New Hampshire’s Early Childhood Full-service Community Schools Model for Preschool Development: Supporting Competent and Confident Children

In a meta analysis of 49 evaluation reports, 46 reported positive outcomes, concluding that full service community schools are a viable and advantageous alternative to current models of schools (Dryfoos, J. 2002). The respect and value of this model is evidenced at the National Center for Community Schools funded by the Children’s Aid Society in New York and the National Coalition for Community Schools housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and successfully serves the communities with the greatest challenges. FSC schools build on the strength of communities and leverage resources currently in place share four overarching characteristics. They are comprehensive, collaborative, coherent and committed.

New Hampshire will offer 4 regional pilot centers the opportunity to develop their models in collaboration with national experts and local leaders in business, education, health and human services through focused technical support and intensive coaching. Specifically New Hampshire’s model will support the development of a data sharing network across the birth to grade 3, piloting of a quality rating and improvement system and intensive coaching and professional development. Each regional center will have direct support from two NH FSC coaches who would offer weekly coaching in inclusive education, early literacy, STEM literacy and culturally responsive teaching over the 4-year granting period. Building on developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) and research in child development and learning for individual, groups of children and culturally responsive education, the New Hampshire Early Childhood Full-service Community School (ECFSC) model will have the following pedagogical core features, inclusive environments, project-based learning and purposeful play.

The output will be 4 Early Childhood FSC programs that could be replicated using sustainability tools developed during and built into the grant’s infrastructure. Those tools would include facilitation guides for community partnerships, braiding of federal funds, family outreach, workforce development and quality professional development tools for birth through Grade 3 professionals. Where National FSC schools currently have a larger focus on K-12 services, the NH FSC model will have a dedicated focus on the Birth through grade 3-continuum understanding these are foundational years in a child’s growth and development directly impacting through new and improved preschool slots a projected 62% of our preschool age children and families.