

**Full-Service Community Schools Program (FSCS)
Project Abstract FY 2022**

Applicant Name: Taos Municipal Schools District

Project Title: Taos Community Schools Continuum

Absolute Priority the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

- Absolute Priority 1 – Title IA Schoolwide Program Eligibility
- Absolute Priority 2 – Title IA Schoolwide Eligibility and Rural Districts – Small and Rural or Rural and Low-Income
- Absolute Priority 3 – Capacity Building and Development Grants
- Absolute Priority 4 – Multi-Local Educational Agency Grants
- Absolute Priority 5 – FSCS State Scaling Grants

Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

- Competitive Preference Priority 1—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic
- Competitive Preference Priority 2—Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change

Total number local educational agencies (LEAs) to be served by the project: 1

Total number of schools to be served by the project: 5

Total estimated number of students to be served by the project: 1,929

Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: Taos Municipal Schools District (TMSD) in Taos County, NM proposes to plan, develop, implement, operate, and study five full-service community schools in the district: Enos Garcia Elementary School (EGES), Ranchos Elementary School (RES), Arroyos Del Norte Elementary School (ADNES), Taos Middle School (TMS), and Taos High School (THS). The Taos Community Schools Continuum project seeks to plan and develop a continuum of services and supports between all five schools to enhance student success, strengthen families and communities, and build capacity between collaborating community schools in this rural, high-poverty region over five years (2022-2027). EGES has 465 students enrolled, RES has 263 students enrolled, ADNES has 106 students enrolled, TMS has 392 students enrolled, and THS has 703 students enrolled for a total of 1,929 students served along with teachers, administrators, and parents/caregivers. The project activities include preliminary district-wide planning, broad community engagement and needs assessments, implementation in all five schools, and data collection and evaluation for continuous quality improvement and project sustainability.

Along with enhanced in-school services, student supports, and family/school partnerships, a primary component of the program model is a community/school Food Sovereignty Program that will augment

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these programs and bridge between the schools as part of the continuum. EGES has an established Farm-to-School program and vegetable garden, created in partnership with Agriculture Implementation Research & Education (AIRE) and Taos Land Trust. RES and TMS have gardens and seek to purchase grow domes, ADNES has a greenhouse and THS has a grow dome – both of which supply food to their Farm to School programs. In a 2022 Needs Assessments survey distributed by EGES, and preliminary surveys distributed by RES and ADNES, 75-80% of parents counted food security and behavioral health services as the top priorities. In the planning phase, the Taos Community Schools Continuum project will create food sovereignty programs with local agencies to provide access to healthy local food at each school, and coordinate agricultural learning programs to connect students to traditional and historical agricultural practices of the region. This program addresses community-identified needs and delivers services in accordance with federally-defined Community Schools pipelines for: out-of-school and after-school programming, family and community engagements and supports; activities that support postsecondary/workforce readiness; community-based support for students; and social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports.

This proposal meets Absolute Priorities 2 and 3 and Competitive Preference Priorities 1 and 2:

Absolute Priority 2 (Title IA Schoolwide Eligibility and Rural Districts): TMSD has Title IA Schoolwide Eligibility per sections 1114(b) and 1115(b). Taos County is federally designated as rural. The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty in Taos County is 24.9%, higher than the nation's 16.8% ((NM Department of Health). 100% of students at all five schools are free and reduced lunch eligible.

Absolute Priority 3 (Capacity Building and Development Grants): The Taos Community Schools Continuum will conduct initial planning and development activities, in addition to preliminary planning already underway, to coordinate activities and implement a district-wide Community Schools model. This planning will include: extensive community engagement; needs assessments and asset mapping; collaborative leadership with school administrators, nonprofits and other agencies; and hiring coordinators to facilitate the work.

Competitive Preference Priority 1 (Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs) Schools in the TCS Continuum have various wraparound supports and services in place at different schools, including behavioral health services in partnership with Taos Behavioral Health and SEL4NM, and academic enhancement programs in partnership with Bridges Project for Education, Embudo Valley Tutoring Association, University of New Mexico-Taos, INSPIRE Bi-lingual Early Learning Program, and other local nonprofit organizations serving student and family social, emotional, and academic need. TMSD has a district-wide Equity Council and a Housing Liaison to focus on vulnerable and underserved populations. Through community partnerships, needs assessments, and collaborative leadership, the TCS Continuum will deepen this work within our schools using evidence-based strategies supported by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, Tiers 1-3) based around the four pillars of Community Schools (reference Appendix A).

