

General Information

Communities In Schools of Indiana

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Mission: The mission of Communities In Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Communities In Schools supports the following school improvement areas:

- Effective Leaders
- Supportive Environment
- Involved Families

Approach

Communities In Schools of Indiana is part of a nationwide network providing technical assistance and collaborating with diverse stakeholders in pursuit of improving graduation rates in underserved communities for the past 42 years. For our communities, elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion in the ways we partner with stakeholders, including parents, community leaders, educators, policymakers, business leaders and faith-based organizations, means bringing people together to find innovative solutions that collectively address issues like systemic poverty and other barriers to equity. Communities In Schools provides students with an evidence-based, comprehensive model, promoting student success in school and life.

The expertise of CIS is in strong alignment with the Indiana Department of Education's goals to support struggling schools. The Indiana Department of Education identifies schools in need through a comprehensive needs assessment and implementation of a school improvement plan as "Target Support and Improvement." The CIS comprehensive model provides a multi-layered approach in meeting the requirements outlined by the Indiana Department of Education school improvement standards:

- The CIS model includes conducting a yearly school needs assessment to identify school stakeholder and local community needs as well as school priority areas.
- The CIS model also defines school and individual student goals and incorporates development of an implementation plan to support with meeting those goals.
- Each school is provided with a site coordinator, serving as a bridge between the community, the school, and the CIS model. He or she builds strong relationships in the school and works with school personnel to identify students to receive intensive case management services based on school goals and priorities.
- The coordinator also builds strong relationships within the community to connect schools and students with resources to meet needs.
- Lastly, school and student progress towards these goals are consistently monitored with reports provided to school leadership and support teams.

CIS of Indiana works throughout the state of Indiana to build strong relationships with the students who need us most, surround schools and students with support, and develop positive school and student outcomes. The CIS model encompasses the entire school as well as individual students. Its components include: identifying and assessing needs; developing goals and action plans; identifying community

resources and services to meet goals; providing intensive student support; and evaluating progress toward goal plans.

We know that each school district is unique in the students it serves and the approach to meeting student needs. While our model serves as a framework for our approach in promoting student success, Communities In Schools of Indiana partners with school districts on an individual basis to best meet student outcomes. Unique model implementation could include: providing district-wide student services and supports, licensing the CIS model to school districts, and offering pre-implementation development to prepare schools for model implementation. These services are all in addition to the comprehensive model implementation traditionally offered to our educational partners.

As another means to differentiate services to meet unique school needs, CIS also offers a comprehensive set of professional development workshops that speak to core of the CIS model. These workshops are an effective means of introducing school personnel to the integrated student supports model. Whether a practitioner is a novice or seasoned, CIS' engaging workshop material and real-world case studies from its diverse network help workshop participants meet learning goals and objectives. Courses are available individually or as a series and typically last between 1-1 ½ days per course.

Our Impact

CIS of Indiana represents one affiliate of a nationwide network currently working with 165 community partners to serve over 13,000 students in 7 school districts across the state of Indiana.

In the 2018-2019 school year, CIS continued to see high rates of success among case managed students:

- 80% with an attendance goal met or made progress toward their goal
- 92% with a behavior goal met or made progress toward their goal
- 89% with an academic improvement goal met or made progress toward goal
- 95% of K-11 students were promoted to the next grade level
- 96% of seniors graduated or received a GED (84% on time)
- 99% of students stayed in school

Specifically, across the CIS network in Indiana, the following results were achieved in the 2018-2019 school year across 37,140 students (3,286 of whom were case-managed) at 67 schools:

- 78% of case managed students meeting or progressing in attendance goal area
- 89% of case managed students meeting or progressing in behavior goal area
- 85% of case managed students meeting or progressing in academic goal area
- Over 99% of case managed students stayed in schools through the end of the 18-19 school year
- 97% of case managed students in grades K-8 were promoted to the next grade
- 90% of case managed seniors either graduated or received a GED
- 97% of case managed students in grades K-11 were promoted to the next grade level