PRIMER

California Community Schools Partnership Program and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Fee Schedule Program

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California Community Schools Partnership Program and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Fee Schedule Program

In the past five years, California has made historic investments to support children's educational and behavioral health outcomes. Two hallmark initiatives of this investment are the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). These two groundbreaking initiatives spurred a reimagining of what it means to be an educational institution in California supporting student, family, and community success.

This primer provides an overview of each initiative and an analysis of the opportunity to bring the initiatives together to maximize impact for children and youth. Specifically, the goal of this primer is to provide a foundational understanding of both the CCSPP and the CYBHI Fee Schedule program for implementers at school sites, local educational agencies (LEAs), and county offices of education (COEs) who may only be familiar with one initiative or the other, with an aim to support alignment and coherence across initiatives.

What is CCSPP?

In 2021, the California Department of Education (CDE) launched the CCSPP. The CCSPP supports schools in partnering with community agencies and local governments to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.[1]

In total, the State has allocated over $4 billion dollars of its budget to support the CCSPP planning and implementation grants to LEAs, the development of a State Transformational Assistance Center (S-TAC), and the development of eight Regional Transformational Assistance Centers (R-TACs). The CCSPP grants have been distributed to hundreds of LEAs across California which have taken various approaches to implement the California Community Schools Framework.

The California Community Schools Framework

The California Community Schools Framework defines community schools as any school serving prekindergarten through high school students using a "whole-child" approach, with "an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement." As a school improvement strategy, community schools enable the LEA and school sites to work closely with educators, students, and families to understand and address the unique needs, assets, and aspirations of the school community.

[1]To learn more about the CCSPP, see the California Department of Education California Community Schools Partnership Program webpage at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/ccspp.asp.

The CCSPP program is grounded in "The Four Pillars" model to support the whole child. The Four Pillars are:

- Integrated support;
- Family and community engagement;
- Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators; and
- Extended learning time and opportunities.

The Framework adds four supplemental components to enrich the overarching community schools' pillars:

1. **Four key learning conditions** based on the science of learning and development, including: supportive environmental conditions, productive instructional strategies, social–emotional learning (SEL), and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS).
2. **Four cornerstone commitments** to support equity of implementation across all California community schools, including: asset-driven and strength-based practice; racially just and restorative school climates; powerful, culturally proficient and relevant instruction; and shared decision making and participatory practices.
3. **Four proven practices** to guide and support implementation by school sites including: community asset mapping and gap analysis; community schools coordinators, site-based and LEA-based advisory councils; and program integration.
4. **Four key roles** to support implementation, including: LEAs, COEs as Service Coordinators, R-TACs, and the CDE for support, infrastructure, and technical assistance.

The pillars, key learning conditions, cornerstone commitments, proven practices, and key roles are foundational to planning and implementing the community schools' vision at sites and LEAs. To operationalize the framework, the S-TAC created the Capacity-Building Strategies, a rubric that is intended to serve as a road map for both LEAs and school sites as they work towards transforming their schools into community schools.[2] The Capacity-Building Strategies rubric provides equity-based, nimble parameters for community schools to define and shape their planning and implementation efforts and operationalize the overall Framework.[3]

Community Schools: Looking Ahead

The 2026–27 Governor's budget, Assembly Bill 126 Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill, reflects an ongoing commitment to funding community schools and allocates $1 billion per year in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to support the funding of existing and additional community school sites across California.[4]

[2] State Transformational Assistance Center. 2026. *California Community Schools Capacity-Building Strategies*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tKGUwNdqOq1gvF6he8NhWn4bHRRktxlF/view.

[3] To learn more about the California Community Schools Framework, see: Statewide Transformational Assistance Center. 2022. *California Community Schools Framework*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jwnfcaxVVFaVoPdrvbTLaa0Ex0EQ5xZg/view.

[4] Assembly Bill 126, 2025–2026. Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB126.

What is CYBHI?

The CYBHI is a five-year, more than $4 billion initiative that is transforming the way California supports children, youth and families.[5] Launched in 2021, and concluded in June of 2026, the initiative included 20 workstreams in four strategic areas: workforce training and capacity; behavioral health ecosystem and infrastructure; coverage; and public awareness. Through these strategic areas, the CYBHI helped California kids access support for their mental health and address substance use challenges in the locations, hours, and ways they need it most.

What is the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program?

One of the programs launched through the CYBHI is the CYBHI Fee Schedule program, administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The DHCS Small and Rural Implementation Toolkit describes the program as follows:

> "The CYBHI Fee Schedule Program helps schools and other eligible providers receive reimbursement for certain behavioral health services provided to children and youth. By participating in the program, local educational agencies (LEAs), public institutions of higher education (IHEs), and designated community-based school-linked providers can bill for eligible outpatient behavioral health services delivered to students under age 26 in school and school-linked settings. The program is administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in partnership with Carelon Behavioral Health (Carelon) as the program Third-Party Administrator (TPA)."[6]

The CYBHI Fee Schedule program provides a new ongoing reimbursement pathway, and is an exciting opportunity for LEAs, IHEs, and designated community-based school-linked providers to fund eligible services. To participate in the CYBHI Fee Schedule program, eligible entities (LEAs, IHEs, and designated community-based providers) must meet several operational requirements outlined in the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program Manual.[7]

CYBHI: Looking Ahead

While the CYBHI initiative sunset in June of 2026, the CYBHI Fee Schedule program will continue to be implemented across the state. The DHCS continues to onboard LEAs, IHEs, and designated community-based providers to the CYBHI Fee Schedule program and provides technical assistance, in partnership with the School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grant, to support operational readiness.[8]

[5] For information about the CYBHI initiative, see the CYBHI website at **https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/about**.

[6] Department of Health Care Services. 2026. *Small and Rural LEA and IHE Implementation Toolkit*. **https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Small-and-Rural-LEA-IHE-Implementation-Toolkit.pdf**.

[7] Department of Health Care Services. 2025. *Guidance for Local Educational Agencies and Institutions of Higher Education*. **https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CYBHI-Fee-Schedule-Program-Requirements-August-2025.pdf**.

[8] To learn more about the School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grant, please see the School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grant website at **slbhcapacity.org**.

An Opportunity: Aligning Community Schools and the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program

Educational funding in California has historically resulted in the siloing and segmentation of programming, often based on short-term, one-time funding or grants. The language in the 2026–27 Governor's budget reflects a statewide commitment to thinking about how existing state-funded programs can function together coherently. The language in the education omnibus trailer bill specifically uplifts the need to integrate "the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Fee Schedule program, universal school meals program, California State Preschool Program, and universal transitional kindergarten" as a part of community schools implementation.[9] The $1 billion per year in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to support existing and additional community school sites across California marks a new opportunity for LEAs to build integrated, child- and family-centered schools that support not only academic outcomes, but also the behavioral health, social–emotional health, and well-being of our children, family, and communities. The CYBHI Fee Schedule program supplements this historic investment by providing a reimbursement pathway for eligible services that schools may already be providing, or that they may seek to provide as a part of their community schools implementation.

This opportunity encourages educational institutions to pause and reflect:

1. How can LEAs align existing programs to create a coherent school system that supports the whole-child, their families, their communities, and the staff that operationalize services?
2. What existing tools can be used to align programs and systems towards a common vision and goal? How can LEAs align LCAPs with community schools implementation plans and behavioral health programming strategies?
3. How can LEAs build teams that maximize coherence across different initiatives and programs? Who needs to be in the room to operationalize the transformative change required for the community schools' model to be successful?

This primer focuses on the opportunity for integrating the CCSPP and the CYBHI Fee Schedule program. However, that is not where the integration should stop. As the legislative text outlines, there are other relevant state initiatives that need to be integrated into community schools' implementation. While focused on just one intersection of initiatives, this primer and the subsequent toolkit and case studies offer a starting point by which integration can be explored at the nexus of community schools and the CYBHI Fee Schedule program.

[9] Assembly Bill 126, 2025–2026. Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB126.

Up Next

This memo is part of a larger series exploring the connections between the CCSPP and the CYBHI Fee Schedule program.

- **Part 2** of this memo series will provide a toolkit for how to take the California Community Schools Capacity-Building Strategies and apply them to building school-linked behavioral health capacity in LEAs.
- **Part 3** will uplift case studies of two COEs and a LEA that are already integrating the community schools' model with their CYBHI Fee Schedule work.

This series was developed collaboratively between the California Community Schools State Transformational Assistance Center, Capitol Area Regional Transformational Assistance Center, School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grant program, and the Glen Price Group.

CYBHI Fee Schedule x Community Schools Memo Series Overview

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