

ANSWERING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO ACTION

Impact Report: The National Partnership for Student Success June 2022–January 2025

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NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR **Student Success** Created By: The NPSS Hub

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NPSS 2022-2025 IMPACT REPORT: INTRODUCTION



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The National Partnership for Student Success operated as a public-private partnership between the <u>U.S. Department of Education</u>, <u>AmeriCorps</u>, and the <u>Everyone Graduates Center</u> at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education between June 2022 and January 2025. It engages over 220 nonprofit champions, 70 institutions of higher education, and over 200 school districts to bring more evidence-based and people-powered supports to P-12 students nationwide in the form of tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrate dstudent supports. This report details the impact of that effort.

The work started by the NPSS will continue on beyond the public-private partnership, through the Partnership for Student Success. The Partnership for Student Success, led by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University, and a growing coalition of nonprofits, higher education institutions, and school districts, will support the field to bring even more evidence-based and people-powered supports to students in the coming years.

Launched in July 2022 with a call to action from the Biden-Harris Administration to bring an additional 250,000 people into these high-impact student support roles, the NPSS has provided the leadership, organizational structure, technical assistance, and connective tissue needed to bring additional holistic people-powered student supports to schools and districts based on their locally determined needs. According to an <u>October 2024 report</u> from researchers at Johns Hopkins University, this goal was exceeded one year ahead of the target. The October 2024 report suggests that an estimated 323,000 additional adults stepped up and served in these roles in schools nationwide between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The partnership has been crucial to improving the scale, effectiveness, and impact of student supports while lowering the implementation burden for schools, districts, and their community partners.

The initiative is supported by a coalition of over <u>220 supporting champion organizations</u>, <u>70 higher</u> <u>education institutions</u>, and over <u>200 school districts</u> that have played a key role in mobilizing additional people nationwide to provide evidence-based supports for students to address post-pandemic needs. In doing so, the NPSS has proven to be a powerful vehicle for mobilizing a broad range of stakeholders to support efforts to improve educational outcomes for our nation's youth.

NPSS 2022-2025 IMPACT REPORT: HISTORY



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR **Student Success**

In President Biden's State of the Union Address in March 2022, the President issued a call to action to Americans to serve as tutors, mentors, and other similar roles to provide students with the academic, social, mental health, and other supports they need to recover from the impacts and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July 2022, the U.S. Department of Education, AmeriCorps, and the Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center joined to launch the National Partnership for Student Success (NPSS) at the White House with a goal set by the Biden-Harris Administration to bring an additional 250,000 people into high-impact student support roles as tutors, mentors, student success coaches, postsecondary transition coaches, and wraparound/integrated student support coordinators by summer 2025.

Since then, the NPSS has facilitated collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, school districts, intermediaries, and higher education institutions working to increase the number of people providing evidence-based supports to help young people succeed and thrive. The partnership's nonprofit partner, the Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center, launched the NPSS Support Hub in 2022. The Hub serves as a cross-sector connector that:

- Works to increase the number of people ready to serve in high-impact student support roles, leading strategic efforts to engage specific populations in service or employment in high-impact student support roles, such as older adults, college students, corporate volunteers, or high school students.
- Provides technical assistance-in collaboration with experts from Accelerate, City Year, Communities In Schools, MENTOR, National College Attainment Network, and National Student Support Accelerator-to nonprofits, schools, districts, higher education institutions, and state and local government agencies working to implement, expand, or improve high-impact student supports and programming.

"What [NPSS] did was help me with technical assistance to just grow the work that we were doing. When I met NPSS, we were at three schools, and now we are at 15. Through their technical assistance and the workshops I was able to attend, they helped solidify the infrastructure to broaden our scope."

- Jaleesa Hall, Founder & CEO, Raising A Village Foundation (Washington, DC)



- Established voluntary quality standards and other resources to support implementation at state and local levels.
- Connects and convenes schools, districts, nonprofits, AmeriCorps programs, colleges, universities, and state and local government agencies working to support young people.
- Supports the development of local ecosystems of student support involving districts and student support providers.
- Establishes connections between often siloed efforts to support young people at federal, state, and local levels.

"We built a continuum of support with college students, education professionals, and retired seniors. Read to Succeed Buffalo involved senior citizens as tutors, while college students from various fields like computer science found personal value in mentoring. This multi-level engagement helped us tackle the severe academic impacts of the pandemic."

