

# Community Schools: A Strategy for School Transformation

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*Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.*

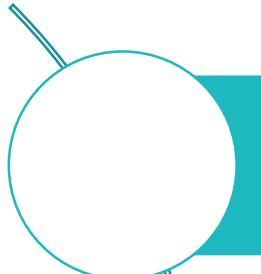


# Key Points

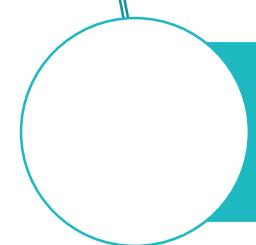
- Community schools are an evidence-based strategy for improving student outcomes in the schools with greatest need in New Mexico.
- Community schools are transformational.
- We need to expand the support available to these schools to sustain and deepen their impact.



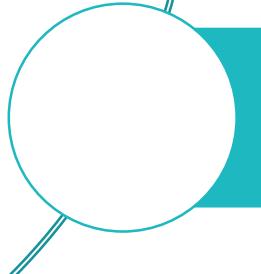
## Presentation Overview



### Why Community Schools?



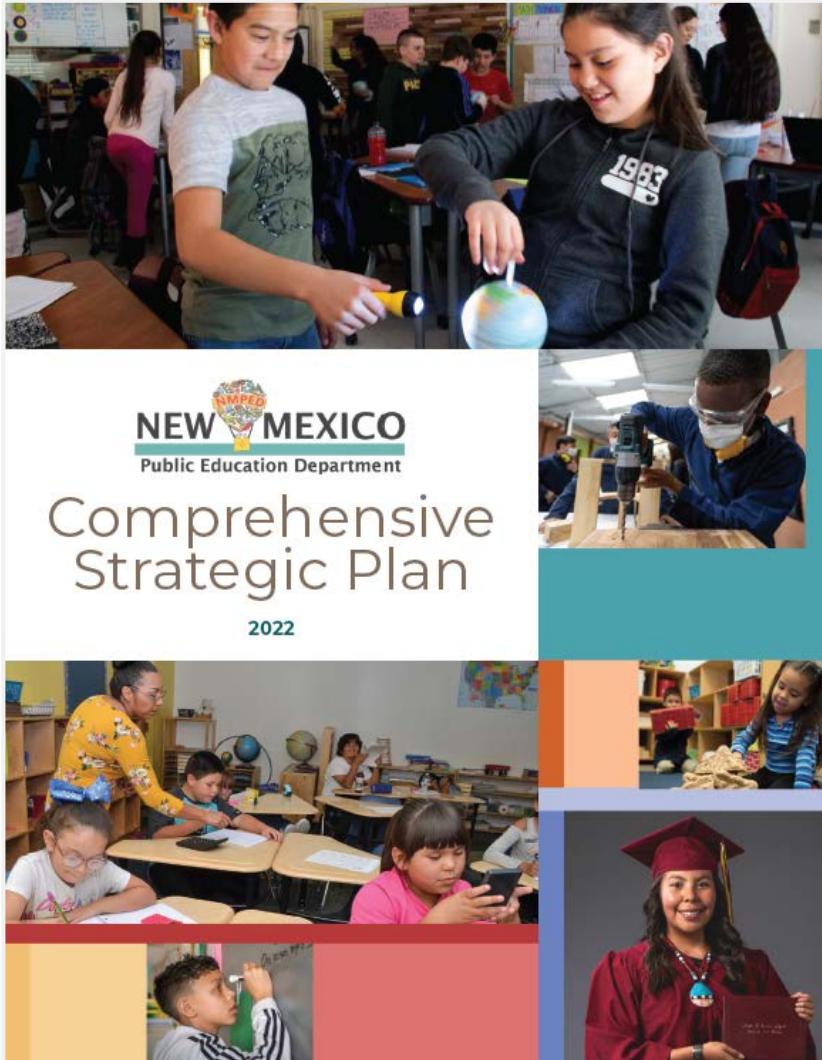
### Community Schools Snapshot



### The Path Forward

# **Why Community Schools?**

# Setting the Context



# Strategic Plan Priorities

I

Educator  
Ecosystem

II

Whole Child and  
Culturally/Linguistically  
Responsive Education

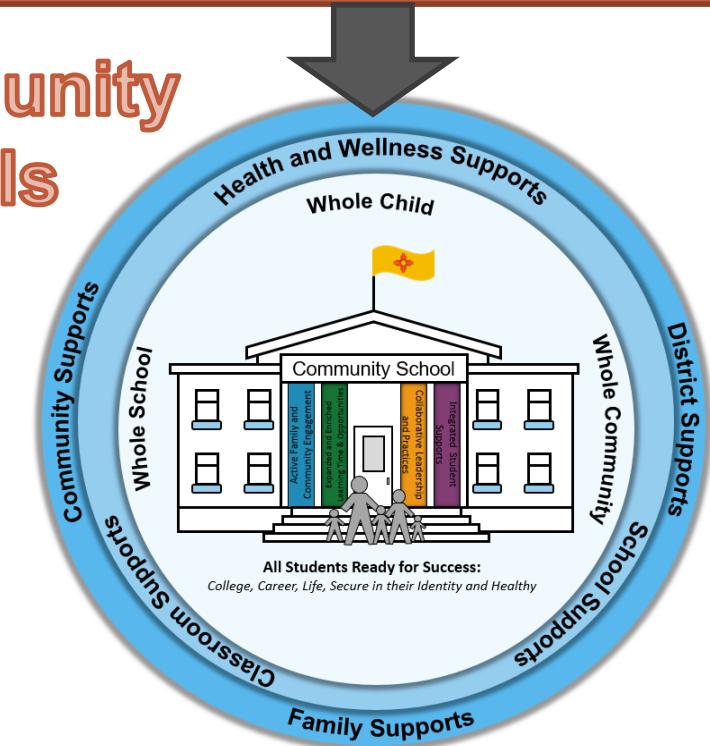
III

Profiles and  
Pathways

IV

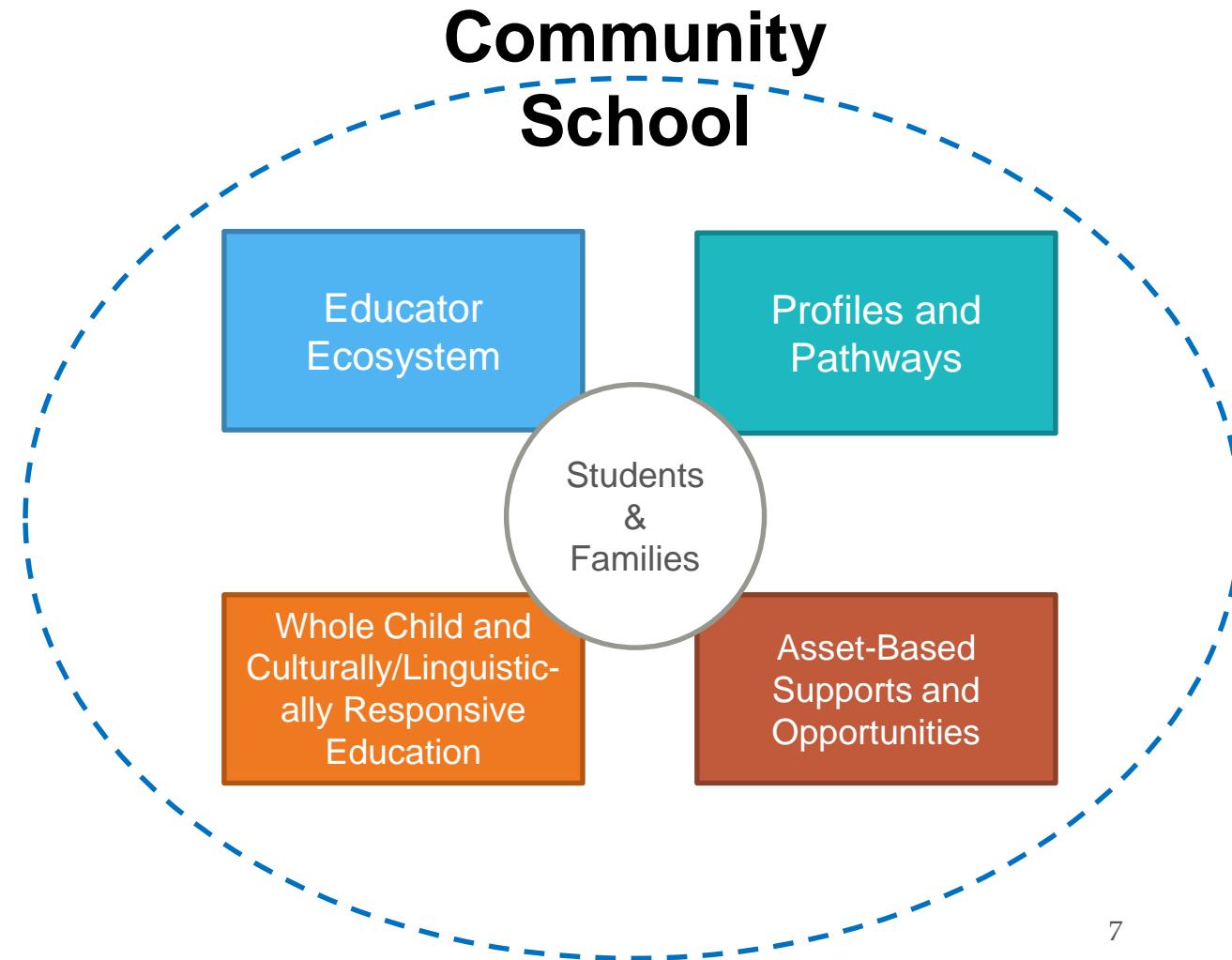
Asset-Based Supports  
and Opportunities

