

Session Overview



**SUMMARY OF CASE
STUDY**



**ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION**



Q&A

Tech tips

For tech support,
send **chat message** to
Michelle Sedaca

Please submit
questions in the **chat
box**

Live captioning is
available by using the
“CC” button on the
bottom of the screen



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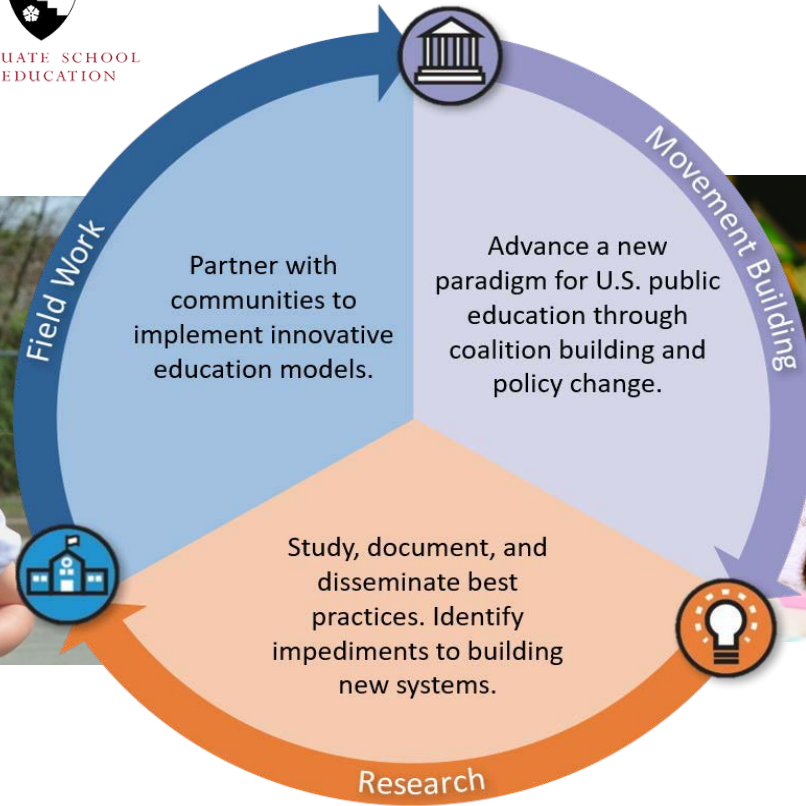
EDREDESIGN

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Partners for Rural Impact
**Accelerating educational outcomes in rural
places from cradle to career**

**Small-town origins, national focus and
cradle-to-career support**



EdRedesign seeks to give every child in the U.S., particularly those living in poverty, the opportunity to succeed in education and life.

EdRedesign's Rural Focus



Collaborative Action in a Rural Setting:
Insights from Resilient Southern Illinois

By Sara White and Jessica Boyle
January 2021

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**LOCAL
CHILDREN'S
CABINET
NETWORK**

RURAL PROMISE
INNOVATING TO SUPPORT RURAL STUDENTS

**THURSDAY
APRIL
25**
LONGFELLOW
HALL
5:30 – 7 P.M.

MODERATOR
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**#askwith
FORUMS**

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Case study goals:

- **Better understand and document how the community school model works in rural school districts**

The Full-Service Community School Grant

- Established in 2010
- Competitive grant program of the US Department of Education
- Four pillars: integrated student supports, expanded learning time, family and community engagement, collaborative leadership and practice

“work collaboratively with students’ families and leverage community-based resources to provide a tailored set of coordinated services and programs to a school community... that meet student social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs through after school and summer learning and enrichment opportunities, as well as mental and physical health services.”

~US DOE

Full-Service Community Schools in Rural Contexts



By 2018, the FSCS model had been implemented in **5,000 schools**



Only an estimated **8%** of FSCS grants have been awarded to rural communities



A proposed **\$413 million** increase for the grant in 2022



Now prioritizes districts that qualify for the **Small Rural School Achievement** or the **Rural and Low-Income School** program

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Methods

- Investigation into a **single rural district** implementing FSCS programming: **Leslie County Schools, Kentucky**
- Leslie County Schools awarded FSCS grant in 2020
 - Currently in 2nd year of programming
 - Grant ends in 2025



Source: [Partners for Rural Impact](#)

Interviews conducted with:

Program Administrator

Program Data Team

Three Site Coordinators

Three School Principals

Five Community Partners

One District Administrator

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Leslie County

- Appalachian region of Southeastern Kentucky
- Rural county of around 11,000
- Long-standing partner with Partners for Rural Impact



Source: [Wikipedia](#)



Source: [Hyden & Leslie County](#)

