



## Center for **Community Schooling**

The [UCLA Center for Community Schooling](#), in partnership with LAUSD and UTLA, is establishing a new Consortium of Community Schools aimed to document and elevate exceptional local community school practices. The UCLA Center for Community Schooling has invited six existing LAUSD community schools to serve as critical learning sites that can inform current efforts to expand the community school strategy across the district.

The district is home to a number of community schools that range in their partnerships, contexts, governance, grade spans, size, demographics, and transformation process. The UCLA Center for Community Schooling, for example, partners and supports the UCLA Community School at the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools, and the Mann UCLA Community School located in South Los Angeles. An opportunity to learn from these and other community schools will inform both local and national efforts to support this effective strategy to develop stronger communities and improve student outcomes. In particular, as the Community School Steering Committee (CSSC), in collaboration with the Local Options Oversight Committee (LOOC), implements a process that will guide and support the community school transformation process within the LAUSD, the UCLA Center for Community Schooling hopes to support these efforts by highlighting the ongoing work of existing community schools. To assist in sharing the work of the Consortium widely, this work will integrate with the existing research-practice partnership between the Los Angeles Education Research Institute (LAERI) and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The UCLA Consortium of Community Schools, supported by a grant from the Stuart Foundation, will provide an opportunity for participating schools to identify, study, and share a community school strategy that has been key to its school's growth and progress. The grant includes resources to support the engagement of a "teacher research fellow" at each site to partner with a UCLA researcher. These research-practice partnerships (RPPs) will focus on community school strategies that strengthen the teaching profession—guided by the belief that teacher voice and participation is foundational to community school transformation efforts. Importantly, school-level RPPs can provide a perspective that can inform and complement the broader, district-wide RPP discussions.

Teacher research fellows, will work with researchers from the UCLA Center for Community Schooling to identify, study, and share strategies that:

- enable collaborative leadership and shared decision-making among all stakeholders;
- establish a supportive professional learning environment that assists teachers in improving their practice, strengthens curriculum and instruction, addresses issues of sustainability, enables teachers to take on new roles, and fosters agency;
- support powerful teaching and student learning that provides rich, challenging and sustaining curricula and pedagogy that meets students' learning needs and is relevant to their lives.

In May 2020, the National Forum of the [National Coalition for Community Schools](#) will be held in Los Angeles. The UCLA Center for Community Schooling will co-host the event, in partnership with Families in Schools and the Los Angeles Education Partnership. The event will bring together over 5,000 community school practitioners, families, youth, community-based organizations, non-profit leaders, funders, and policymakers from across the country who are eager to learn from Los Angeles. Consortium sites will be invited to highlight their work by hosting a site visit and by leading a workshop at the National Forum.

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