Community  
Schools



# Community Schools Are a School Transformation Strategy, Not a Program

Community schools bring together all four strategic priorities by placing students and families at the center and redefining the relationship between schools and their communities.



# Three Faces of Community Schools

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1. A public school that serves as **the hub** of its neighborhood, uniting students, families, educators, and community partners.
2. A local **engagement strategy** that strengthens families and the community by serving as a vehicle for **hyper-local decision-making** that responds to the **unique needs** of each community.
3. An **evidence-based school transformation strategy** that promotes **equity** and educational excellence for **every child**.

# How Does a Community School Enable School Transformation?

- Conduct regular needs assessments to identify and mitigate the root causes of barriers to learning.
- Use data to:
  - Provide targeted support to students;
  - Develop whole-school engagement strategies; and
  - Advocate for resources and policies to remove systemic barriers.
- Leverage community assets to support student and family needs.
- Create collaborative leadership structures to enable actionable decision-making among, school staff, students, families, and community partners.

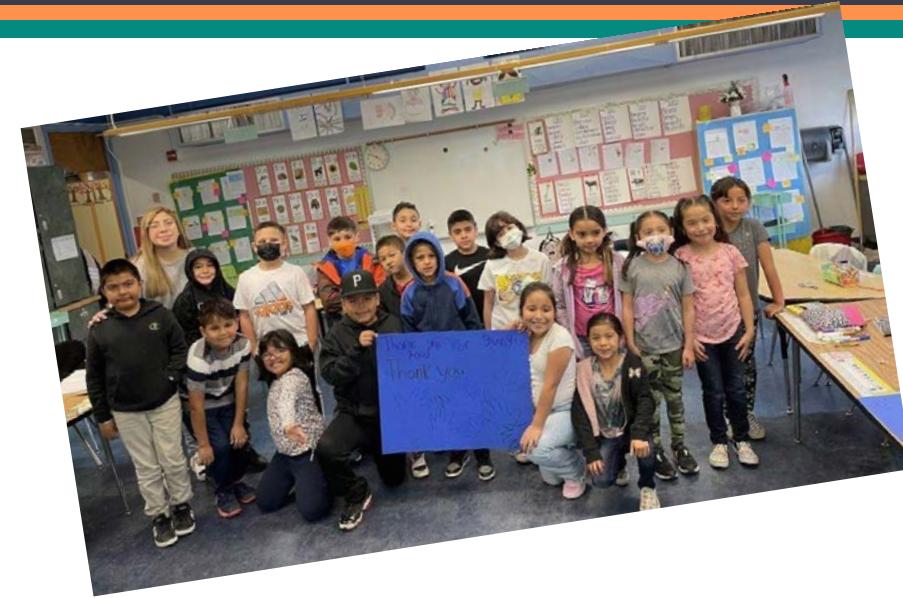
# The Community Schools Act is the Foundation for Community Schools in New Mexico

- **Community School Framework**
  - Required “four pillars” (see graphic)
  - Optional pillars: broader use of school facilities, community-based curriculum, public pre-K and early childhood services
  - Lead partner agency
  - Community school coordinator
- **Grant Program**
  - Planning year (up to \$50K)
  - 3 years of implementation (\$150K/year)
  - Optional 4<sup>th</sup> year (funding level determined by PED)
- **Coalition for Community Schools**
  - Advocacy, capacity building, and technical assistance
  - Grant application review and recommendations



Source: Learning Policy Institute

# Community Schools Engage Students and Families to Support Better Attendance



Photos Credit: NEA-NM

# Community Schools Also Provide a Process and Structure to Implement the Attendance for Success Act

## Attendance for Success Act

- **Use data** to identify chronically absent students and those at risk of becoming chronically absent.
- **Convene an attendance team** to identify root causes of absenteeism at the student and group levels.
- **Connect students to support and interventions** to address root causes of absenteeism and reengage students in school.
- **Address systemic barriers** through changes in policy and practice in the school and school district.

## Community Schools

- **Use data** to identify student, family, and community needs and assets.
- Convene a **site-based leadership team** to identify individual and systemic barriers to learning.
- **Connect students and families to support and interventions** to address barriers and deepen engagement in the life of the school.
- **Address systemic barriers** through changes in policy and practice in the school, community, and school district.

# **Community Schools Snapshot**

# Community Schools in New Mexico

Fiscal Year	Funding - State	Funding - Federal	# of Community Schools
2019-20	\$2,000,000	-	29
2020-21	\$3,300,000	\$1,896,000	33
2021-22	\$5,000,000	\$1,836,622	54
2022-23	\$8,000,000	-	69

# State-Funded Community Schools in New Mexico



**2022-23**

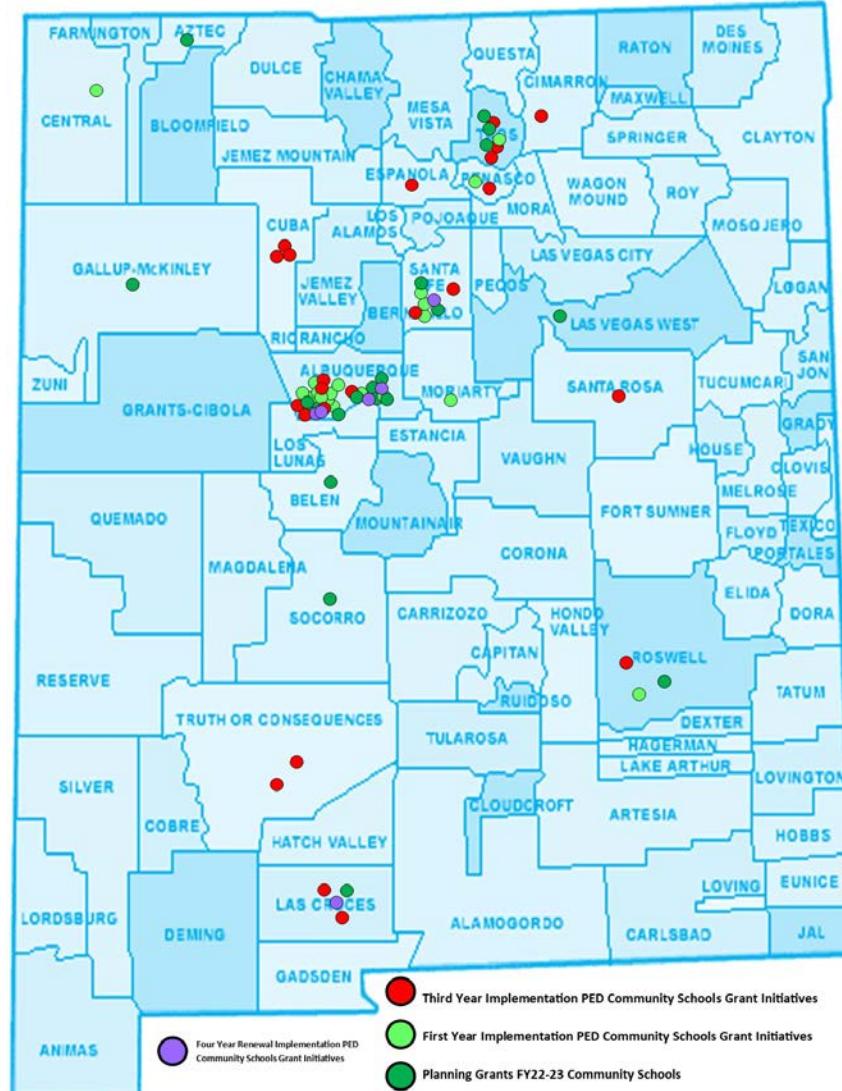
**21 Planning** Grant Schools  
**19 Implementation** Grant Schools Year 1  
**23 Implementation** Grant Schools Year 3  
**6 Implementation Renewal** Year 4

**69 Schools** funded by the Public Education Department



# Community Schools in New Mexico Overview

- **Community Schools Expansion in Current Year**
  - **69 NM PED-funded Schools**
    - ✓ **48** in the implementation phase
    - ✓ **21** in planning phase
- **Urban and rural communities and including indigenous communities.**



# Community Schools Developmental Levels

## Planning Grants

- One Year
- Up to \$50,000 dollars for:
  - Needs assessment
  - Asset mapping
  - Developing a community-wide and site-based leadership teams
- Prepare and support schools culture and climate around the strategy.



## Implementation Grants

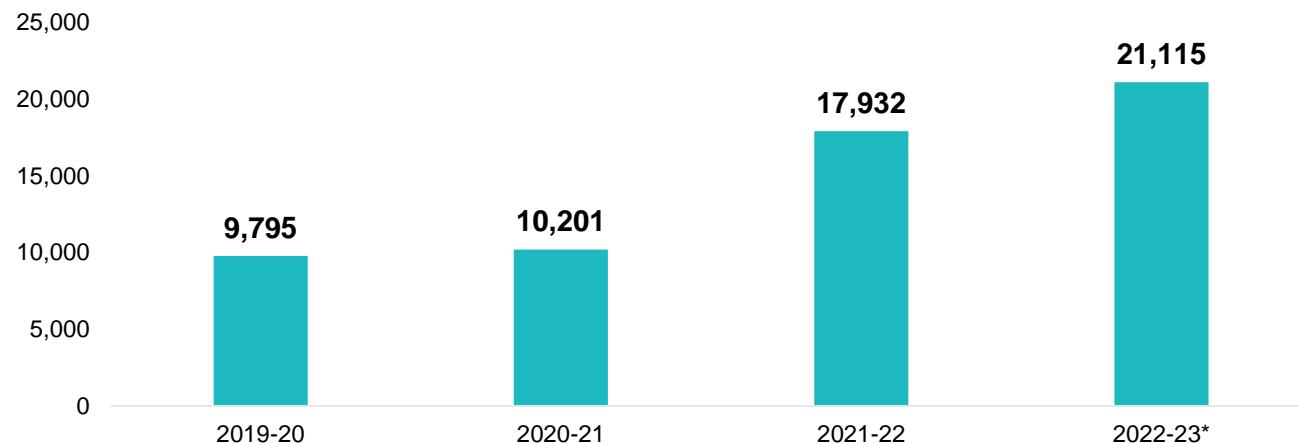
- Annual implementation grants of \$150,000 each year for a period of three years
- Hire a full-time Community Schools Coordinator
- Address the four pillars of community schools:
- Integrated student supports
- Expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities
- Active family and community engagement
- Collaborative leadership and practices
- The school becomes a hub of student and family supports

