



PARTNERSHIP FOR
Student Success

COLLABORATING TO SUSTAIN AND EXPAND EVIDENCE-BASED AND PEOPLE-POWERED STUDENT SUPPORTS

PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
IMPACT REPORT
2025 - 2026

July 2026



Introduction

The Partnership for Student Success (PSS) is a dynamic coalition united by a shared mission: to ensure every student has access to the evidence-based supports they need to thrive.

Based at the Johns Hopkins University Everyone Graduates Center and comprised of hundreds of nonprofit organizations, schools, districts, and higher education institutions, the PSS coalition works collaboratively to expand high-impact tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student supports across the United States. We do this through providing technical assistance for local, state, and regional efforts, conducting research on evidence-based and people-powered student supports nationally, and publishing practical resources to support implementation. We also offer solutions networks that bring together a range of stakeholders to share bright spots, best practices, and strategies for overcoming the challenges students face. Through ongoing working groups, our coalition members provide regular support for each other, tackling critical issues that impact all students and amplifying the collective voice of those who are making a difference.

The period from early 2025 through June 2026 has been one of transition and growth for the PSS, as we launched a new and distinct effort to continue and expand upon learnings from the National Partnership for Student Success – a public private partnership between the U.S. Department of Education, AmeriCorps, and the Johns Hopkins University Everyone Graduates Center that successfully supported the field to recruit an estimated 400,000 additional adults into evidence-based student support roles between July 2022 and January 2025.

Over the last year, the PSS has emerged as a leading network committed to sustaining, expanding, and improving evidence-based student supports amidst new and emerging challenges faced by direct service providers including funding changes, shifts in enabling environments, and continued and evolving need for student supports to address persistent challenges facing young people. Our coalition has demonstrated incredible resilience, creativity, and commitment to students during this time and we are proud to support each of their work.

Progress: By the Numbers



610+ Partners engaged, including:

- **268** Supporting Champions
- **200** Schools and Districts
- **142** Higher Education Institutions including 215 offices and centers within these institutions



116+ Collaborative Events, Convenings, and Working Groups hosted, including:

- **57** Working group and learning community meetings
- **32** Webinars
- **16** Speaking engagements
- **7** Meetup events and exhibitions at conferences
- **4** Signature summits and regional convenings



33+ Resources to Support Implementation of Evidence-Based K-12 Student Supports published, including:

- **10** Promising Practices Spotlight Blogs and Reports
- **9** Research Reports and Briefs
- **7** Implementation Guides and Toolkits
- **5** Online Training Modules



20 Community Collaboration Challenge Pilots launched in communities from 18 states and DC. These projects are supported by:

- **\$168,000** in awards from PSS with funding from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, and
- An additional **\$1.6 million** in matching dollars from awardee communities.

Progress

Specific accomplishments of the PSS between the start of the new phase of the project's work in late January 2025 and June 2026 include the following.

Grew and continued to mobilize a national effort to expand evidence-based and people-powered student supports

- **Grew the PSS coalition to over 265 supporting champion organizations, 200 schools and districts, and 140 higher education institutions** committed to collaborating with each other and with their communities to implement, expand, and/or improve tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student supports. Since the current phase of our work began in late January 2025, ***college and university membership in our higher education coalition has doubled, and our number of supporting champion organizations has grown by more than 20%***. The PSS coalition includes a broad group of national, regional, and local organizations providing direct services to students in school or during out-of-school time in all 50 states, as well as research institutions, national organizations representing key education and youth service stakeholders, and more.
- **Launched and grew an Advisory Committee** that now includes 27 expert organizations that provide guidance about how the PSS can best support practitioners and live up to our mission.
- **Published research on the state of evidence-based and people-powered student supports nationally.** In spring 2025, PSS partnered with the RAND Corporation to field a nationally representative survey of public school principals, and the findings were published in a key [report](#) from researchers at Johns Hopkins University. The report concludes that four years after the height of the pandemic, there is widespread use of evidence-based and people-powered student supports in public schools across the United States. But, public school principals indicate that continued growth in these interventions is needed to meet the scale of student needs. The report emphasizes that while implementation barriers exist to expanding evidence-based programs,

