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The National Office Community Schools (in Dutch: Landelijk Steunpunt Brede Scholen) was founded in 2009, with the help of the Ministry of education, culture and science, in order to support schools and local authorities in developing the community school. The National Office Community Schools provides professional support to develop community schools in primary and secondary education by uniting schools, opening up good practices and by spreading and sharing knowledge.

See www.bredeschool.nl

There are about 1200 primary community schools and more than 400 secondary community schools in The Netherlands (1). It is to be expected that these numbers will increase in the years to come. The community school is an item on the agenda both in education and in child care, for welfare organisations and local authorities.

In short, the community school is alive and we trust that the education section of your election programme will pay attention to the development of community schools. In order to help you in this, the National Office Community Schools is presenting ten Community Points to emphasize the importance of community schools for modern society.

**Job van Velsen (project leader),
Simon Steen (head) National Office
Community Schools**

1. *A community school puts the child in the spotlight.*
2. *The community school challenges each individual child to develop their talents.*
3. *The community school offers extra opportunities for disadvantaged children, tailor-made to their needs.*
4. *The community school contributes to the safety in the area around the school and takes care that the level of services is maintained in smaller towns and villages.*
5. *The community school creates a more balanced day programme geared for the modern working society.*
6. *The community school contributes to emancipation and labour participation.*
7. *The community school contributes to a society where cultures and religions are living together and where common values and standards apply.*
8. *The community school contributes to social commitment at school and in the surrounding area.*
9. *The community school provides space both for children and professionals to perform as entrepreneurs that is, finding their own way, using their creativity and coming up with the right answers.*
10. *The community school takes care that teachers can concentrate on primary tasks and that the school can focus on its nuclear responsibility.*