Assets and Challenges in Leslie County

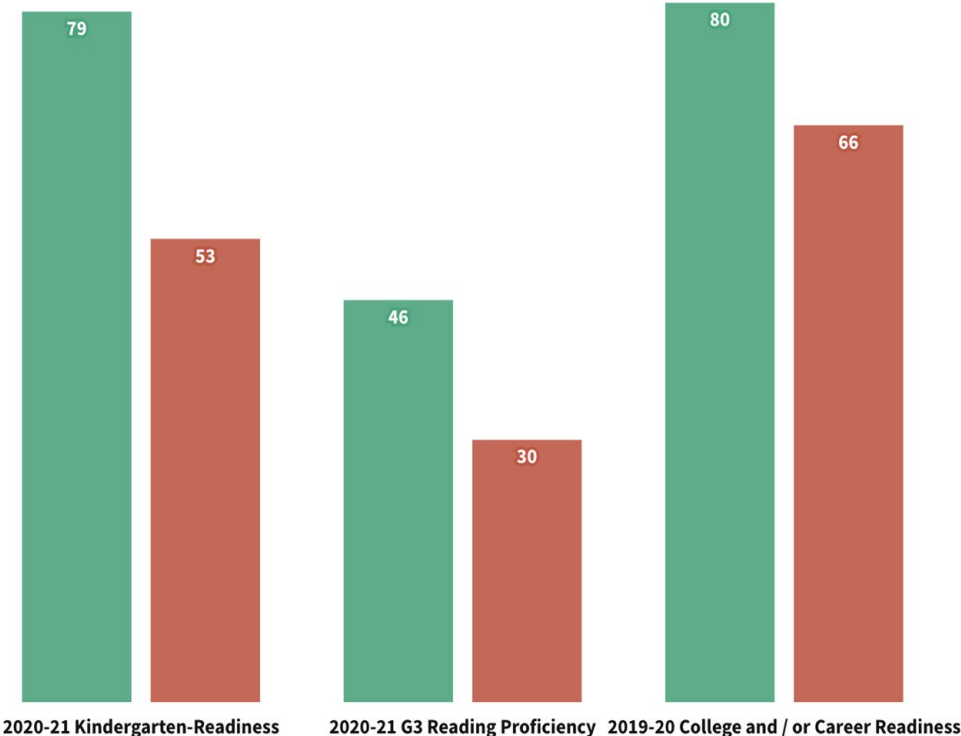
- Assets
 - Strong sense of **community**
 - Multiple community **partners** and strong community and faith-based **institutions**
 - **Parental investment** in their children's success
- Challenges
 - **Unemployment** stands at 14%, double the national average
 - 32% of the district's residents have **less than a high school education**
 - Ranked 107th of 120 counties in Kentucky in **"health outcomes"**

“an area of kind-heartedness and compassion... where we all help each other... and despite the hardships some of our students have gone through, they'll still be the first ones to offer you the shirt off their backs.” ~ K. Combs

Mental Health Therapist

Despite Challenges, Leslie County Schools Exceed State Averages

Leslie County Kentucky



Challenges:

- Declining enrollment
- Attendance
- Poor public transport / road infrastructure
- Poor access to broadband

Getting Started with Full-Service Community Schools

- Calls / Visits to families
- Save the Children food box distributions for first 8 months
- Boosting church wi-fi signals so parking lots could serve as free internet connectivity points
- Take-Home mental health and kindergarten readiness kits

Hiring: Project Director and school-based Site Coordinators

Networking: Mapping out community partners

Coordinating: The Advisory Council

“What makes our region special? What have we seen are the effects on the pandemic on students? What are our needs? What are the benefits of the grant so far?”

– Kendra Combs

Advisory Council Members



Mayor of Hyden



The Critical Role of Site Coordinators

- Must be seen as part of the community
- Wide array of responsibilities
- Reducing teacher / administrator workload
- Requires strong pulse on the needs of school community
- Expected to be accessible, maintain communication channels
- 'Check & Connect' forms to monitor student progress
- Constant communication with school staff

Challenges to Implementation

- Physical distances and uneven access to broadband limit avenues for family engagement and timing for programming
- Need to maximize the 8am - 3pm time window: “make hay while the sun is shining.”
- Hiring and retaining coordinators

“With some families lacking internet connection, and some even lacking a phone line, if you don’t interact with parents during your school’s graduation or opening day, you may not see them for the rest of the academic year.”

~B. Hubbard
School Principal

Early Indicators of Success

- On track to **double the number of services** provided annually
- Top-scoring rural region for **Kindergarten math and reading** MAPS Scores
- Several programmatic expansions:
 - Dual-Credit Program
 - Early Childhood Intervention Programming
 - Healthy Food Program

Lessons learned: Five Building Blocks



1. School culture that is open to change



2. A set of locally-experienced educators committed to holistic student support



3. Finding and supporting the right people



4. A network of action-focused service providers with strong value alignment



5. Strong outreach capacity and relationship building

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project!

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