- Samuel Radford III, Co-Convenor, WNY Education Equity Task Force, (Buffalo, NY)

"Initially, we applied for free technical support. We just needed a thought partner around how we could recruit and integrate mentors into our existing school system. The [Community Collaboration Challenge] grant aligned with what we wanted to do, which was to bring in mentors-particularly mentors who are college students in Northeast Queens-and figure out ways to train them and make them available for our schools during school hours.

Then, we wanted to find schools that were willing to accept them and had a plan of action for their use to support students. It was a natural flow from technical assistance and helping us formulate a plan, to applying for the grant so that we could have some funding and a community of leaders-both within New York and really the entire country-to hear ideas, share ideas, and build a program which we were very proud to do last spring."

- Justin Stark, District Attendance Coordinator, NYCDOE District 26 (Queens, NY)

NPSS 2022-2025 IMPACT REPORT: **PROGRESS**



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR Student Success

To meet and exceed the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of bringing an additional 250,000 people into high-impact student support roles nationwide, the NPSS Support Hub brought together leading organizations to provide districts and nonprofit student support providers with guidance, voluntary quality standards, training materials, technical assistance, and mini-grants to accelerate community collaboration. The NPSS organized a national network of over 220 youth-serving and education nonprofit organizations, 200 school districts, and 70 higher education institutions that support P-12 students in school and during out-of-school time. Collectively, this network is working to enable more people to provide NPSS-aligned evidence-based student supports.

The October 2024 <u>report</u> from researchers at Johns Hopkins University estimates that between fall 2022 and spring 2024, an additional 323,000 adults served in high-impact student support roles in schools as tutors, mentors, college and career advisors, and wraparound support providers. The report, which is based on a nationally representative survey of school principals fielded by the RAND Corporation, suggests that the use of NPSS-aligned student supports across the nation's schools is widespread, with nearly all schools (90%) reporting providing at least one NPSS-aligned support and about three quarters providing either high-intensity tutoring, mentoring, or student success coaching. Additionally, aligned with NPSS goals, the report indicates that schools increased their use of college students and community partners to provide NPSS-aligned student supports in the 2023-24 school year. 20% of principals reported partnering with a local college or university to engage college students in NPSS roles, and 31% of these principals reported engaging more than last year. Similarly, 43% of principals reported that they partnered with nonprofits to provide NPSS-aligned student supports and 21% of these principals reported using more nonprofit support than in the prior school year.

"Thanks to the Volunteer Generation Fund's support, AARP Foundation's program partner Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center recruited twice as many Experience Corps reading tutors than in the previous year. VGF grant activities also helped cultivate a 74% retention rate among volunteers and enabled expansion to an additional school site."

- AARP Foundation (Washington, D.C.) and Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (Sacramento, California)



Specific accomplishments of the NPSS from July 2022 through January 2025 include the following accomplishments of the NPSS Support Hub at the Johns Hopkins University Everyone Graduates Center, as well as the work of the NPSS partnership with AmeriCorps and the U.S. Department of Education.

MOBILIZED A NATIONAL EFFORT AT LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL LEVELS.

- Grew the NPSS coalition to over 220 supporting champion organizations, over 200 school districts, and over 70 higher education institutions committed to working together and with their communities to bring more evidence-based and people-powered student supports to young people in communities nationwide. The coalition includes a diverse group of national, regional, and local organizations providing direct services to students in schools or during out-of-school time contexts in all 50 states, as well as research institutions, national organizations representing key education and youth service stakeholders, and more. Coalition members engage in collaborative efforts to support youth and communities through 1) regular information-sharing and collaboration meetings, 2) learning communities focused on engaging college students in high-impact P-12 student support roles, engaging older adults and retirees in high-impact P-12 student support roles, and addressing chronic absence and increasing student engagement, and 3) working groups on topics of shared interest including youth development practice and pathways, implementing high-impact P-12 student supports using Federal Work-Study funding, corporate volunteer engagement, digital equity, and engaging high school students or recent graduates in roles supporting younger youth.
- Worked to increase the number of states connecting evidence-based and people-powered supports to students in their communities, including New Jersey and Maryland, who joined the NPSS through their New Jersey Partnership for Student Success and Maryland State Department of Education Maryland Tutoring Corps Grant Program, respectively. The Connecticut State Department of Education's High-Dosage Tutoring Program, New York's Empire State Service Corps and related efforts by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, the State University of New York system, and the Texas A&M University system to place more college students in high-impact P-12 student support roles also received guidance from the NPSS Support Hub before launching. Additionally, the NPSS Hub published resources outlining the basics of state afterschool networks and state service commissions to brief each stakeholder group on the other's work and opportunities for intra-state collaboration to support youth across the youth development and national service sectors.



