partners.

9. **Community schools increasingly seen and implemented as a community-building strategy:** More state and local leaders are recognizing that community schools improve communities. The Reconnecting McDowell initiative in rural West Virginia will employ the community school strategy as part of its larger revitalization effort; Michigan's Governor Snyder has invested in the Pathways to Potential initiative that leverages the community school strategy; Los Angeles plans to use its new Promise Zones award to expand the full service community schools model to all 45 schools by 2019; and a new [publication](#) by the Coalition along with PolicyLink and the West Coast Collaborative delineates the critical role of community schools in leading place-based initiatives.
10. **Elected officials from California to New York actively promote community schools:** With their strength of the bully pulpit and role as leaders in their communities, elected officials from coast to coast are helping to spread the word about community schools. California State Senator Carol Liu (D-CA) hosted a [community schools bus tour](#) that traversed the state and culminated in a state Senate hearing on community schools in anticipation of supportive state legislation. Newly elected NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio in his preliminary speeches on education has [called for](#) 100 new community schools across the city. Cincinnati City Council member P.G. Sittenfeld has organized an Entrepreneurship and Education Committee to link city and school efforts around Community Learning Centers.

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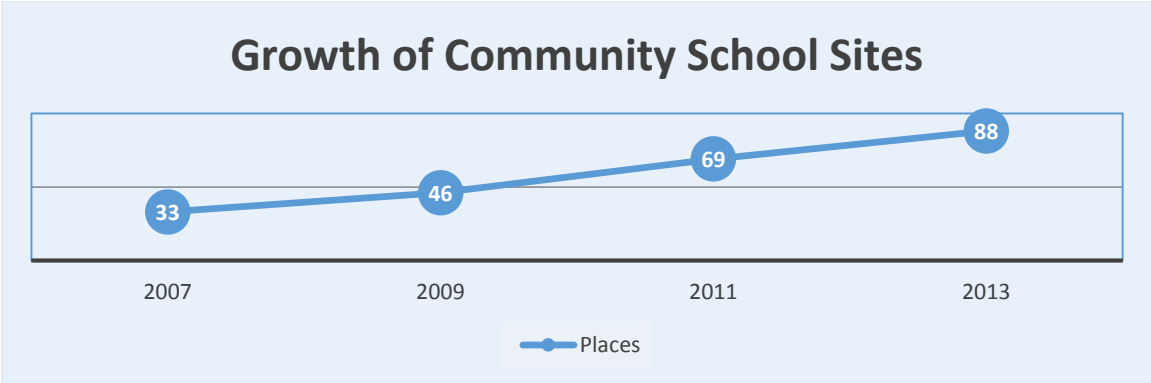
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## Appendix

### STATE ACTION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

More states are thinking systemically about growing supportive state policies and funding. We have seen an increase in legislation, funding and/or statewide activities promoting the community schools strategy in 11 states and the District of Columbia.

State	2013 Legislation
Connecticut	SB 1002, "An Act Concerning Community Schools," provides explicit instructions for community school startup and operations, as well as adds the community school model as a turnaround model for failing schools.
District of Columbia	Signed in 2012, the District of Columbia's Community Schools Incentive Act of 2012 provided \$1 million for the implementation of community schools in at least five schools in the District of Columbia. Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Office of the State Superintendent announced the six <a href="#">grantees</a> (consortiums of schools and community partners).
Maryland	The Maryland General Assembly approved \$1.2 billion for city school construction, providing a valuable opportunity to deepen our community schools work in Baltimore through partners like Family League and Elev8 Baltimore.
Michigan	Michigan Governor Rick Snyder announced a new plan, <a href="#">Pathways to Potential</a> , to transform blighted neighborhoods into vibrant neighborhoods anchored by community schools. This state-wide effort is <a href="#">modeled</a> after a successful community school initiative in Grand Rapids called <a href="#">Kent School Services Network</a> .
New Mexico	In early 2013, Governor Susana Martinez signed the <a href="#">Community Schools Act</a> , which amends the Public School Code to include community schools. This bill allows districts to use funds to transform "priority" or "focus" (low-performing) schools into community schools, with the goals of improving school climate and/or student achievement and growth, as well as creating incentives to grow and sustain community partnerships that contribute to improved school climate and/or student achievement and growth.
New York	In January 2013, Governor Cuomo launched a \$15 million competitive grant to implement community schools across the state that will provide up to \$500,000 over 3 years for selected school districts.
West Virginia	The West Virginia Board of Education approved a community schools plan for McDowell County Public Schools as part of the <a href="#">Reconnecting McDowell</a> effort.



ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BY STATES

2003	2006	2009	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illinois</li> <li>• Indiana</li> <li>• Maryland</li> <li>• Massachusetts</li> <li>• Michigan</li> <li>• Missouri</li> <li>• Nebraska</li> <li>• New York</li> <li>• Oregon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delaware</li> <li>• California</li> <li>• Kentucky</li> <li>• Ohio</li> <li>• Oklahoma</li> <li>• Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Virginia</li> <li>• Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arizona</li> <li>• Colorado</li> <li>• Connecticut</li> <li>• Florida</li> <li>• Georgia</li> <li>• Iowa</li> <li>• Louisiana</li> <li>• Minnesota</li> <li>• Nevada</li> <li>• New Jersey</li> <li>• New Mexico</li> <li>• North Carolina</li> <li>• Rhode Island</li> <li>• Tennessee</li> <li>• Texas</li> <li>• Utah</li> <li>• Wisconsin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alabama</li> <li>• Hawaii</li> <li>• West Virginia</li> </ul>

