Supporting the whole child effectively, cost-efficiently, and at scale

National Conference of State Legislatures: Whole Child Advisory
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● **Science:** Why whole child and school-community partnerships
● **Evidence-based example:** City Connects
● **Data:** Outcomes and cost-effectiveness
● **Scaling:** Springfield, Indiana, and Ireland
● **Policy:** Implications and resources for action
Scientists tell us that it’s not just harder to learn with hunger, unmet medical needs, or trauma. These experiences can also undermine a child’s ability to pay attention, regulate emotions and behaviors, and organize and remember information – the very things required for academic learning, holding a job, and contributing to our shared prosperity.
Scientists also give us a story of hope and resiliency. Where the stresses and deprivations of poverty -- or a pandemic -- undermine healthy development and readiness to learn, they can be countered with protective relationships, resources, and opportunities tailored to the experiences, strengths, and needs of each child and family.
A student’s home, school, and neighborhood all influence development, and one another.
An evidence-based approach to student support with significant implications for policy

Developed and implemented 20 years ago

In 146 schools across five states and the nation of Ireland

Expanding with the development of a Midwest technical assistance center

Can work in any school and be customized to child, school, local context
The current state of student support
Transform Service Delivery and Coordination

- Social and family services
- Academics
- Health and wellbeing
- Social emotional behavioral
- Safety
City Connects Core Practice
Whole child, whole school, whole community
A System of Personalized Supports and Opportunities

Community-based supports
- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Intensive Intervention

School-based supports
- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Intensive Intervention
Higher scores on statewide tests
Dropout rates for sub-groups

- Black Males Comparison
- Latino Males City Connects
- Latino Males Comparison

[Bar chart showing dropout rates for different sub-groups]
There is growing scientific evidence that integrated student support can lead to positive outcomes for students.
Integrated Student Support can be Cost-Efficient

- When accounting for both the cost of implementation and the cost of comprehensive services to which children and families get connected, City Connects produces $3 in benefits for every $1 invested across all sectors.

- If effective integrated student support were widely implemented, existing investments in children and families could produce triple the benefits.

New: an average of $5,400/student worth of services from community partners are leveraged in support of student wellbeing and readiness to learn, driving outcomes.
Local, state, and national policymakers are supporting scaled implementation

- Began in Boston, MA
- Expanded to Springfield, MA
- Developed online systems to ensure quality implementation (fidelity), consistent delivery of professional development, resources
- Coaching and TA
- Expanded to OH, MN, NY, IN
- 146 schools (public, charter, private)
- Irish national government is piloting and adapting City Connects to its educational system, to make this the national approach to student support in all of its schools serving children from low-income families

CITY Connects MIDWEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

- Visionary leadership, local champions
- Partnering with Marian University’s Center for Vibrant Schools
- Developing TA capacity at Marian
- Implementing City Connects in 34 schools in IN and 9 schools in OH
Federal resources can be used for evidence-based “Integrated Student Support”

Every Student Succeeds Act an allowable use of Titles I and IVA

Allowable use of ESSER funds and City Connects is in the US DOE ARP ESSER FAQ Guidance
Policy Resources

Policy Brief

Building Systems of Integrated Student Support
A Policy Brief for Local and State Leaders

Introduction
State and local leaders help to fund and govern schools, social services agencies, youth development programs, health, and mental health providers that serve children, youth, and families. When leaders examine the existing range of programs, services, agencies, and funding streams in the context of deep needs among children and persistent academic achievement and opportunity gaps, important ways to coordinate these efforts are often hard to identify and hard to coordinate. The right framework and coordinated strategies can improve student outcomes. This brief provides strategies to support leaders and decision makers, with an emphasis on effective implementation of integrated student support.

Integrated student support is a strategy for promoting students’ academic success by securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement to order to improve student outcomes.

Policy Toolkit

Integrated Student Supports
State Policy Toolkit

Center for Optimized Student Support
Boston College
Recommendations on how to:

- Advance integrated student support policy
- Support adoption of evidence-based models
- Support improved practice at scale
- Reduce barriers to resource integration
Integrated Student Supports State Policy Toolkit

- Enacted and proposed legislation and scientific guidance
- Model legislative language for state legislators
- Protocol language for state education agencies
Thank you!

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Contact us if we can help you!

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