- With the U.S. Department of Education, launched a Higher Education Coalition and campaign to significantly increase the number of college students providing evidence-based student supports in P-12 schools and out-of-school time programs. In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague Letter encouraging colleges and universities to set goals to use more of their Federal Work-Study funds to compensate college students serving in community service roles as postsecondary transition coaches. student success and/or tutors. mentors. coaches. wraparound/integrated student support coordinators in P-12 schools or out-of-school time programs, or to increase the number of students placed in these roles. 50 higher education institutions have formally joined this effort by setting goals to increase the number of college students in NPSS-aligned roles. More than 20 additional higher education institutions have engaged in aligned efforts with the NPSS. This builds upon a January 2023 Dear Colleague Letter from the U.S. Department of Education clarifying guidance related to the community service requirement in the Federal Work-Study program. This letter clarified that mentoring positions, including for the purposes of tutoring, in public P-12 schools fulfill the community service requirement in the Federal Work-Study program.
- With the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Domestic Policy Council, launched the Attendance Solutions Network to provide school districts access to a range of supports to address chronic absenteeism and improve student engagement in their communities through a series of events, access to resources, and a professional learning community. The Attendance Solutions Network hosted a four-part webinar series in the summer of 2024 followed by office hours and monthly learning community meetings for practitioners charged with improving attendance at the district level to learn and share strategies. Eight state education agencies and over 200 school districts-collectively representing over 11,000 schools and 7.2 million students- expressed interest and continue to access resources available through the Network.

[With support from the Volunteer Generation Fund] "This year, we grew our volunteer count by 20% and welcomed many volunteers back to their schools. The increase in volunteers means we have been able to reach more teachers and students. This school year, we have partnered with three additional schools, growing from 25 schools to 28 currently active schools. We also added a new Pen Pal classroom, growing the program from four classrooms to five classrooms. We are currently reaching 1,779 students from 77 classrooms."

- Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement (Minnesota)



Increased national awareness through media coverage of the value of relationship-based student support roles. Notable press highlights are available on the <u>NPSS website</u>, and include coverage in the Washington Post, USA Today, Newsweek, the Washington Examiner, Politico, The Hill, Yahoo News, C-SPAN, The 74, EdSource, K-12 Dive, Higher Ed Dive, Chronicle of Higher Education, Hechinger Report, Education Week, Ed Prep Matters, Youth Today, Chalkbeat, and FutureEd. Additionally, the NPSS Hub published over 30 spotlight features and a <u>50-state map</u> highlighting promising practices and models for high-impact P-12 student supports at state and local levels.

DIRECTED AND INCREASED RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THIS WORK.

 In 2022, AmeriCorps leveraged \$20 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan to open its <u>Volunteer Generation Fund grant opportunity</u> to a broader set of public, nonprofit, faith-based, and community-based entities. The Volunteer Generation Fund is a three-year grant program that supports organizations to boost the impact of volunteers on critical community needs and rebuild volunteer infrastructure affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2022, <u>AmeriCorps</u> <u>awarded 18 grants</u>, 15 of which are supporting NPSS-aligned work, supporting the recruitment of at least 23,000 volunteers in its first year. Additionally, the <u>FY 2023 Volunteer Generation Fund</u> awarded approximately \$8.5 million to organizations in September 2023. This competition included a priority for programs that utilize volunteers to address NPSS-aligned activities.

"Support from VGF allowed Reading Partners to pursue more national partnerships, which helped us achieve our goal of engaging over 9,000 volunteers. Our national community engagement team (responsible for volunteer recruitment, onboarding, training, and retention) expanded our network of national partners – including Amazon, Purdue Global, MIT, and Five Below. With additional funding through VGF and other partners, we were also able to explore more partnerships through federal work-study programs and convert them into Reading Partners volunteers.

Through these national networks, we have sourced volunteers from diverse geographic locations and matched them with schools and organizations needing volunteer tutors."