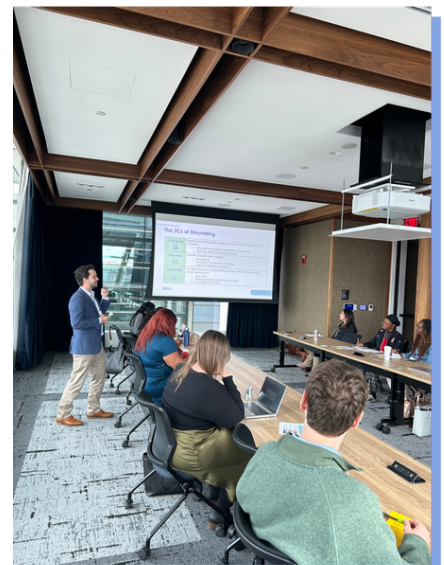


scale is possible and is already demonstrated by a subset of schools. PSS also partnered with TeenVoice to conduct a survey of teens ages 13-17 on their attitudes toward serving in peer support roles and receiving support from peers and published a [blog with the National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) on insights from this survey and related insights from a listening session with youth from National Student Council.

- **Increased national awareness** through media coverage, thought leadership, and practical strategy sharing at national and regional conferences at which key stakeholders gathered including those hosted by America's Services Commissions, Apprenticeships for America, Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton College of Teaching and Learning Innovation, Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Campus Compact, Institute for Educational Leadership, MENTOR, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and National College Attainment Network. We also launched the PSS Communications Stipend Program through which 12 organizations were selected to tell their programs' stories of impact through earned media between spring and fall 2026.

Directed and resources to support local implementation, including:

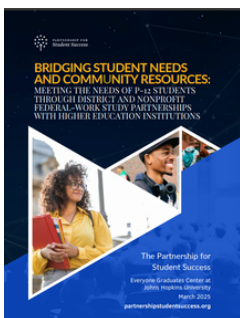
- **Selected a fourth annual Community Collaboration Challenge cohort.** Through our 2026 Challenge, the Partnership for Student Success is distributing \$168,000 in awards to a cohort of 20 communities from 18 states and DC. Awardees are using these funds to cultivate local collaboration in their communities and to pilot or expand evidence-based student supports between March and October 2026. The 2026 cohort was selected from a competitive group of over 700 applicants submitted from communities in all 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico. This project leverages an investment from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation as well as \$1.6 million in matching funds from awardee communities. Given the significant need, applicants who were not awarded funds were invited to utilize other PSS resources at no cost, including learning communities, working groups, and technical assistance offerings.



- **Intentionally convened practitioners to build capacity and enhance collaboration at the local, regional, and national levels.** This included hosting two annual summits in Washington, D.C., at which practitioners from nonprofits, higher education institutions, schools, and districts participated in interactive workshops, networking, and learning related to effective implementation of evidence-based and people-powered student supports. To uplift the expertise and leadership of our network, we selected a subset of PSS coalition members to serve as session facilitators and panelists at each summit. We also hosted two regional convenings – the first in what we hope to be a series – in partnership with the University of Western New Mexico in Silver City, NM, and the Peer Power Institute in Memphis, TN, to build capacity among practitioners and enhance collaboration at the regional level to implement evidence-based student supports. Finally, we hosted several conference meetups to create opportunities for coalition members and others interested in implementing high-impact tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, or wraparound/integrated student supports to learn about free resources and connect with peers working on similar challenges from across the country.

Supported adoption of evidence-based practices. Specifically, PSS:

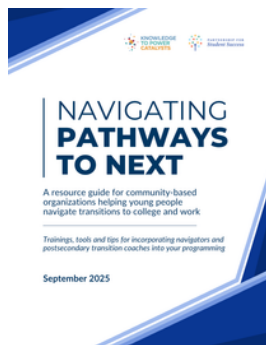
- **Developed and disseminated practical tools and resources** to support local implementation of evidence-based practices. This included:
 - Toolkits and implementation guides including:



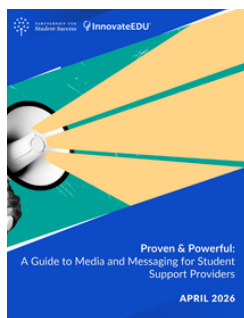
- A [Federal Work-Study Partnership Toolkit for Districts and Nonprofits](#), developed with input from the Federal Work-Study Working Group, to demystify the often complex process of establishing partnerships with higher education institutions to engage Federal Work-Study students in off-campus jobs supporting P-12 students at schools and in out-of-school time programs.



