

FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT (H.R. 3545/S.1655)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT?

The purpose of the legislation is to strengthen student success. It will do so by supporting public/private partnerships that integrate services – academic, developmental, health, and more – into schools to more effectively serve students and families.

WHAT IS A FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

A Full-Service Community School is a public elementary, middle or high school that coordinates and provides students and families with comprehensive services through partnerships with community based organizations and other public and private partners.

WHAT WILL THE FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT DO?

The legislation provides competitive grants from the Department of Education to local programs and to State collaboratives. It also establishes a federal Advisory Committee.

- Local programs will support and expand Full-Service Community Schools through public/private partnerships including a local educational agency and one or more community-based organization.
- State collaboratives will coordinate the expansion and evaluation of full-service community schools and include the state education agency and at least two other state government agencies or non-profit agencies.
- The Federal Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Labor, will consult with the Secretary of Education on the development and implementation of full-service community schools and report annually to Congress.

The First Focus Campaign for Children is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization affiliated with First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization. The Campaign for Children advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure children and families are a priority in federal policy and budget decisions.

WHAT SERVICES WILL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES RECEIVE?

Full-Service Community Schools will coordinate at least three existing services and provide at least two services for students and families at 1 or more public elementary or secondary school, including: early childhood programs; literacy/reading programs for youth and families; parenting education activities; community service/service-learning; mentoring and other youth development programs; child care services; job training/career counseling services; nutrition services; and primary health and dental care.

HOW WILL FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE?

To be eligible to receive a grant, local programs must establish a set of performance measures to ensure the availability and effectiveness of services. Additionally, the legislation directs the Department of Education to require grantees to conduct evaluations of their efforts, make the results of their evaluations public, and use the results of their evaluations to improve their performance. The Department of Education is also directed to conduct an evaluation of State and local grantees.

HOW MUCH WILL THE FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT COST?

The Full-Service Community Schools Act authorizes \$200 million for FY 2009 and such sums for FY 2010 through 2013. Local grants would receive 75 percent of the appropriation, State collaboratives would receive 20 percent, and the remaining funds would support technical assistance and evaluation. The Department of Education may require a match of grantees up to an amount equal to the amount of the grant.

WHO INTRODUCED THE FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT?

The legislation was introduced by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE).



For more information about the Full-Service Community Schools Act, contact Phillip Lovell, Vice President of Education, Housing & Youth Policy at First Focus. PhillipL@firstfocus.net; 202.657.0679.



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