- Reading Partners (California)



- The U.S. Department of Education–through its <u>Dear Colleague Letter</u> to state, district, and higher education leaders–identified a range of <u>federal resources that can be used to hire, recruit, and</u> <u>train individuals in NPSS-aligned roles</u> or to contract with external providers to place individuals in these roles. This included American Rescue Plan and <u>Bipartisan Safer Communities Act</u> <u>Stronger Connections Grant Program</u> funds and other federal education funds.
- The NPSS Support Hub at the Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center awarded <u>66 Community</u> <u>Collaboration Challenge micro-grants</u>-with support from the New York Life Foundation (2023) and the Leon Lowenstein Foundation (2024 and 2025)-to public and nonprofit organizations in 35 states and D.C. to convene diverse stakeholders in their communities to identify local assets and shared challenges and set goals for getting high-impact supports to young people, and/or to implement local pilot programs for high-impact student supports.
- <u>Developed and disseminated Voluntary Quality Standards</u> to illuminate key components of highquality tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, post-secondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student support coordination. This set of voluntary standards – developed by a working group of leading organizations with input from a wide range of experts – provides school districts, nonprofits, philanthropy, and others in the field with a quality framework to guide student support provider or partner selection, program development, and funding decisions.

"Every school has a community school council including representatives from the school, students, families, and community members to help create a shared vision and implement initiatives to help reach that vision. We had three of these councils operating independently, one at the elementary school, one at the middle school, and one at the high school. We decided to create a collaborative council of representatives from all three schools.

The NPSS [Community Collaboration Challenge] award helped us do a great convening last June where we had representatives from all three councils come together to nurture relationships and talk about collaborative leadership where every single person in the community-whether they're a student or an elected official-is a leader."

- Lindsay Wilwol, Full Service Community School Grant Project Director, ABC Community School Partnership (Albuquerque, NM)



- <u>Created and disseminated materials to support local implementation and cross-sector</u> <u>collaboration</u>. The NPSS Hub published or contributed to dozens of resources-often in collaboration with others in the coalition-to support schools, districts, nonprofits, higher education institutions, state and local government, intermediaries, and more collaborate and implement, expand, and improve student support programs. This includes resources on topics such as: strategies for establishing and maintaining partnerships between districts, nonprofits, and higher education institutions; development of student success coaching programs; Implementing high-impact tutoring during out-of-school time; addressing chronic absence and increasing student engagement; corporate volunteer engagement; planning collaborative goal-setting events, and more.
- <u>Provided no-cost technical assistance</u> to schools, districts, nonprofits, state and local government, and higher education institutions through 1:1 consultations as well as group support through webinars, workshops, and learning community structures. The NPSS Support Hub has partnerships with leading experts in the field for the five NPSS roles –Accelerate, City Year, Communities In Schools, MENTOR, the National College Attainment Network, and the National Student Support Accelerator – to provide technical assistance to organizations expanding, creating, or improving programs providing NPSS-aligned services.

Directly and through these partners the NPSS Hub has responded to more than 275 <u>technical</u> <u>assistance requests</u> from practitioners in 38 states and D.C. Additionally, an estimated 4,500 individuals have been supported via workshops, webinars, in-person and virtual trainings, and learning community meetings where how-to information was shared with participants on topics ranging from implementing voluntary quality standards for student supports to staff recruitment strategies for summer learning organizations.

"Figure out how you fit in, and then embrace it. Don't just look out at what NPSS can do for you, but where you can support others in the partnership. I love the [engaging older adults in student supports] Coffee Chats because I can connect with others doing this work. I was at the annual AmeriCorps Seniors Convening and NPSS was there. If someone says 'I'm struggling with this,' I say 'Have you checked out the NPSS table?' Networking will make both organizations stronger through that partnership."

- Carol Ayars, CVA, AmeriCorps Seniors Program Manager, The Span Center (Richmond, VA)



- <u>Launched an online training resource library</u> with support from the coalition and the NPSS Youth Development Practice & Pathways working group containing free and low cost trainings in each of the five NPSS roles, aligned with the Voluntary Quality Standards. The library is filterable by support area, training type, cost, and audience and contains online and in-person trainings as well as resources and training repositories from a number of well-established training providers including the National Student Support Accelerator. Organizations can submit additional trainings to be included in the resource library which are reviewed by the NPSS Hub team regularly.
- <u>Prioritized whole-child, relationship-based supports through AmeriCorps' Youth Mental Health</u> <u>Corps</u>. AmeriCorps, the Schultz Foundation, and Pinterest partnered to launch the Youth Mental Health Corps in May 2024. Through this work, AmeriCorps members in 11 states have been trained to address mental health and wellness needs among teenagers in their communities.

