How Much Funding Is Allocated to the Community Schools Program and for Which Services?

One of Mayor de Blasio’s earliest education initiatives sought to establish 100 “community schools” that provide a mix of academic and other supports to students and their families through partnerships with community-based organizations. By August 2018 there were more than 200 community schools.

Using data from the education department’s School Funding Transparency Form, IBO determined how many schools provide community school support services, what the different funding sources are, and how much funding is provided for the specific services. There are six categories of service: academic enrichment; health, mental health/counseling, and dental care; after school/extended day programs; nutrition services; legal services; and all other services.

- In total, 239 schools—out of the city’s 1,531 traditional public schools—benefit from $198.6 million in state, local, and federal funding to provide community school services this school year. These schools are receiving an average of $830,900, with allocations ranging from a minimum of about $83,300 to a maximum of nearly $5.9 million per school. These amounts include funds for health insurance and other fringe benefit costs that are traditionally budgeted centrally within the Department of Education, and pensions, which are typically budgeted outside of the Department of Education budget.

- Most schools rely on funds from a combination of sources to provide community school services. But this year 23 schools are relying solely on federal funds, receiving an average of $275,400. Another 17 schools are relying solely on funds from the state’s Foundation Aid Community School Set Aside. Each of these 17 schools is receiving $150,000.

- About 60 percent of this year’s funding, or roughly $118 million, is dedicated to providing enriched academic services.
- Community schools were allocated $39 million for after school/extended day programs, while more than $23 million is targeted for services categorized as all other.
- Allocations for health, mental health/counseling, and dental care total about $18 million.
- No school allocated funding for nutrition or legal services.

This NYC By The Numbers has been updated to reflect new information provided by the Department of Education after it was published—and a month after we had discussed this with department staff.

SOURCE: New York State School Funding Transparency Form, 2018-2019 school year