



# Together for Students



# Poll Question

---

## What is your current calling?

- Community Schools Coordinator
- Teacher
- School Administrator
- Family Engagement Staff
- School Support Staff (Social Worker, Behavior Tech.)
- Community-based Organization leader/staff
- Community Organizer
- Funder
- Municipal leader/staff
- Other



# Poll Question

---

**If you are a local affiliate of any of the national partners, please identify which one.**

- Coalition for Community Schools
- Communities In Schools
- StriveTogether





---

## Session Objectives:

- Participants will learn about the impact of collaborative leadership and how leveraging the collective resources and wisdom of national partners has led to supporting coordinated efforts for systems change in local communities.
- Participants will learn how local communities are working together to improve a range of population-level outcomes related to learning and well-being across the cradle-to-career continuum, by developing and implementing a blueprint for student-centered learning.
- Participants will explore how they can apply the five Together for Students principles (trusting relationships, cross-sector partnerships, purposeful engagement, actionable data, shared accountability) to their local efforts to promote collaborative leadership practices for systems change.
- Participants will gain knowledge of best practices and lessons learned from the thriving Together for Students initiative.



---

# Context

- TFS is funded as an innovation grant by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI),
- The Together For Students initiative's aim is to accelerate the progress of local communities in transforming how they meet the needs of individual learners, particularly the most vulnerable.
- TFS captures how collaborative leadership practices and collective impact is leading to systems change both locally and nationally to improve a range of population-level outcomes related to learning and well-being across the cradle-to-career continuum .
- TFS is a partnership between three influential national partners, the Coalition for Community Schools, Communities In Schools and StriveTogether to support the work of local affiliates for population level and systems change.





# Initial Planning and Implementation

- Began with 10 communities that received one-year planning grants to implement their community blueprints. (Milwaukee, WI, Nashville, TN, Vancouver, WA, Fresno, CA, Birmingham, AL, Washington, DC, Dayton, OH, Chicago, IL, Lehigh Valley, PA and Memphis, TN.)
- National Partners selected 4 of the 10 planning grant communities to receive a combined \$3.75 million, over three years, to implement their plans:
  - ✓ **Dayton, OH, Chicago, IL, Lehigh Valley, PA and Memphis, TN.**
- Efforts showcase how collaborative decision-making among families, educators, and partners can create better outcomes for nearly **100,000 youth**, while highlighting key insights to disseminate these lessons with the broader field.
- The 6 planning communities that did not receive the 3-year implementation grants also received some financial support for an additional year and have sustained many of the efforts to implement their blueprints long-term.



# Grant Expectations

---

1. Quarterly check-in calls

2. Monthly posting and engagement in the TFS learning community

3. Annual convenings with Aligned Network Partners

4. Completion of an annual action plan

5. Participation in annual site visit by Aligned Network Partners

6. Annual grant reports w/financials



# Progress Update: Year 1

- Each implementation community:
  - ✓ participated in one on one calls to identify their measures of success , discuss their action plan, and create a timeline.
  - ✓ participated in site visits conducted by the TFS national partners.
  - ✓ attended quarterly technical assistance calls, conducted by national partners, to share key learnings and to access support.
  - ✓ participated in TFS' first annual convening on September 11, 2019 that brought together the implementation communities and national partners as part of the TFS Partners' knowledge and learning strategy.
  - ✓ completed reports to communicate year 1 progress, best practices and lessons learned. National partners also submitted reports.





# 5 Principles for Alignment

---

Trusting Relationships

Cross-sector Partnerships

Purposeful Engagement

Actionable Data

Shared Accountability

# Bright Spots: Chicago

---

- Data systems
- Strategic hiring practices
- Collaborative process for organizing the work



# Bright Spots: Dayton

---

- Process of data collection and communication
- Stakeholder buy-in
- Family engagement efforts



## Bright Spots: Lehigh Valley

- School-based leadership structures and alignment of to the instructional core
- Micro- credentials program
- Community Schools leadership development



# Bright Spots: Memphis

- The “Hub” strategy for Community Schools
- Continuum of school supports based on the Community Schools stages of development
- Incorporation of community culture (the arts)





# Technical Assistance

---



- CCS, StriveTogether, and CIS can provide ‘Partner Time’ and technical assistance at the initiative partner level to lead, coordinate and support implementation sites.
- The appropriate aligned partner can conduct a TA needs assessment and deploy staff/faculty to implementation sites upon request.
- This TA ‘Partner Time’ will be done at a cost by one of the aligned partners.



# Local Lessons & Opportunities



Initiatives are different in scope, but local communities can build capacity by leveraging best practices and bright spots from their peers.

Communities have an appreciation for national support and the fact that the national partners are also working to align their efforts.

Opportunities exist to codify some of the high-level systems, practices and processes that existed prior to implementation of TFS and to document how the grant resources have positively impacted the overall efforts.

There is genuine effort at the local level to focus on the core work and really address some of the barriers to progress.

Local communities have generally overcome obstacles related to timeline delays and have stayed on track.

The partnerships, collaborative leadership practices and coordinating infrastructure of the TFS initiative helped to facilitate the local communities' responses to the recent pandemic and racial injustices.

# National Lessons & Opportunities

Codify our national journey and process of aligning of our efforts.

Conduct of crosswalk of our national models to identify complimentary practices and organizational strengths to align efforts and maximize our impact nationally and locally.

