



Leveraging ESSER Funds to Take a Whole Child, Whole Day Approach

How Afterschool and Full-Service Community Schools Meet the Needs of Students

The American Rescue Plan provides the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) more than \$412M to remedy student learning loss and provide additional support to help young people thrive, both in and out of the classroom. As schools and [complex areas plan how to use their ESSER funds](#) to address students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, schools have an opportunity to leverage their community partners to utilize evidence-based strategies like afterschool and full-service community schools.

Outcomes and Impact of Afterschool and Community Schools		
	Comprehensive Afterschool Programs	Full-Service Community Schools
Attendance	Students who regularly attend afterschool programs are less likely to be chronically absent. ¹	The community schools strategy has proven to show significant improvements in attendance. ² A community school can coordinate efforts to address the root cause of absenteeism through community partnerships.
Academics	Afterschool engages students in learning, promotes gains in math and reading, and improves grades. Students who regularly attend afterschool programs continue to	Community schools improve teaching and learning. They actively engage students as learners by seeing the community as the classroom and by offering rigorous, project-based curricula and culturally responsive

¹ Toms Barker, L., & McLelland, C. (2020, April 14). *Hawaii Department of Education Hawaii Statewide Evaluation ...* Hawai'i Department of Education. Retrieved September 29, 2021, from <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/21CCLC/NML21CCLCstate18-19.pdf>.

² Anna, M., Daniel, J., & Oakes, J. (2017, December). *Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy A Review of the Evidence*. Learning Policy Institute. Retrieved September 29, 2021, from https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/Community_Schools_Effective_BRIEF.pdf.

	<p>improve their academic performance and see meaningful benefits into young adulthood. Kids from families with low-income demonstrate the greatest gains.³</p>	<p>pedagogy that connect to students' lived experiences.</p> <p>Studies have shown that community schools had significant impacts on students' on-time grade progression, and helped to meet the educational needs of struggling students in schools with high poverty rates.⁴</p>
<p>Social-Emotional and Mental Health</p>	<p>Afterschool programs provide a safe place where professional educators connect with kids, help them navigate challenges, and talk about how to make good decisions.</p> <p>Evidence shows that youth in high-quality, evidence-based afterschool programs targeting SEL outcomes see a wide range of positive effects including improved self-confidence, increased positive attitudes toward school, positive social behavior, and reduced aggression.⁵</p>	<p>Community schools create a culture of connectedness that helps young people stay and succeed in school. A culture of connection in school leads not only to better attendance, grades, test scores, high school graduation rates, and post-secondary success, but also to better physical and mental health, fewer suicides, and less depression.⁶</p> <p>Through aligning strategic community partnerships and resources, students and families can receive the social-emotional and mental health supports they need.</p>
<p>Leveraging Funds</p>	<p>For afterschool programs to provide comprehensive programming and hire high-quality staff, HAA recommends \$1,495 per student, per year. This is the national average cost per student in 21st Century Community Learning Centers.⁷</p>	<p>HAA recommends allocating at least \$150K per year per each school that wants to become a community school. These costs would go towards a community organization who would partner with the school and provide the coordination of services and cover the costs of resources and programming.</p>

³ Auger, A., Pierce, K. M. and Vandell, D. L. (April, 2013). Participation in Out-of-School Settings and Student Academic and Behavioral Outcomes. Unpublished paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

⁴ *Frequently asked questions using American ... - oese.ed.gov*. U.S. Department of Education. (2021, July). Retrieved September 29, 2021, from <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/21-0138-ARP-Community-Schools-OMB-and-OS-Approved-071421-1.pdf>.

⁵ Hurd, N., & Deutsch, NESSER. (2017). SEL-Focused After-School Programs. *The Future of Children*, 27(1), 95–115. Retrieved September 2021, from https://futureofchildren.princeton.edu/sites/futureofchildren/files/media/foc_spring_vol27_no1_for_web_0_0.pdf.

⁶ Winthrop, E. V. and R., Harper, K., Turner, C. C. and L., Bredow, P. R. and C., & Burchinal, K. H.-P. and P. (2021, March 23). *Addressing education inequality with a next generation of Community Schools: A blueprint for mayors, states, and the Federal Government*. Brookings. Retrieved September 29, 2021, from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/addressing-education-inequality-with-a-next-generation-of-community-schools-a-blueprint-for-mayors-states-and-the-federal-government/>.

⁷ Afterschool Alliance. (2021, April). *21st Century Community Learning Centers*. Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved September 29, 2021, from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/21stCCLC-Overview.pdf>.

Additional Resources	Catalogue of Hawai'i Afterschool Providers Wallace Foundation's Out-of-School Time Cost Calculator Help Kids Recover: Evidence-Based Strategies	USD OE's FAQs on Using ARP Funding to Support Full-Service Community Schools & Related Strategies Partnerships for Equity and Excellence: The Community School Strategy
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The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance is ready to help provide guidance, additional resources, and support as you look to use these whole child, whole day strategies to meet the attendance, academic, and social-emotional needs of your students. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com.