



# Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy: *A Review of the Evidence*

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Research. Action. Impact.

# New Mexico educates . . .

## Children at or below the poverty level



145,000 children  
(2016)

 Worse than 2015 (29%)

 Worse than US average (19%)

## Children whose parents lack secure employment



175,000 children  
(2016)

 Improved since 2015 (34%)

 Worse than US average (28%)

## Children living in households with a high housing cost burden



155,000 children  
(2016)

 Worse than 2015 (31%)

 Same as US average (32%)



**Community schools are  
“both a place and a set of  
relationships between the  
school and community  
resources.”**

**— Coalition for Community Schools**





Enrichment activities emphasize real-world learning and community problem solving.

After-school, weekend, and summer programs provide academic instruction and individualized support.

Promoting interaction among families, administration, and teachers helps families to be more involved in the decisions about their children's education.

Schools function as neighborhood hubs. There are educational opportunities for adults, and family members can share their stories and serve as equal partners in promoting student success.

Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities.

A dedicated staff member coordinates support programs to address out-of-school learning barriers for students and families.

Mental and physical health services support student success.



# Four Pillars of Community Schools



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## Integrated Student Supports



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## **Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities**



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## Active Family and Community Engagement



Parents, students, teachers, principals, and community partners build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning communities

## **Collaborative Leadership and Practice**

# The “Good School”

“Good School” Conditions	Community School Pillars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extra academic and social support</li><li>• Positive school climate and trusting relationships</li><li>• Meaningful learning</li><li>• Sufficient money and other resources</li><li>• Strong family and community ties</li><li>• Teacher collaboration and learning</li><li>• Assessment as a tool for improvement</li></ul>	<b>Integrated student supports</b>
	<b>Expanded learning time and opportunities</b>
	<b>Active parent and community engagement</b>
	<b>Collaborative leadership and practice</b>



# Evidence of Impact



### Studies of

- Comprehensive programs



### Studies of

- Each of the 4 pillars



### Total reviewed

- 143 studies, including 48 research reviews





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# Findings About the Pillars

