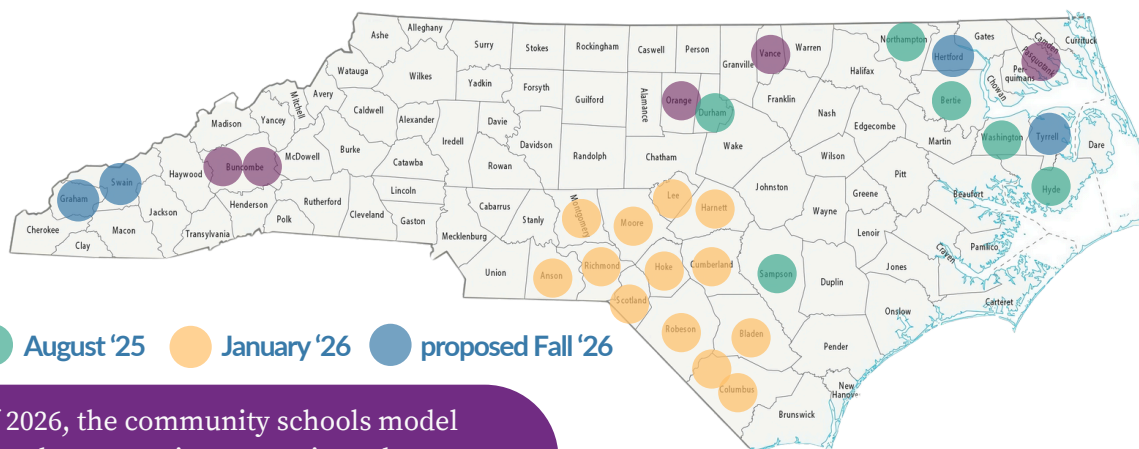


The power and promise of Community Schools for NC

Community Schools - which began scaling statewide in 2023 with a grant from the Department of Education and coordination by the NC Community Schools Coalition - aim to improve the academic, mental, and physical health of NC students.

Community schools are an evidence-based approach expanding across North Carolina, prioritizing schools identified as low-performing.



● August '24 ● August '25 ● January '26 ● proposed Fall '26

By fall of 2026, the community schools model aims to be supporting approximately **23,000 students** in **46 schools** across **28 districts**.

Community Schools are public schools that partner with families and organizations to remove barriers to student success by **serving as hubs of community resources**. Community schools align supports such as family engagement, out of school enrichment time, physical and mental health, and basic need provisions, coordinating the delivery of services to maximize effectiveness while increasing a sense of pride in the school and surrounding community.

Studies find that every \$1 invested in a community schools strategy results in up to a \$15 return to the community.

Learning Policy Institute: <https://bit.ly/4osUqWm>

What makes a school a community school in NC?



Community School Coordinator

- Full-time role in the school
- Guides assets and needs assessment
- Supports expanding and developing programs and partnerships to meet identified needs



School Advisory Board with funds

- Governing body comprised of students, guardians, community members and staff;
- Discretionary funds to support school-based community services and develop programming



Family Resource Center

- Dedicated physical space with resources to meet student and family needs
- Leverages existing community orgs and partnerships to streamline support for students and families



Partnerships and programs

- Social services
- Mental/physical health support
- After school and out-of-school programs
- Academic tutoring, workshops, mentoring
- Staff wellness + PD

Community schools are already driving student success and strengthening communities across NC

In SY 2024-25, the experience of **5,000 students** and their **families** in **9 schools** across **5 districts** using the community schools model demonstrated early impact that reflects a large body of national research validating the impact of community schools.

We see that when we...

Connect community services that meet academic, physical and mental health needs...



Increase student and family engagement...



Drive academic gains and turn around schools identified as low-performing.

In SY2024-25, preliminary data from community schools across NC shows:

- **540 students** in **after-school academic support** programs
- **270 students** in **summer enrichment** programs
- **937 students** received **mental health services**
- **201 teachers and staff** supported new **school-based learning programs** focused on literacy; career and technical education experiences; and robotics
- **Decreased absences, disciplinary incidents and Out of School Suspension** days
- **Over 6,000** caregivers, students, staff and community attended **engagement events**
- **1,181 family members** received **assistance** with food, clothing, housing, transportation, and Hurricane Helene relief services through Family Resource Centers.

In state ratings, P.W. Moore Elementary improved from an F to a C over its first two years of community schools implementation.

"Our young people, staff and families struggle to access health care providers. Because of the NC Community Schools Coalition, we've been able to secure new partnerships to launch telehealth services at schools where students, staff and families will have access to a qualified medical provider through telehealth right inside the public schoolhouse.

We've wanted to do this for awhile. It would not have happened without the community schools coalition. Now, it's happening."

Keith Parker, Superintendent, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools