



Caroline County

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



ONE FAMILY. ONE VISION.



2nd Annual Partner & Vendor Network Meeting



Welcome

Dr. Derek Simmon, EdD

Superintendent, Caroline County Public School



Introductions

CCPS District Teams

(Name, Title, Department)



Introductions

School Teams

(Name, Title, School)



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School Slides

FY 21	FEDERALSBURG ELEMENTARY
FY 23	GREENSBORO ELEMENTARY
FY 24	COLONEL RICHARDSON MIDDLE
FY 25	COLONEL RICHARDSON HIGH
FY 25	DENTON ELEMENTARY
FY 25	LOCKERMAN MIDDLE
FY 25	PRESTON ELEMENTARY
FY 25	RIDGELY ELEMENTARY
FY 26	NORTH CAROLINE HIGH

The Community School Strategy

- Community schools promote positive, equitable outcomes by providing students and families with the physical and mental health, academic, and extracurricular supports needed to thrive.
- Community schools serve as hubs that bring families, communities, and partners together to remove barriers to learning.
- Using an asset-based approach, community schools strive to strengthen connections to generate improved student outcomes.



Benefits of a Community School

- **Provides Targeted Assistance**
Designed to provide targeted assistance to schools located in areas with a high concentration of poverty
- **Addresses Unique Challenges**
Seeks to address specific challenges with a focus on improving educational opportunities and well-being
- **Provides Funding Support for Initiatives**
Can be used to support a range of initiatives and programs that help combat the effects of poverty
- **Enhances Educational Outcomes**
Ensures that students have a better chance at academic success despite challenges they may face due to economic circumstances.



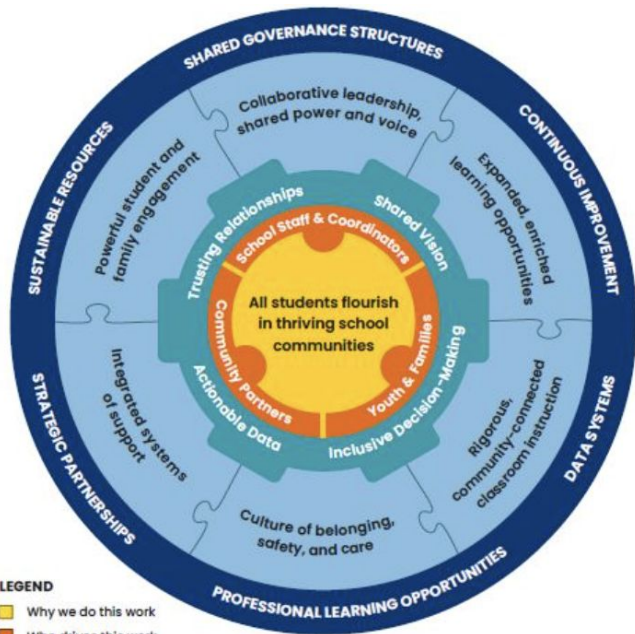
The Community School Framework

Schools - A place where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to improve conditions for student learning and healthy development.

Working with partners: To organize in- and out-of-school resources, supports, and opportunities so that our young people in Caroline County Public schools blossom and thrive.



The Essentials for Community School Transformation



LEGEND

- Why we do this work
- Who drives this work
- Enabling conditions
- Key practices
- Supportive infrastructure

Source: Community Schools Forward. (2023).

CCPS is committed to aligning partnerships, practices, and systems to create the conditions for all students to thrive in supportive, community-connected school environments.



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Wrap Around Services



Extended Learning Time

Enhanced behavioral health svcs

Vision, Hearing, and Dental

School-based Health Center

Additional social workers, mentors

Enhancing physical wellness

Student attendance

Safe Transportation

Enhancing early childhood

Learning environment

Student enrichment experiences

Professional development

Family & community engagement



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Meaningful Partnerships

Partner and Vendor Introduction Activity

(Start at your table - 5 minute rotations)



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CCPS Partner Highlights

2025–2026 School Year



Strategic Partnerships

- Strategic partnerships in a community school have the potential to bring about a wide range of benefits, including improved resources, enriched educational experiences, and a sense of unity within the broader community.
- Partnerships can play a vital role in enhancing the overall quality of education and prepare students for success.



Examples

Partnership/Vendor/ Stakeholder	Services Provided
YMCA	<i>Facilitates after-school and weekend physical activities (e.g., basketball, soccer) to build connection and promote well-being.</i>
<i>Faith-Based Organizations</i>	<i>Coordinate family outreach events, support trust-building, and offer spaces for community conversations.</i>
<i>Local Businesses</i>	<i>Sponsor student behavior incentive programs (e.g., gift cards, recognition events).</i>
<i>Family Resource Centers</i>	<i>Provide parenting workshops, offer parent coaching, and connect families with home-school liaisons.</i>

Annual Reporting and Data

August 15th

- Beginning August 2025, an annual report, required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, provides the Maryland State Department of Education with data on the implementation and impact of Community Schools, including the number of students and families receiving wraparound services.
- This reporting ensures accountability and helps evaluate how effectively schools are addressing academic, social-emotional, and basic needs to improve student outcomes.



MOUs and Contracts

- For our partners, a written MOU or contract is needed to discuss scope of work, shared responsibilities, and any payment.
- Background checks – this will need to be addressed in all MOUs, contracts, and revisions: Background checks, fingerprint monitoring, and HB486 guidelines.
- This provides protection for all involved – the school system, the partner entity, and of course the students.



Collective Impact

A structured approach in which diverse stakeholders; such as schools, community organizations, and agencies—commit to a shared agenda, aligned strategies, and continuous communication to achieve measurable improvements on a common goal.



Caroline Better Together

- Caroline Better Together is a collective impact initiative that brings together organizations and community leaders to improve the well-being of residents in Caroline County by aligning resources and efforts, with a strong focus on reducing poverty.
- It works to build community capacity and connect residents to essential supports that promote stability, access to resources, and long-term growth.
- As part of this shared work, partners also prioritize reducing chronic absenteeism by addressing barriers to attendance and supporting consistent student engagement in school.



Federalburg Better Together

- The **Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH)** initiative is a Maryland-based strategy focused on ending concentrated poverty by aligning cross-sector partners to invest in communities and expand economic opportunity.
- Through **Federalburg Better Together**, this work includes a focused partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), highlighted by the FES pilot, which connects families to coordinated supports and services to reduce barriers, strengthen stability, and improve student outcomes.



The Whole Child Approach

- Community schools and the Whole Child approach are intertwined, focusing on a student's overall well-being and success beyond just academics.
- Community schools, as a specific type of school, are designed to address the holistic needs of students by engaging the broader community, including families, community organizations, and local resources.

