

## **Resourcing our public schools to meet the academic and non-academic needs of all students**

Our students are coming to school with more and more non-academic needs, many of which are created or exacerbated by poverty. In order to meet those needs so that students can focus on learning, we have to re-think what is included in an educational setting.

ESSA provides for funding for full-service community learning centers such as the successful model in Cincinnati. This model addresses non-academic and academic needs of children. These resources can help explain how community learning centers are successful:

- Transforming Struggling Schools into Thriving Schools  
([http://www.southerneducation.org/Publications/Community-Schools-Layout\\_021116.aspx](http://www.southerneducation.org/Publications/Community-Schools-Layout_021116.aspx))
- Coalition for Community Schools  
([http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/what\\_is\\_a\\_community\\_school.aspx](http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/what_is_a_community_school.aspx))

Under ESSA, states are still required to identify the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools in the state that receive Title I funding, all high schools that graduate less than two-thirds of their students, as well as schools where any subgroups consistently underperform. The prescriptive school closings, personnel requirements, and punitive sanctions of NCLB and Race to the Top have been removed. States and districts now are required to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop local plans that are evidence-based for turning around schools. In addition, with ESSA, Ohio can:

- Promote and expand the community learning center model.
- Amend HB 70 to remove sections that take away local stakeholder engagement and that direct resources outside the traditional public school system.
- Provide funding to resource schools to meet the academic and non-academic needs of children.

[www.ESSAOpportunity.org](http://www.ESSAOpportunity.org)