

Community Schools Site Resource Coordinator

Thousands of students in our nation's schools struggle with hunger, violence, homelessness, and myriad other challenges that can undermine classroom performance. Despite the best efforts of educators, the chilling effects of these problems on a student's ability to learn cannot be understated and they continue to be the single biggest indicator of whether or not a student will succeed academically.

For most teachers this means striving to fill two desperately needed roles in the lives of their students – educator and social worker. In striving to identify resources and provide assistance to students with urgent needs, teachers often devote considerable personal and professional time to assisting students often at a cost to preparation and instructional time.

Community schools have been one way to address the growing need for additional resources for many of our students. Too often, even where programs are readily available, distance, time, and bureaucracy can often make accessing them difficult for families and students in need. The community school model brings together students, families, service providers, and neighborhoods to provide important services to help students better access the learning opportunities and supports they need succeed.

This amendment amends Part A of Title IV of the Every Child Achieves Act to ensure that each community school programs receiving funds under this Act can use their funds to have a site resource coordinator for their school or local education agency.

Site Resource Coordinators bolster the number of non-state resources community schools have to draw from and increase the numbers of programs and services community schools can offer.

Site Resource Coordinators at community schools:

- Identify and mobilize potential partnerships to provide resources for community schools;
- Identify and resolve management and strategy issues and assist with professional development and training or participants;
- Ensure all service and community partners are focused on student success and aligned with the academic expectations of the community school;
- Incorporate the expertise of teachers in identifying needs and goals for student while helping free teachers up for instruction; and
- Strengthen relationships between schools and the neighborhoods they serve.

While Title IV of the Every Child Achieves Act allows some flexibility to important social services that support community schools, this amendment would allow each school (or local education agency in low population density areas) have a school resource coordinator and to use sub-grant funds to pay for them.