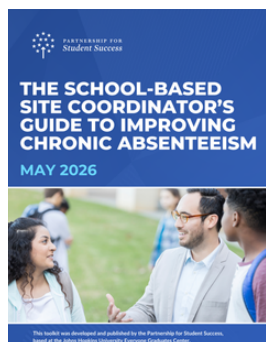
- A [Tutor Apprenticeships Toolkit](#), developed in partnership with the National Student Support Accelerator, New Jersey Tutoring Corps, and Pathways Alliance to provide practical steps and guidance for designing and implementing a tutor registered apprenticeship program. This toolkit builds on work that PSS has led with these three partners to develop a set of National Guideline Standards for Tutor Apprenticeship Programs, which is pending approval from the U.S. Department of Labor as of the time of this report.



- [Navigating Pathways to Next, a resource guide for community-based organizations helping young people navigate transitions to college and work](#), developed in partnership with Knowledge to Power Catalysts, to emphasize the importance of postsecondary transition coach and navigator roles for youth served by community-based organizations and share practical resources for integrating these types of supports into existing programs and supports that organizations provide to young people and communities.



- A [Media and Messaging Toolkit for Student Support Providers](#), developed in partnership with InnovateEDU, aimed at supporting impactful programs to tell their stories of impact through local and national news media and education trade press. The toolkit provides strategies and best practices for pitching stories, developing relationships with reporters, preparing for interviews, and tested messages that resonate with key groups.



- A [School-Based Site-Coordinator's Guide to Improving Chronic Absenteeism](#), which offers guidance, example programs, and tangible strategies for how community school site-coordinators, wraparound/integrated student support coordinators, and other school-level practitioners can help to implement comprehensive solutions to address chronic absenteeism in their buildings.

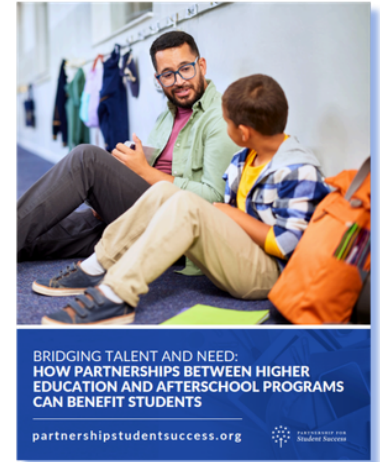


- A [Guiding rubric on Establishing Effective Partnerships for Community-Engaged Learning](#), developed in partnership with Dr. Marina Barnett of Widener University to help higher education, district, and nonprofit stakeholders consider, establish, and assess community-engaged learning partnerships that place college students in structured learning experiences supporting local communities.



- A white paper, on [Powering Workforce Resilience in the Age of AI and the case for AmeriCorps](#) at this time, developed in partnership with the EDSAFE AI Alliance, City Year, and Voices for National Service. This report outlines the challenges facing today's labor market as AI rapidly replaces many entry level jobs, and highlights the importance of national service – in education roles and beyond – in both providing entry level work experiences for young people and also developing skills that prepare novice professionals for AI-resilient careers.