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Competitive Preference Priority 2 (Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change): The Taos Community Schools Continuum leverages the groundwork initially laid by the Taos School Zone coalition at Enos Garcia Elementary School to make community schools across Taos County a reality. It uses a Community Engagement Model (supported by ESSA Tiers 1-3), to create and ensure cross-agency collaboration, broad community engagement, and equitable access to resources, training, and decision-making.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: Across the Taos County community's wide-ranging risk factors and demonstrated need, EGES, RES, ADNES, TMS, and THS come together under the Taos Community Schools Continuum to work toward five critical goals, aligned with the Community Schools Model:

GOAL 1: District-wide Implementation of the Community Schools Model

Outcomes: Established infrastructure for district-wide system of community schools; Increased collaboration and planning between school leadership within the district; Improved equity in training opportunities for coordinators, teachers, and administrators; Increased access to supports and services for all students in TMSD.

GOAL 2: Continuum of Services and Supports Between Community Schools

Outcomes: Improved transitions for students between schools to support social and emotional needs as well as academic success; Coordinated district-wide system to address student engagement and need; Coordinated pipeline of in-school, after-school, and out-of-school time programs that address student social, emotional, and academic needs; Enhanced community partnerships to address student and family needs.

GOAL 3: Enhanced Student Success

Outcomes: Increased school attendance; Improved classroom achievement; Increased access to after school and out-of-school time programs; Enhanced community partnerships to address student and family needs.

GOAL 4: Stronger Families and Communities

Outcomes: Enhanced parent/family engagement; Increased access to family supports and services; Increased community understanding of and participation in the community school model; Improved continuity and relevancy of cultural/linguistic family supports.

GOAL 5: Food Sovereignty Program

Outcomes: Increased food security for families and children; Increased access to local food sources; Increased student connections to traditional and cultural agricultural practices of the region; Continuum of K-12 food learning programs.

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EGES received a Community Schools Planning Grant from the New Mexico Public Education Department for 2020-21; they have completed comprehensive initial needs assessments and asset maps, have hired staff, and have begun developing community partnerships under the Community Schools model. RES and ADNES received Community Schools Planning Grants from New Mexico Public Education Department for 2022-23; they are planning initial needs assessments and asset maps, are hiring staff, and have begun partnering with EGES for planning and development. With this proposal, TMSD seeks to plan and develop the full-service community schools model at TMS and THS in year 1. In years 2-5, the Taos Community Schools Continuum Project will deepen this work by connecting all five schools in this district-wide system of collaboration and promote equitable access to expanded pipeline services from Pre-K through 12th Grade.

Proposed location(s) of implementation (e.g., city, town, county, State(s)): Taos County, NM

List all LEAs that will be partnering with this project, including rural designation under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program or the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program if applicable: Taos Municipal Schools District

List all non-LEA organizations partnering with this project: Taos County, Town of Taos, Taos Pueblo Tribal Government, Taos Pueblo Central Management System Education and Training Division, Taos Pueblo Division of Health and Community Services, Taos Pueblo Red Willow Education Center (Taos Pueblo Education and Training Division), University of New Mexico – Taos, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University, Taos Behavioral Health, SEL4NM, AIRE, Taos Alive, El Centro Family Health, Twirl, Paso a Paso, 100% Taos County Initiative, St James Episcopal Church, Bridges, Embudo Valley Tutoring Association, TrueKids1, Community Against Violence, DreamTree Project, Las Cumbres, Taos Immigrant Allies, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Rivers & Birds, Paseo Project, Taos Land Trust, H.O.T (Help Outreach Taos), Heart of Taos, Inspire, Youth Heartline, Harwood Museum, Taos Men’s Shelter , Golden Willow Retreat Center, New Mexico YDI (Youth Development, Inc), Taos Rotary Club, The Lions Club, Taos Public Library, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, Taos Community Foundation (Taos School Zone), LOR Foundation, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., New Mexico CYFD (Children Youth and Families Division), NM Mesa (Science program to bring Science and Technology into schools through NM PED), U.S Department of Education - PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports