PLUS PROGRAM · ALIGNMENT GUIDE · COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PLUS ALIGNMENT GUIDE

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

SIDE-BY-SIDE LANGUAGE FOR GRANT WRITERS. ADAPT EVERY BRACKET TO YOUR SCHOOL.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) is administered by the California Department of Education (CDE). Beginning in 2026 it is ongoing funding of about $1 billion a year. A school site is eligible when at least 65 percent of its students are unduplicated pupils. Eligible sites receive $75,000 to $400,000 a year based on enrollment, and no match is required. A district opts its eligible sites in through CDE. The first opt-in deadline is November 1, 2026, and later opt-ins are due June 1 each year. A new site may spend up to two years planning. After that, the district submits an implementation plan every year, presents it to the governing board and posts it. Confirm current amounts and dates with CDE. Each funded site implements the California Community Schools Framework. Each site's shared decision-making team includes students, families, community partners and educators, and it writes the site plan. This guide follows the framework element by element. For each one it shows what the framework asks for, where PLUS fits, and sample language a writer can adapt for a school's implementation plan or application.

The sample language uses brackets for the details only your school can supply. Replace every bracket with your own data, teams and partners, and rewrite the language in your district's voice. Reviewers expect the facts about a program to look similar across schools. They look for a plan that could only belong to your school.

> **Writer's note.** Use the rows that fit your school. A strong plan shows PLUS working inside two or three pillars and the proven practices, not a claim that PLUS covers everything.

THE FOUR PILLARS

FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Integrated student supports that meet academic, physical, social-emotional and mental health needs	The PLUS Team serves as a liaison between the student body and the wellness center. Campaigns with QR codes link students to services and self-referral forms and help reduce stigma. PLUS is not a counseling or referral program.	*"The PLUS Team at [School] will connect students to the integrated supports our community school provides. Each semester the Team will run a campaign that introduces the wellness center, links students to its self-referral form and presents it as a positive part of campus."*
Family and community engagement	PLUS Teams share cycle data with families and can host an evening Forum each semester. Direction runs parent surveys by QR code.	*"Families will receive the results of each student data cycle at [family meeting]. The PLUS Team will co-host an evening family Forum with [family partner] each semester, and parent surveys will run in Direction so family voice is measured alongside student voice."*
Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators	The PLUS staff team (administrator, counselor or PBIS lead, Advisor) trains together. The Advisor serves on the PBIS, MTSS and shared decision-making teams. The cycle report goes to each team.	*"The PLUS Advisor will serve on [School]'s shared decision-making team, PBIS team and MTSS team. After each 30-day cycle, the Advisor will bring the student data and Forum findings to those teams and carry their decisions back to the PLUS class."*
Extended learning time and opportunities	The PLUS class is a year-long course in research, leadership and civic engagement. The curriculum aligns with the California State Seal of Civic Engagement.	*"[School] will offer PLUS as a year-long course in which students research conditions on their own campus and lead the response. The course curriculum aligns with the State Seal of Civic Engagement."*

THE FOUR KEY CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Supportive environmental conditions that foster strong relationships and community	Youth development activities during the school day build connection and belonging. Forums bring 40 to 50 students together each month in small groups.	*"Each month the PLUS Team will lead youth development activities that build connection between students. Monthly Forums will give a new group of [40 to 50] students the experience of being heard by their peers."*

FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Social and emotional learning that builds skills, habits and mindsets	PLUS Team members practice facilitation, listening, empathy and planning in every cycle. Forum participants practice sharing and listening in small groups.	*"Through the PLUS class, students practice the social and emotional skills our community school is building: listening, facilitation, empathy and working toward a shared plan."*
A system of supports that responds to student needs and addresses barriers	Direction gives the MTSS team a monthly read of schoolwide patterns between annual surveys. Teams compare student data with attendance and discipline data each cycle.	*"Direction will give our MTSS team a monthly measure of student experiences, such as [feeling left out or being bullied in the last 30 days]. The team will compare these results with attendance and discipline data each cycle and adjust Tier 1 supports."*
Productive instructional strategies	The PLUS class uses youth participatory action research, where students gather and analyze data about their own school.	*"In the PLUS class, students learn to design survey questions, read data and present findings to adults, applying research skills to their own school community."*

THE FOUR CORNERSTONE COMMITMENTS

FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Assets-driven and strength-based practice	PLUS treats students as a source of information and leadership. Forums ask students what can be done, not only what is wrong.	*"Our plan treats students as partners in improving the school. In each Forum, students identify the issues affecting the student body and what students themselves can do about them."*
Racially just and restorative school climates	Forums surface exclusion, harassment and bullying between students. Direction results can be viewed by student group so gaps are visible.	*"Direction results will be reviewed by student group each cycle so our teams can see whether some students experience exclusion or harassment more than others. The PLUS Team will plan activities that address what the data shows."*
Powerful, culturally proficient and relevant instruction	Students study their own campus and community. The PLUS Team is selected to reflect the student body.	*"The PLUS Team is selected to reflect the diversity of our student body, and the course centers on the experiences of students at [School]."*
Shared decision-making and participatory practices	Information moves up from the PLUS class to site and district leaders. PLUS students present findings to the shared decision-making team.	*"PLUS students will present their findings to the shared decision-making team at least [twice] each year, and student-generated data will be cited in each annual update of this implementation plan."*

THE FOUR PROVEN PRACTICES

FRAMEWORK ASKS FOR	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Community asset mapping and gap analysis	Direction and Forums provide ongoing student data for the needs and gap analysis, nine times a year.	*"Our gap analysis found that [School] had no regular, student-generated measure of campus experiences between annual surveys. Direction and monthly student Forums will fill that gap and feed each annual update of the asset map."*
A community school coordinator	The coordinator can join the PLUS staff team at the 2-Day training and receives each cycle report.	*"The community school coordinator will attend the 2-Day PLUS Program Development Training with the PLUS staff team and will receive each cycle report."*
Site-based and LEA-based advisory councils	PLUS cycle reports give advisory councils current student data. Students on the PLUS Team can serve on or present to the council.	*"Cycle reports will be a standing item on the site advisory council agenda. [Two] PLUS Team members will serve as student representatives on the council."*
Integrating and aligning with other relevant programs	PLUS extends MTSS, PBIS, school safety plans, restorative practices and the wellness center rather than standing alone.	*"PLUS is not a separate program at [School]. It is the student layer of our MTSS, PBIS and school safety work, and it gives each of those teams current data from students."*

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

CCSPP EXPECTS	WHERE PLUS FITS	SAMPLE LANGUAGE
An active **shared decision-making team**	PLUS supplies student data and student presenters.	*"Our shared decision-making team will review PLUS cycle results [quarterly] and include student presenters from the PLUS class."*
An **implementation plan updated every year**	Nine cycle reports a year and annual university-developed surveys in Direction give the update its data.	*"Each annual update will draw on nine PLUS cycle reports and the beginning and end of year surveys administered in Direction."*
Signed commitment letters from the superintendent, principals, and representatives of teachers, classified staff, students and parents	These letters must come from the school community. PLUS cannot supply one of them. PLUS can provide a separate letter of support confirming the curriculum, Direction, training and conference registration.	*"In addition to the required commitment letters, a letter of support from the PLUS Program confirming curriculum, Direction, staff training and an annual conference registration is on file."*

BUDGET LANGUAGE

LINE	SAMPLE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION
PLUS Advisor, 0.1 to 0.2 FTE	"Funds [0.2] FTE of a certificated teacher to serve as PLUS Advisor. The time covers the PLUS class section and collaboration time on the PBIS, MTSS and shared decision-making teams." A 0.1 FTE covers the class section and can get the job done. PLUS recommends 0.2 FTE because the added 0.1 lets the Advisor serve on those teams and makes the Advisor part of the school's network of educational partners.
PLUS Program, first year ($3,495 per site)	"Funds the 2-Day PLUS Program Development Training for a staff team of up to four, the online subscription to Direction and the activity resource database, the PLUS curriculum and one conference registration."
PLUS Program, each year after ($1,495 per site with a three-year agreement)	"Continues the subscription, the annual conference registration and one 2-Day training registration for a new staff member each year."
PLUS Advisor Institute ($1,495 registration plus lodging and travel)	"Prepares the PLUS Advisor to teach the PLUS class and lead its activities through the year."

> **Writer's note.** CCSPP funds must supplement, not supplant, other funding, and they may not pay for punitive discipline or campus law enforcement. Prices are from plusprogram.org/costs. Confirm them before you finalize the budget. The full sample application for a fictional school, Valley Vista High School, shows these pieces assembled into one plan.

SOURCES

- California Community Schools Framework (LACOE overview)
- CCSPP funding opportunity letter, September 2026 (CDE)
- PLUS Program Costs