

**PDF SAMPLE of Application to serve as a
Pilot District for the Kentucky Community Schools Initiative**



Opportunity Background

This year marks a significant milestone for the Prichard Committee, as we gear up to utilize a \$47 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. We will channel \$30 million of this grant directly into 20 Kentucky school districts (\$1.5 million per district over 5 years) through the implementation of full-service community schools, known as the Kentucky Community School Initiative.

This initiative will be driven by deep community engagement and comprehensive planning that aims to better align and coordinate existing community resources and develop new ones that have been proven to support student success. Each of the districts will select two schools to implement the full-service community schools' model in partnership with school-based Family Resource and Youth Service Center (FRYSC) Coordinators. These districts will serve as learning sites to support state scaling of what works to improve student outcomes.

The first four pilot districts (eight schools) have already been chosen. We are actively seeking 16 additional school districts (32 additional schools) representing Kentucky's diversity to join us in this transformative mission. These districts will be approved by the State Steering Committee. Additional details on scope of work can be found in the District MOA template [here](#).

Your district's/schools' current activity and evidence of collaboration and leadership, as well as your willingness and readiness to adapt and commit will be considered in the application process.

What Are Community Schools?

Community schools are public schools that partner with families and community organizations to provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for students' school success. Like every good school, community schools must be built on a foundation of powerful teaching that includes challenging academic content and supports students' mastery of 21st century skills and competencies. What makes community schools unique is the combination of four key pillars (or features) that together create the conditions necessary for students to thrive. The pillars are: 1) integrated student supports; 2) expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities; 3) active family and community engagement; and 4) collaborative leadership and practices. - *Coalition for Community Schools*

Resources to learn more about Community Schools:

- [Community Schools as an Equitable School Improvement Strategy](#)
- [Community Schools Playbook](#)
- [KY Community Schools Initiative Brief](#)
- [Pillars, Pipelines, and Outcomes Overview](#)

Application Requirements and Recommendations

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

- Districts must identify two Title 1 eligible schools.
- The superintendent is the person completing this application or will approve the application once complete. There is a final question at the end of application to confirm approval.
- Districts will begin the hiring and MOA process by October 2023 with programming running through Dec. 31st 2027 (we anticipate an optional extension through June 30th, 2028).
- Districts must hire one full-time (1.0 FTE) Community Schools District Director (with full funding from Prichard Committee). Additional programming, evaluation and funding details can be found in a template of a District MOA [here](#).
- Superintendent/designee must be willing to provide data and input as part of the learning and development process.
- District is willing to share learnings statewide and nationally as appropriate or requested.

DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Each school should have 1 full-time Family Resource Youth Service Coordinator (FRYSC) i.e. the FRYSC coordinator should not be split among 2 or more schools. Exceptions may be considered based on rationale.
- Seek out and involve local Prichard Committee Members in the application process. Contact Screech@prichardcommittee.org if you aren't already connected to your local PC Members. You can access a list of the 2023 Prichard Committee members [here](#).
- Utilize [Community Profile](#) data found on the Prichard Committee website to inform application data requirements.

Application Overview

Section 1: Contact, District and Selected Schools Demographic Information (no points)

This information will be considered in the final selection of districts/schools to ensure diverse representation geographically, by grade levels, and students served.

Section 2: Readiness of leadership to embrace community schools as a transformative model for education: (25 points)

The Community School Strategy is a local engagement strategy that creates and coordinates opportunities with public school(s) to accelerate student success. It serves as a vehicle for hyper-local and inclusive decision-making that responds to the unique needs of each community. Community Schools is not a program but a strategy for mobilizing relationships and resources to ensure greater student success. This section measures district readiness to lead the implementation of such a process and requests a leadership statement about the belief in the power of community and family partnership.

The district must show commitment to exploring (with assistance from Prichard Committee staff) funding options and/or community partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the Community Schools District Director position.

Section 3: Proof of district and schools' current collaborative and innovative culture across the 4-pillars of community schools: (25 points)

Discuss and give examples of current district/school structures, strategies or plans for the Community School Pillars, Pipelines and evaluation requirements. Districts do not need to be addressing all components of the model but should provide examples of what is currently in place to build upon. You may provide examples at the district or individual school level or both. Be sure to include the role students, families, and communities play in these structures, strategies, or plans.

Other information

- Application open until Aug. 25th
- Applications are reviewed and approved by Prichard Committee and the Community Schools State Steering Committee
- Questions and support: brooke.gill@prichardcommittee.org
- Learn More on [Kentucky Community Schools Initiative](#)

Beginning District Application

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

Please select the checkbox beside each requirement to recognize you have met this requirement.

For reference, link to template of District MOA [here](#).

District has identified two Title 1 eligible schools.

The superintendent is the person completing this application or will approve the application once complete. There is a final question at the end of application to confirm approval.

- ✓ If selected, the district will begin the hiring and MOA process in October 2023 with programming running through Dec. 31st 2027 (we anticipate an optional extension through June 30th, 2028).
- ✓ District agrees to hire one full-time (1.0 FTE) Community Schools District Director (with full funding from the Prichard Committee).
- ✓ The superintendent/designee is willing to provide data and input as part of the learning and development process.
- ✓ District and school leadership has reviewed and feels confident they can commit to the overall scope of work and requirements found in the District MOA, link provided above.
- ✓ District is willing to share learnings statewide and nationally as appropriate or requested.

DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please comment on adherence to the following three application recommendations:

1. Each school should have 1 full-time Family Resource Youth Service Coordinator (FRYSC) i.e. the FRYSC coordinator should not be split among 2 or more schools. Exceptions may be considered based on rationale.
2. Seek out and involve local Prichard Committee Members in the application process. Contact Screech@prichardcommittee.org if you aren't already connected to your local PC Members.
3. Utilize [Community Profile](#) data found on the Prichard Committee website to inform application data requirements.