Be more intentional in considering collective place-based strategy work beyond the four TFS communities in the future.

Emphasize the role of the national aligned partners as TA providers and create a catalog of offerings for local communities.

Identify products we can create as a partnership to communicate progress and key data for funders and the overall field.

Consider lessons learned and adjust timeline of events to meet changing conditions. Remain nimble and flexible to adjust to an everchanging landscape as we support local and national TFS efforts.





---

## A Look Ahead: Year 2

- Annual site visits to provide support to the to TFS communities and capture learnings for the creation of the blueprint.
- The creation of a TFS data dashboard capturing vital information on the work
- The generation of a set of shareable case studies on the TFS communities and other communications to capture the learning to share with the field
- Continued support to communities in the form of one on one calls, quarterly calls and online community.
- Continue to capture best practices and lessons learned at the local and national levels.
- Annual TFS convening in Fall of 2020.
- TFS national partner technical assistance for identified opportunity areas.
- Additional technical support to assist with any challenges presented by the pandemic and racial injustices
- Communicate progress and recommendations to the field based on local and national best practices and lessons learned.



# Together for Students

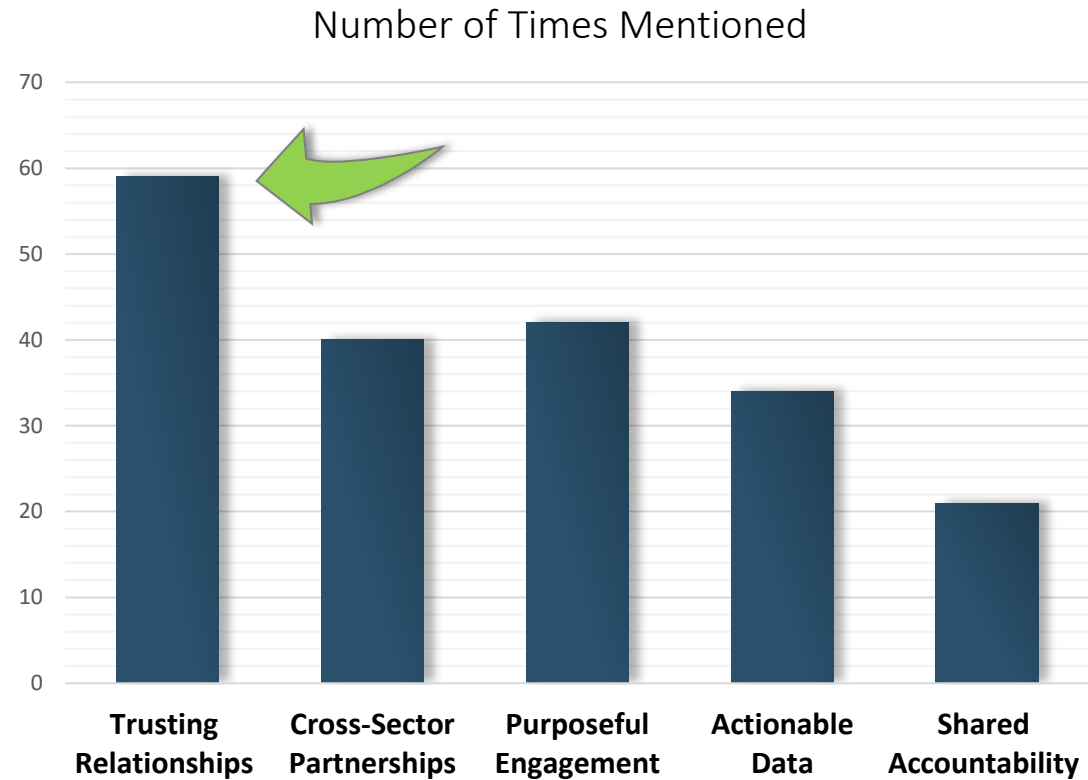


# Core Principles

---

The National Partners and the Local Implementation Sites use all the TFS core principles.

But... Trusting Relationships is the most important.





# Core Principles

---

*“At the end of the day, **it's all about relationships**. It's all about negotiating all of the time. And it's about finding the people that have ‘yes’ on their heart for the work. That's how you're going to make traction and make things move. It is all about how we're building relationships, **authentic, true, honest relationships**.”*



# Other Conditions for Success

---

Other factors also support long-term success. Productive partnerships grow when groups:

Have a **Collective Impact Mindset**

Create **Shared Goals**

Look for **Win-Win Opportunities**

Acknowledge and leverage their **Partners' Unique Strengths**

Allow **Flexibility and Compromise**

# Poll Question

Which of the following topics would you like to learn more about? (select up to 3)

- Building trusting relationships
- Managing cross-sector partnerships
- Designing opportunities for purposeful engagement
- Using actionable data
- Establishing shared accountability
- Creating conditions for success in collective impact work
- Overcoming common challenges in collective impact work
- The experience of a specific TFS implementation city: Chicago, Dayton, Lehigh Valley, or Memphis. **(Please specify which location in the chat box)**
- Other **(Please specify in the chat box)**



# Poll Question

---

**What would be the best way for us to share information about these topics with you?  
(Select one)**

- Webinar
- Comprehensive technical report
- Short brief or article
- Short video
- Other (Please specify in the chat box)



# Questions and Thoughts

---

Are there any questions or thoughts you would like to share with us about the TFS initiative?

