

New York State Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers 2024 Impact Report

New York State Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers (CSTACs)

The New York State 2017-18 Enacted Budget first allocated funds to operate three regional technical assistance centers to support its investment in community schools funding to districts. The CSTACs disseminate information on effective and promising practices in the establishment and management of Community School strategies through professional learning and technical assistance designed to accomplish the following:

- Familiarize school personnel across New York State with Community School strategies,
- Increase the knowledge and skills of school personnel and community partners to aid in the implementation, management, and sustainability of Community Schools,
- Promote the establishment and development of Community Schools that incorporate a rigorous academic program with strong supports, a full range of school-based and school-linked programs and services, and partnerships in collaboration with the local community,
- Provide school districts with the tools to design and implement assets and needs assessments that will provide the data to effectively target Community School resources,
- Increase New York's capacity to support effective Community School strategies; and
- Identify and evaluate the school districts' needs within a region to provide tailored technical assistance and professional learning.

The **Central/Western CSTAC at the Research Foundation for the State University of New York at Binghamton University (C/W-CSTAC)** serves the central and western regions. The **New York City CSTAC at Fordham University (NYC-CSTAC)** serves the five boroughs. The **Eastern CSTAC at Fordham University (E-CSTAC)** serves the eastern portion of the State from the North Country to Long Island, excluding New York City. The CSTACs are overseen by the **New York State Education Department's Office of Student Support Services**.

Services

Since their commencement in late 2018/early 2019, the three CSTACs have collectively offered the following resources and services to schools across the state:

- A [website](#) providing contact information and event listings for each CSTAC and curated resources including evidence-based and promising practices, and recorded webinars.
- A monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the CSTACs, highlighting resources, and providing spotlight features on New York Community Schools doing promising work.
- Technical assistance via phone and email with school staff and community partners.
- **436** on-site or remote technical assistance visits to school districts.
- **249** in-person or remote sessions focused on developing smaller communities of practice within each region. These events have collectively served **18,176** attendees.
- **64** webinars providing professional learning on topics of interest have served **8,338** participants.

2024 Impact Highlights

The CSTACs offer critically needed support to schools and districts through professional learning on topics aligned with a community school strategy, including implementation science, multi-tiered systems of support, family engagement, trauma-responsive strategies, diversity, equity, and inclusion, chronic absenteeism, and more. They reported the following highlights in 2024:

- Grounded in the *Community Schools Forward Essentials for Community School Transformation Framework*, the CSTACs have established a shared foundation for supporting and advancing community school strategies across New York. The Framework provides a shared understanding of the key components necessary for successful implementation, including integrated student supports, active family and community engagement, expanded learning time, and collaborative leadership. By aligning technical assistance and professional learning, the CSTACs bring a cohesive and impactful approach to addressing the diverse needs of schools, families, and communities.
- The CSTACs' website had over 7,000 visits and more than 37,000 page views in 2024, of which 19% were from new site visitors.
- The website's resource portal is a searchable database to support all aspects of the Community Schools strategy, including diversity, equity, and inclusion. Over 40 new resources including articles, videos, and podcasts were added in 2024, bringing the total to about 345.
- A monthly newsletter is distributed to an audience of 2,205 across the state.
- At the "Collective Impact" mini-conference hosted by the C/W-CSTAC, attendees from across the region collaborated on actionable strategies, leaving energized and inspired to strengthen the Community Schools strategy in their districts.
- In collaboration with regional stakeholders, E-CSTAC provided impactful workshops on culturally responsive-sustaining strategies, addressing the effects of trauma on students and families to create more inclusive learning environments.
- NYC-CSTAC hosted New Community S Institute sessions every 4-6 weeks, ensuring new Community School Directors could access training within 30-45 days of hiring, reducing delays compared to the previous wait time of 90-120 days.
- E-CSTAC facilitated needs assessments across multiple districts, creating a foundation for strategic and targeted implementation of community school strategies.
- The C/W-CSTAC's rollout of the "Community Schools Leadership Toolkit" provided district leaders with a practical, inspiring resource to guide their work. Participants left with clear action steps to bring the strategy to life in their school.
- NYC-CSTAC conducted collaborative site visits with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), facilitating shared learning opportunities for school-based personnel from multiple schools aligned with the same CBO.
- E-CSTAC supported the effective implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in community schools, equipping educators with tools to meet students' holistic needs and foster nurturing educational spaces.
- Regional roundtables hosted by the C/W-CSTAC brought together district leaders and BOCES partners to address shared challenges, foster collaboration, and spark innovation. These conversations have planted seeds for new partnerships and creative solutions to persistent barriers.
- NYC-CSTAC introduced improvement science strategies to attendance teams, enabling them to use Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to test and refine their approaches.