

# HARTFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The study will inform Hartford Public School's expansion of the Community Schools model.

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The Hartford Community Schools Retrospective Study will examine outcomes and implementation from the 2009–2010 to 2018–2019 school years. Study components include:

- **Outcomes:** The study will examine the impact of the Community Schools model on academic and nonacademic outcomes by comparing the outcomes of students who did attend a community school with similar students who did not.
- **Implementation:** The study will examine 10 years of implementation of the Community Schools model to uncover best practices and barriers to implementation of the Community Schools model will also be examined to recommend ways to improve implementation.
- **Field Scan:** A scan of the current literature and interviews other school districts implementing the Community Schools model will identify best practices.

The study was commissioned by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG), with research scope and questions developed in collaboration with Hartford Public Schools.

## WHO IS CONDUCTING THE STUDY?

The study will be conducted by researchers from RTI International, an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit institute. RTI answered a public request for proposals in February 2019 and was selected by The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG). The research team has experience working with school districts to identify effective school and central office practices to support and scale school-community partnerships.

Throughout the study, researchers will work collaboratively with Community Schools stakeholders to tailor the project to the needs and context of the Hartford community. RTI will convene a technical advisory committee of key stakeholders and hold open sessions for all stakeholders to solicit feedback on:

- research questions driving the study;
- data collection instruments;
- interpretation of results; and
- effective communication of results.

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## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE STUDY?

RTI started collecting student outcomes data in spring 2019. From June to November 2019, researchers will collect implementation data through a series of interviews and site visits with the staff listed below. Near the end of the study, RTI will facilitate an open session to discuss the results and the recommendations.

- Community Schools directors
- Community Schools principals
- Key staff at lead agencies
- Teachers, family resource coordinators, other school staff, and parents
- Staff at partner organizations
- Hartford Partnership for Student Success
- Hartford Public Schools central office staff