## Implementation Renewal Grants

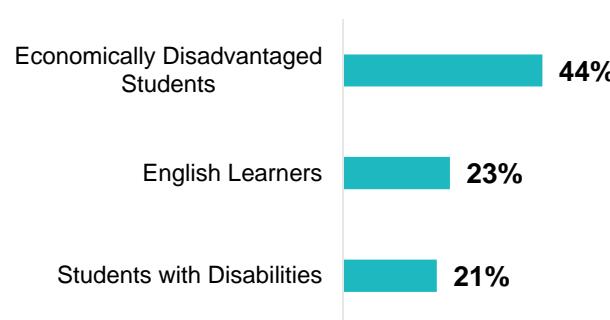
- An additional one year of funding was granted to schools in their fourth year
- Up to \$75,000 to initiate a sustainability plan for the community school coordinator position

# Community School Demographics

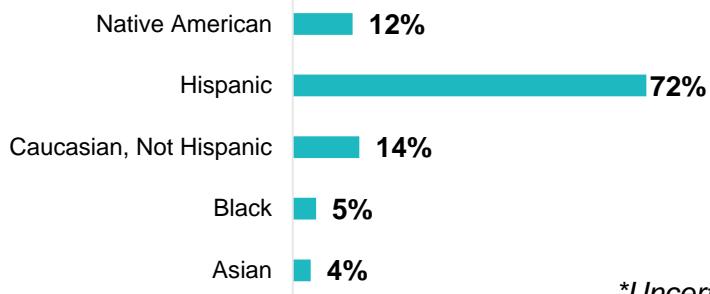
Enrollment by School Year



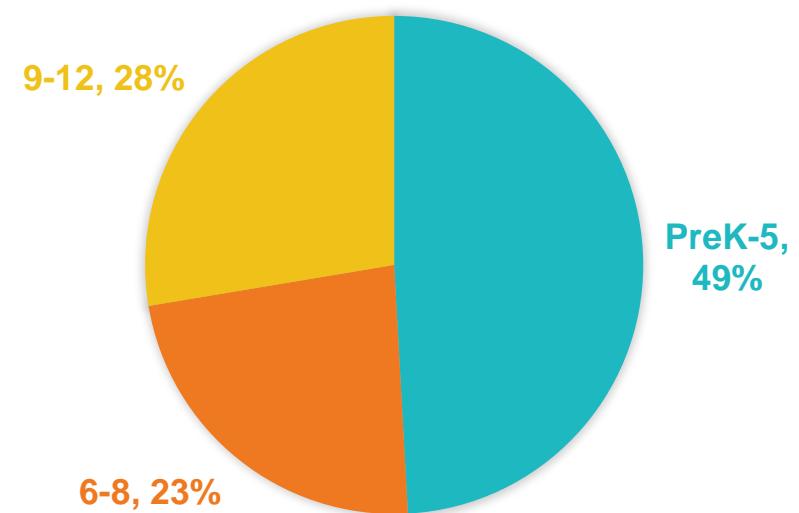
Enrollment by Student Group,  
2022-23\*



Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity,  
2022-23\*



Enrollment by Grade Level,  
2022-23\*



# The Path Forward



# Goal

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Increase the number of community schools in New Mexico from 69 to a minimum of **100** by the 2023-24 school year.

# Priorities

- **Grant Program:** Continue providing community schools planning and implementation grants to new and existing community schools to build the foundation for whole-school transformation.
- **Certification:** Develop a new statewide “certification” process for schools that are transitioning out of the grant program in order to sustain their work.
- **Professional Learning:** Provide professional learning opportunities to community schools coordinators, educators, and principals and encourage increased participation in these opportunities.
- **Capacity Building:** Expand technical assistance to community schools as they transition from the grant program into the certification process.

# Recommendations

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- Increase funding for community schools grant program to \$11.5 million in FY24 to surpass the goal of 100 community schools.
- Support continued state funding for certified community schools.
- Support funding for capacity building and technical assistance for community schools to fully implement the model and deepen their impact.

# Questions



## What the Four Pillars of Community Schools Look Like In Action

