The Wayne County Full-Service Community Schools initiative is designed to promote and develop Culturally Responsive Trauma-Informed Community Schools that organize a continuum of evidenced-based and restorative practices using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to transform four high-needs rural schools in Wayne County, NY into places of partnership that generate equity and provide all students with safe and supportive school environments. Students will experience success and find their pathway forward as students, families, community organizations, government agencies, and school districts work toward common goals that address root causes of urgent concerns facing our young people. Sodus Central School District will serve as the LEA. Consortium districts include Clyde-Savannah CSD, North Rose- Wolcott CSD, and Lyons CSD. All consortium school districts are Title I recipients, with a combined F/RL rate of 61%. This initiative will serve more than 1,700 students enrolled in 6th through 12th grades.

Existing pipeline services include dual-enrollment programs, mentoring, after-school programs, satellite mental health clinics, and evidenced-based prevention curriculums. These existing services are available to middle and high school students, but are currently more effectively integrated at the elementary schools. New pipeline services will create school-based food pantries, medical and dental clinics, tutoring, and cultural change through restorative practices. We will focus on our high schools, using a comprehensive needs assessment to address the source of issues like substance abuse, truancy, school climate, and health concerns.

Our project is trauma-informed, following the template of the nationally recognized Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative. This national model offers a foundation of resilience that defines our key project goals: 1) Wellness 2) Attachment 3) Self-Regulation 4) Competency – academic and non-academic and 5) Deeper collaboration. Key outcomes of our work include improved academic scores, increased attendance, and lower suspensions, but we also will see more young people eating healthy, possessing self-efficacy, gaining awareness of career opportunities, and engaging in extracurricular opportunities. Cohesion of services will be made possible by a Multi-Tiered System of Supports -- this is an evidenced based framework. Teams will arrange services designed for all students, early intervention for small groups of students, and specific supports for young people who require intensive services to succeed on the face of significant challenges. The MTSS Framework requires the use of data to inform our practices, which include several promising practices identified by What Works Clearinghouse as impactful programs. The community partners will be integral members of these teams. Our four schools will partner with more than 30 agencies through the Wayne County Partnership for Strengthening Families. An interagency collaborative planning group focused on resource alignment, the Partnership will provide a venue for our Community School Coordinators to deepen supports for our most vulnerable students. Key partners include the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office and Wayne County Departments of Youth, Public Health, and Mental Health. Ultimately, the work will allow Wayne County to fortify and expand Community Schools principles and practices that have been more prominent in the elementary schools. Community Schools work in the high schools will directly impact the ability of our young people to access careers and enhance supports at a time when they are making critical choices about their futures.