Approximately 300 AmeriCorps members began serving in these roles at the start of the 2024-25 school year, with a goal of over 1,000 members serving in the first two years of the initiative. In December 2024, the Youth Mental Health Corps Funders Collaborative released a new RFP, inviting additional states to launch Youth Mental Health Corps in 2025 and beyond.

"GW has long been involved in tutoring, mentoring, and supporting our surrounding schools through nonprofits and directly with the school district. NPSS gave us a redoubled purpose to the work that we do. We expanded our Federal Work-Study students involved in tutoring and started a whole new high-impact tutoring program...

When we started, we were partnering with two schools for high-impact tutoring. We're now partnering with nine, and we have 90 GW students who-as a part of their coursework or Federal Work Study-are doing tutoring."

- Amy Cohen, Assistance Vice Provost and Executive Director, Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, George Washington University (Washington, DC)



IDENTIFIED & REMOVED BARRIERS TO RECRUITING MORE PEOPLE INTO HIGH-IMPACT STUDENT SUPPORT ROLES.

- Put structure in place to track growth in high-impact student supports in schools and out-of-school time. To better understand how the nation is progressing towards the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of an additional 250,000 adults providing evidence-based student supports and, more broadly, how schools are responding to the rapid increase in student learning and well-being needs, the NPSS Support Hub sponsored two annual LEARN Network School Leader Surveys, administered by the RAND Corporation's American Educator Panels (AEP). These surveys are the first nationally representative surveys on NPSS roles, providing important insights into the use of these interventions in schools. Additionally, the NPSS Hub collaborated with the Afterschool Alliance to add questions related to tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student supports to their fall 2023 provider tracking survey to better understand the extent to which these supports are taking place during out-of-school time.
- <u>Facilitated nearly 60 distinct roundtable conversations</u> with groups of stakeholders, including school
 principals, superintendents, state service commissions, youth-serving organizations and networks,
 corporate social responsibility leaders, volunteer organizations, higher education institutions,
 organizations engaging older adults in service, and more to surface barriers to implementation or
 expansion of evidence-based student supports in a range of contexts.
- Launched the Ready Set x NPSS micro-site to direct individuals to volunteer opportunities via a collaboration with the Ready Set Coalition, CAA Foundation, MENTOR, and VolunteerMatch with thousands of views since the launch in September 2022. This tool provides an easy pathway for individuals to find national service and volunteer opportunities in their communities.

"With support from the VGF Award, four Iowa school districts established mentoring programs grounded in effective practices, creating policy manuals and advisory boards to ensure sustainability. These programs include one-to-one, peer-to-peer, group, and team mentoring formats. Additionally, five districts launched service-learning initiatives in six classrooms, training staff to guide students in addressing community issues through meaningful youth-led projects. Over 500 students led 30 service projects addressing genuine needs within their communities."

- Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Iowa)

NPSS 2022-2025 IMPACT REPORT: WHAT IS NEXT?



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
 FOR Student Success

There is still more work to be done to implement and scale the evidence-based and holistic supports that all young people need to thrive. Even with the substantial progress of the past two years, which has seen an <u>estimated increase of 323,000 adults</u> providing evidence-based student supports, in tens of thousands of our nation's schools, school principals report that more is needed. In 2023-24, approximately <u>one-third of principals</u> reported that only some of the students who needed tutoring, mentoring, or wraparound supports were receiving these supports. This indicates that significant work remains to provide all students with the supports they need to thrive.

JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS NETWORK:

• <u>Become part of our coalition and subscribe to our newsletter</u>. You can become a supporting champion, join a professional learning community or working group, provide input via a focus group, and/or share promising practices.

GET SUPPORT:

• <u>Request technical assistance</u> to implement, expand, or improve high-impact student supports in your community, state, or region.

LEARN MORE:

- Learn about crucial elements of program quality for tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, post-secondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student support coordination through the <u>NPSS Voluntary Quality Standards</u>. Consider integrating these components into new or existing programs and quality improvement efforts or using these voluntary standards to consider potential partners and support providers.
- Check out high-quality training resources via the <u>Partnership for Student Success' training resource</u> <u>library</u>. Additional resources and modules will be added to the library on an ongoing basis.
- Learn about guidance for school districts, nonprofits, higher education institutions, intermediaries, and more on designing or partnering with programs to deliver high-quality people-powered supports to students through the <u>Partnership for Student Success resources page</u>.



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This report is a publication of the National Partnership for Student Success Support Hub at the Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center.