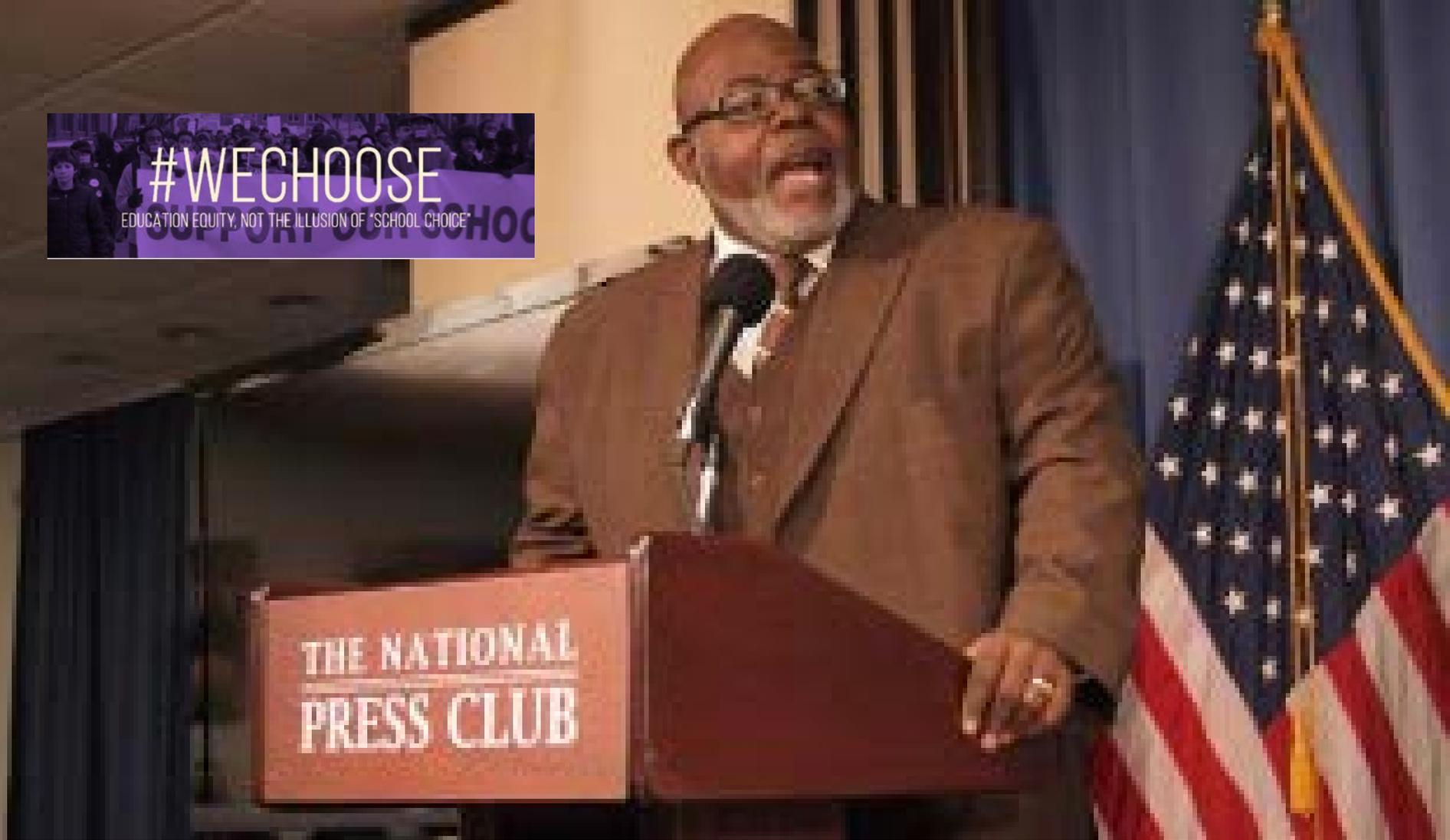
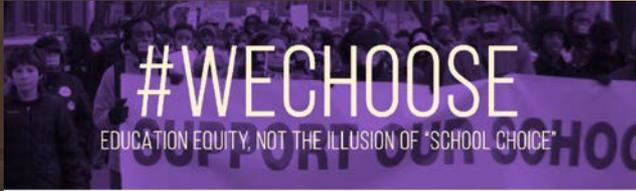
# Findings About Comprehensive Models

A wide range of well-implemented models yield benefits

- Increased academic achievement
- Increased attendance
- Higher graduation rates
- Improved peer/adult relationships and attitudes toward school
- Reduced racial and economic achievement gaps

