



QUICKSTART GUIDE:

Community Schools Grants

The first round of [California Community Schools Partnership Program \(CCSPP\)](#) grants to schools and districts was approved in May 2022. Two types of grants were awarded: planning and implementation. You can find out whether or not your school or district received a first-round grant and how much money they expect to receive: [planning grants](#) or [implementation grants](#).

If your school or district received a grant, here's what you need to know.

THE VISION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Partnership and shared decision-making with students, teachers, families, and community partners
- Programs and services to address community-defined needs
- More learning time, both during and outside of school hours
- Holistic learning opportunities that build upon and go beyond traditional academics
- Positive and supportive school climate for all students

TYPES OF GRANTS

- Planning Grants: for developing a plan to create community schools
- Implementation grants: for creating new and expanding existing community schools by putting a community schools plan into action

Community Schools Plans

Initial Proposals

All community school grantees had to submit an initial proposal when they applied for grants. The proposal explains:

- How they will engage students, families, school staff, and community partners
- What programs and services will be available and where
- What resources will be used
- Which partners will be involved

Ask your school or district to share its grant application with you and post it on its website if it is not already posted.

Creating a Community Schools Plan

Each school's path to becoming a community school is different, so each community school grantee needs to develop their own community schools plan. All members of a school community should be involved in creating that plan, which may include:

Building structures	Coordinating and providing support services	Training and support for school staff and community partners	Implementing new or expanded practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a community school coordinator • Collaborating with a network of community schools • Creating shared decision-making teams that include students, families, school staff, and community partners • Creating spaces for those shared decision-making teams to integrate existing resources and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with nonprofits and government agencies to provide staffing and services • Providing trauma-informed health, mental health, and social services • Creating a Coordination of Services Team • Providing childcare and education for children under 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership coaching for school leaders, teachers, families, students, and community partners • Training to integrate resources to support students • Training on social-emotional well-being • Training on trauma-informed practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-family-teacher conferences and home visits • Intensive tutoring • Restorative justice practices • Before-school, after-school, and summer school programs and activities

Make sure that your school or district includes students, families, school staff, and community members on any school and district community schools leadership and decision-making teams to shape a plan and vision for community schools.

Grant Requirements

Deliverables

Planning Grants	Planning Grants
<p>All planning grantees must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a needs assessment and asset map• Engage with students, families, educators, and community partners and make a plan for collaborative leadership and shared decision-making• Identify and name which schools will be part of the community schools program• Create a plan to sustainably implement community schools• Track and report disaggregated student and school data• Track outcomes and develop processes to update plans based on those outcomes	<p>All implementation grantees must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post their grant application and community school plan on district websites• Conduct a needs assessment and asset map• Engage with students, families, educators, and community partners• Create structures for collaborative leadership and shared decision-making• Give students opportunities to make decisions about what they learn and how they learn it• Strengthen and support inclusive school climates through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Building trust between all members of a school community, including students, families, school staff, and community partners◦ Providing mental health and wellness support◦ Implementing supportive practices to resolve conflict and promote healing• Respond to student and family needs• Track disaggregated student and school data• Annually report on their community school plans, including data, outcomes, and progress toward long-term financial stability• Publicly present annual reports at school site meetings AND at district board meetings.

There will be opportunities for both current grantees and new applicants to apply for additional community schools grants in the future. To sign up for updates on future application cycles, send a blank email message to join-CCSPP-Info@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

Timelines

Planning Grants	Implementation Grants
<p>July 2022 Full disbursement of grant funds (can be used for up to two years)</p>	<p>July 2022 Initial disbursement of grant funds (funds will be disbursed annually over 5 years and can be rolled over from year to year)</p>
<p>June 30, 2023 Mid-Project Progress Report and Mid-Project Expenditure Report due</p> <p>Grantees that have completed planning requirements can apply for the next cohort of implementation grants. If they choose to do so, they must submit the End-of-Project Report and Expenditure Report instead.</p>	<p>June 30, 2023 Public presentation and submission of Annual Progress Report, Implementation Plan Update, and Expenditure Report due</p>
<p>June 30, 2024 End-of-Project Report and Expenditure Report due (all planning grant funds must be expended)</p> <p>Ask your school or district to post all planning grant reports online and present them at public meetings.</p>	<p>June 30, 2024 Public presentation and submission of Annual Progress Report, Implementation Plan Update, initial Sustainability Plan, and Expenditure Report</p>
	<p>June 30, 2025 Public presentation and submission of Annual Progress Report, Implementation Plan Update, Sustainability Plan Update, and Expenditure Report</p>
	<p>June 30, 2026 Public presentation and submission of Annual Progress Report, Implementation Plan Update, Sustainability Plan Update, and Expenditure Report</p>
	<p>June 30, 2027 Public presentation and submission of End-of-Project Report (including Sustainability Plan) and Expenditure Report due (all implementation grant funds must be expended).</p>
	<p>Grantees can apply for extension grants to receive two more years of funding.</p> <p>Implementation grantees are required to publicly present their annual reports at school site meetings AND at district board meetings. Make sure that your school or district also posts these reports online.</p>

What Role Can Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) Play?

Beyond the vital role that CBOs can play in supporting students and families to engage in shared decision-making processes and to hold schools and districts accountable for their commitments, **CBOs can also contract with schools or districts to provide services.**

For example, CBOs can partner with schools or districts to lead family engagement and parent workshops, consult on developing collaborative leadership and community engagement structures, and provide training for school and district staff. CBOs can also provide mental health services, childcare programs, before/after/summer school programs, or other services.

Red Flags

You should raise concerns with the school or district if any of the following happens:

✗ The school or district does not post its community schools grant application and plan on its website.	This is a basic first step for transparency and community engagement, and is explicitly required for implementation grantees.
✗ Grant money is being used for punishment-based discipline or law enforcement.	This is explicitly prohibited. Community school funds cannot be used to fund police for any purpose.
✗ Grant money is being used to fund existing programs and services without expanding or changing them.	Community school grants cannot be used to replace existing funding. This money needs to be used to create concrete changes.
✗ Decision-making teams do not include students and families.	Grantees are required to convene community school leadership teams that must include families, students, and community partners.
✗ Communication is not provided in languages used by students and families	Authentic engagement must include all members of a community, especially those who are traditionally left out of decision-making processes.
✗ Annual reports are not being presented at school site meetings and district board meetings.	This is another basic component of transparency and accountability, and is explicitly required for implementation grantees.
✗ Annual reports do not include data and outcomes from the prior year.	Without data and outcomes, it is impossible to see if the school or district is making progress on its goals.