- Briefs on topics including:
 - Key and concise research behind [tutoring](#), [mentoring](#), [postsecondary transition coaching](#), and [wraparound/integrated student supports](#) to help practitioners make the case for their work, grounded in the latest evidence.
 - The research behind and advantages of engaging particular populations in evidence-based roles supporting K-12 students including on [engaging high school students in roles supporting peers and younger students](#), and engaging college students in [afterschool program](#) and [postsecondary transition coaching](#) roles.
- Webinars on topics including [implementing virtual tutoring with quality](#), [engaging older adult volunteers in student support roles](#), [out-of-school time programming](#), [empowering youth to solve pressing challenges faced by schools and districts](#), federal funding for high-impact tutoring, [tutor apprenticeships](#), [media and messaging for student support providers](#), and more.
- Promising practices spotlights in written and video formats to showcase examples of effective and creative implementation at the local level. These range in focus from [leveraging community school models to address chronic absenteeism](#), to [improving early literacy while growing educator pipelines](#), to [implementing near-peer postsecondary advising](#), to [how evidence-based and people-powered supports can improve attendance](#), to [summer planning](#) and more.
- **Developed and disseminated a series of free online training modules** to fill gaps in quality, virtual, self-paced training offerings for postsecondary transition coaching and mentoring programs. These modules were developed in partnership with a consortium of experts from the City University of New York, Coalition for College, Inspire Success, Lewis Clark State College, MENTOR, OneGoal, Peer Power Institute, PeerForward, Prep-KC, and the University of California San Diego Early Academic Outreach Program and to date have been accessed by over 300 users.



- **Operated professional learning communities and working groups** to share research and practical tools, and create opportunities for practitioners to collaborate with peers doing similar work, addressing common challenges, or seizing aligned opportunities in different communities. This included three key learning communities:
 - **The Higher Education Coalition Learning Community** – through which practitioners gather and collaborate on strategies and opportunities related to engaging college students in P-12 student support roles and other ways in which higher education can support P-12 education. The coalition engages a range of higher education practitioners from a variety of institution types including public, private, trade/professional, four-year, community college, online-only, HBCU, and MSI institutions based in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the country. Engaged practitioners include administrators, faculty, financial aid officers, career services and college student support professionals, community and civic engagement program leaders, and more.
 - **The Attendance Solutions Network** – through which school- and district- level staff learn practical strategies for implementing comprehensive solutions to address chronic absenteeism and improve student engagement through research-backed information sharing, spotlights of promising practices, and peer-to-peer learning. This year, this community expanded to support not only district-level practitioners, but also school-based site coordinators in community schools or similar models working to address chronic absenteeism.
 - **The Volunteering Redefined Learning Community** – a year-long webinar and learning community series implemented in partnership with Idealist and the AARP Foundation focused on effective engagement of older adult volunteers in student support roles.

PSS also hosted monthly and quarterly working groups on topics such as tutoring policy , implementing tutor apprenticeship programs, using Federal Work-Study funding to engage college students in P-12 student support roles, supporting students in rural areas, and establishing effective partnerships for community-engaged learning.

- **Provided no-cost technical assistance to inform efforts to implement, expand, and improve tutoring, mentoring, and other evidence-based student supports.** This included 1:1 support and connection making, and group support through webinars, workshops, and learning communities. PSS partners with leading organizations to provide technical assistance including Accelerate, the National Student Support Accelerator, City Year, Communities In Schools, and MENTOR.

Conclusion

As we embark on the fifth year of collective work with the coalition to expand evidence-based and people-powered student supports, we know that promising progress toward expanding these supports with quality has occurred, but that students continue to need additional support. Four years after the height of the pandemic, [public school principals continue to report no let-up in student need](#), and only [20% to 30% of principals](#) report that most or all of their students who need tutoring, mentoring, or wraparound supports are receiving these supports. Given this, PSS will continue to provide practical supports for the field to implement proven strategies to address challenges that today's youth are facing: high impact tutoring, mentoring, student success coaching, postsecondary transition coaching, and wraparound/integrated student supports. We will also continue to prioritize creating space for practitioners to collaborate both with stakeholders at the local level and peers in different communities nationwide to implement, expand, and improve these supports.

Get Involved

We invite schools, districts, nonprofits, and higher education institutions to join the PSS coalition today!

[Learn more >>](#)

The Partnership for Student Success is a national coalition committed to expanding evidence-based and people-powered supports so that every student has the support they need to succeed and thrive. This report is a publication of the Partnership for Student Success at the Johns Hopkins University Everyone Graduates Center



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