Cost-Benefit savings of up to \$15 for every dollar invested





**“Create 10,000 Sustainable  
Community Schools”**

# Policy Approaches

- Federal Opportunities
- State Legislation
- Local Initiatives

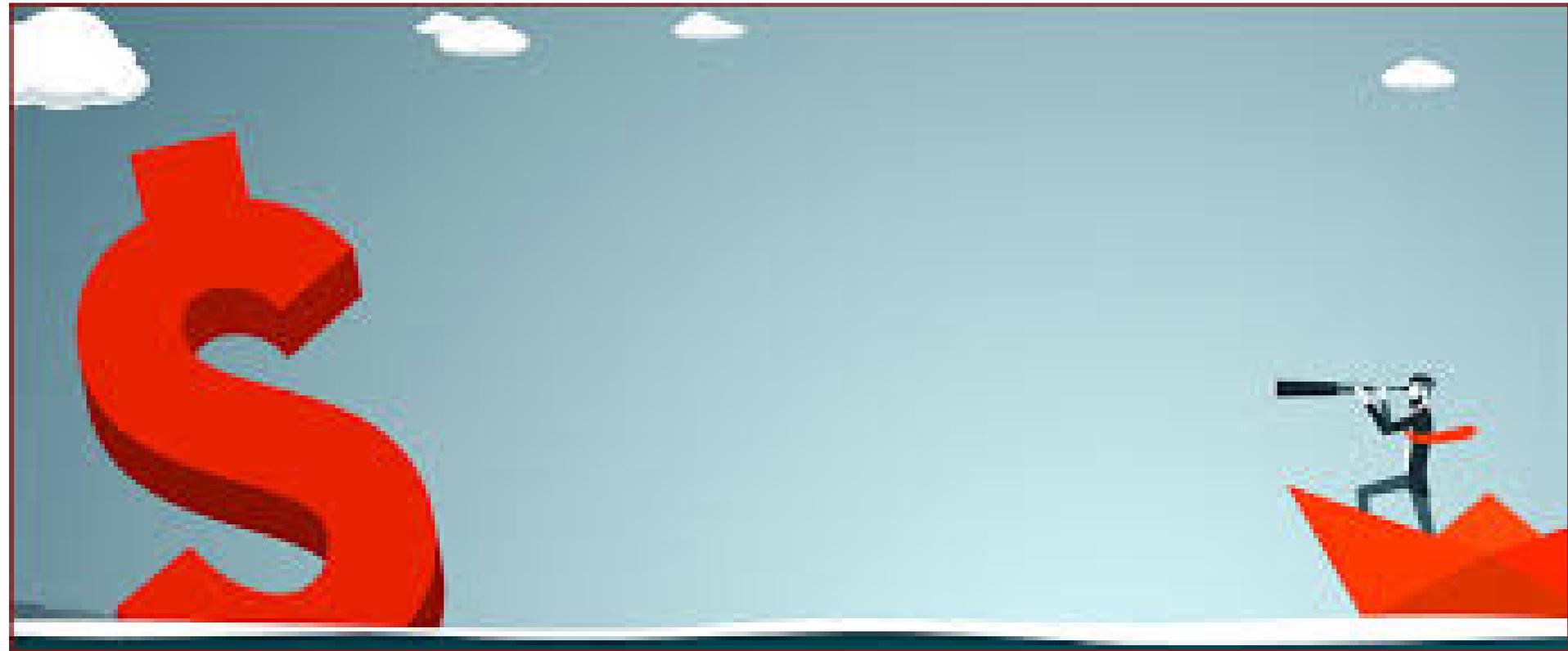
# Federal Opportunities—ESSA

- **Title I & II**
  - Use community schools as an evidence-based improvement strategy (7% Title I set aside, Title II PD support)
- **Title IV**
  - FSCS/Promise Neighborhood grants
  - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
  - Comprehensive Community Schools Grants
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers
  - Medicaid

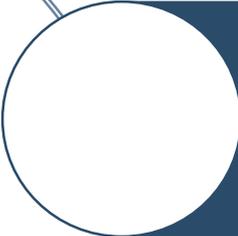
# State Legislation

- Grant programs—CA, MN, NY, TN, UT
- State budget support—KY, NY
- Technical assistance or other support programs—MD, MI
- State board of education regulations--  
WV

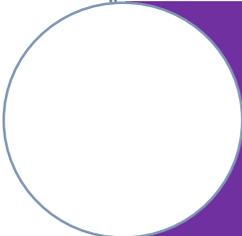
# Funding Community Schools



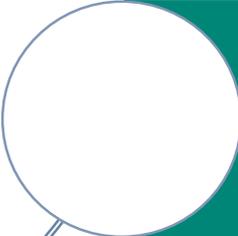
# Being Successful



**Take a comprehensive approach with all 4 pillars, and pay attention to implementation**



**Address local assets and needs through data-driven planning, and engaging family/community**



**Provide enough time for planning and collaboration**



Questions?