Section 1: Contact and District and School Information (no points)

This information will be considered in the final selection of districts/schools to ensure diverse representation geographically, by grade levels, and student served.

District Name *

Superintendent Name and Email-

Point of Contact/Person Completing Application (if Superintendent is completing application write N/A in this box)

Name:

Role in District/Title:

Email:

Phone:

Utilize your most recent data for the following. See Community Profiles on Prichard Committee website as an additional data source if needed.

District Information. Include the following in your response:

- K-readiness (Ex. Brigance)
- 3rd grade reading proficiency (Ex. KSA)
- 8th grade mathematics
- Graduation rates
- Student absenteeism
- % free and reduced lunch
- Demographic and subgroup breakdown including % free and reduced lunch, race, languages, and exceptional children.

School 1 Name

School 1 Information. Include the following in your response:

- Is there a Full-Time FRYSC at this school? Y/N. If not, why?
- Grade levels served
- K-readiness data (if Elementary)
- Reading and Math proficiency rates
- Graduation rates (if high school)
- Student absenteeism
- Demographic and subgroup breakdown

School 2 Name

School 2 Information. Include the following in your response:

- Is there a Full-Time FRYSC at this school? Y/N. If not, why?
- Grade levels served
- K-readiness data (if Elementary)
- Reading and Math proficiency rates
- Graduation rates (if high school)

- Student absenteeism
- Demographic and subgroup breakdown

Section 2: Readiness of leadership to embrace community schools as a transformative model for education: (25 points)

The Community School Strategy is a local engagement strategy that creates and coordinates opportunities with public school(s) to accelerate student success. It serves as a vehicle for hyper-local and inclusive decision-making that responds to the unique needs of each community. Community Schools is not a program but a strategy for mobilizing relationships and resources to ensure greater student success.

1. Prichard Committee will staff 5 state-level **Community School Coaches** to support selected district. Based on the definition listed above answer the follow two questions:

A. What skills and knowledge sets would your district/school see as a **current strength** that you could offer as a support to other districts/schools?

a. What do you see as the skills and knowledge sets your district **would need** from coaches and through peer learning experiences with other schools and/or districts in and out of state?

2. One of the first steps of implementing community schools is to create a community-wide leadership group. This consists of “power players” in your community (i.e. local government officials, faith-based leaders, union leaders, Prichard Committee members, etc.) who are essential to the success of this effort. Who would you note as power players in your district and why do you think they should be at the table? You may use the template provided here:

- Power Player Name:
- Power Player Role/ Affiliation:
- Why should this person be at the table?

3. What are the strengths of your **FRYSC** at the two selected schools? What opportunities do you see for FRYSC to play a more vital role as contributing members of the school/district leadership teams? What do you think creates the biggest challenge for your FRYSC?

4. Each pilot district will hire a **District Director** to help facilitate the implementation of community schools. What do you see as their primary role by reading the definition above and knowing the strengths and challenges within your district? How can this position be sustained post-grant through possible alternative funding sources and/or partnerships?

5. Overall, what do you foresee as the biggest needs related to coaching, capacity and culture across each of the 4 pillar areas? You may provide examples at the district or individual school level or both. [Click here for a definition of each Pillar.](#)

1. Active Family and Community Engagement
2. Collaborative Leadership to support high quality teaching
3. Expanded and Enriched learning times
4. Integrated Student Supports

6. Please provide a leadership statement about the district's belief in the power of community and family partnerships.

Section 3: Proof of district and schools' current collaborative and innovative culture across the 4 pillar of community schools: (25 points)

1. Pillars: Discuss and give examples of **current district/school structures, strategies or plans** for each of the evidence-based 4 pillars of community schools. *You may provide examples at the district or individual school level or both. Be sure to include the role students, families, and communities play in these structures, strategies, or plans.* [Click here for a definition of each Pillar.](#)

1. Active Family and Community Engagement
2. Collaborative Leadership to support high quality teaching
3. Expanded and Enriched learning times
4. Integrated Student Supports

2. Pipelines

Pipeline services for this project are defined in section 4622(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and means a continuum of coordinated supports, services, and opportunities for children from birth through entry into and success in postsecondary education and career attainment.

- A. High-quality early childhood education programs.
- B. High-quality school and out-of-school-time programs and strategies.
- C. Support for a child's transition to elementary school, from elementary school to^{SEP}middle school, from middle school to high school, and from high school into and^{SEP}through postsecondary education and into the workforce, including any^{SEP}comprehensive readiness assessment determined necessary.
- D. Family and community engagement and supports, which may include engaging or

supporting families at school or at home.

E. Activities that support postsecondary and workforce readiness, which may^[SEP] include job training, internship opportunities, and career counseling.

F. Community-based support for students who have attended the schools in the area served by the pipeline, or students who are members of the community, facilitating their continued connection to the community and success in postsecondary education and the workforce.

G. Social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports.

H. Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation programs

Each school will be required to have a total of 5 pipeline services. Please explain how each of the 2 schools is currently, addressing at least 2 pipelines from the list below. We understand there may overlap with the information you provided in response to the Pillars question.

- a. List at **least two pipeline services** that currently exist in your **first selected school**. Please also name the school in your response. *
- b. List at **least two pipeline services** that currently exist in your **second selected school**. Please also name the school in your response. *

3. **Evaluation Requirements:** Review the Required Indicators on page 3 of [this document](#).

The requirements listed on page 3 will be the key required data for all pilot districts. Does your district already have strategies in place to measure and improve any of these directly? Please note which measures and how you are currently working to address these through school-based or district-led initiatives.

Final Notes

1. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**
2. We confirm the District Superintendent has read and approved what is included in this application. *

Yes