



Communities
In Schools®

Eastern Pennsylvania



Building Bright Futures

40th Anniversary Campaign

For Communities In Schools of Eastern PA, our 40th anniversary is not just a time to look back at four decades of empowering students to stay in school and succeed in life, it's also a time to shoot for the stars and imagine how many more children and families we can impact. In our first 40 years we reached more than 250,000 children. With your help, we will reach more high-risk students than ever before!

The CIS Story: 40 years of Building Bright Futures

Programs don't change children, relationships do.

– Bill Milliken, founder of CIS

CIS of Eastern PA is continually broadening and accelerating its efforts to build more transformative relationships with students. While we currently serve nearly 37,000 elementary, middle and high school students in 40 schools across Northampton, Lehigh and Berks counties, we know this is just a fraction of the students in need.

Many of the students CIS serves are facing poverty, social isolation, lack of access to medical and mental health resources and more, all of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. CIS addresses the most at-risk students in a unique way. We ask, “What is preventing this student from coming to school ready to learn?” The ways we respond are as unique as each child. With our evidence-based model of Integrated Student Supports, CIS is the only organization of its kind proven to both REDUCE dropout rates and INCREASE on-time graduation.

Our Building Bright Futures Campaign goal is to expand our program into 25 more schools in the next 5 years. We plan to deepen our services in the high-need districts where we currently work, and bring our services to additional schools and districts to reach even more at-risk students.



Bill & Denise Spence and Kathleen & JB Reilly - 40th Anniversary Honorary Co-Chairs

Our families are longtime supporters of Communities In Schools. Their impactful work addresses the critical needs of our community's most at-risk students. Over the years, we have watched CIS grow into a comprehensive organization that provides a full continuum of support to students across the Lehigh Valley and Berks County. Supporting CIS is a powerful way we can help ensure the success of the youth in our community. Today, we are asking you to join us during this momentous 40th anniversary year. Together, we can create a better future for our youth and for our community.

What is Communities In Schools?

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 (CIS) is a nationwide network of passionate professionals working in schools addressing the needs of students and families. We see potential in every student and we're committed to helping them see it, too. **In its simplest terms, CIS removes the nonacademic barriers that keep kids from achieving in school.**

So many children do not have opportunity or access to important resources. They lack vital supports and have not developed the resiliency skills they need to overcome challenges at home and at school. Learning disabilities. Homelessness. Bullying. Trauma. Health, mental health and dental needs. A lack of basic needs, such as food and warm clothing. CIS is in schools to identify and overcome the roadblocks that get in the way of success.

CIS takes a whole child approach, wrapping each student in community supports, empowering them to succeed in school and have a future full of hope and promise.

We collaborate with school districts and individual schools to understand each student's needs and deliver resources tailored to them. We connect with local businesses, social service agencies, faith communities, healthcare providers and volunteers, so that students have what they need.

CIS is the only organization of its kind with proven results to both increase promotion and graduation rates and decrease dropout rates.



"I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for CIS. They've helped me through a lot and I am very grateful for CIS and everything they've done for me"

-Adriana, Class of 2018

Changing a Pipeline of Failure to a Pathway of Success

In the United States, a student drops out of high school every 26 seconds. More than 70,000 students drop out of Pennsylvania schools every year. Eastern Pennsylvania is not immune to this epidemic, which forever limits the lives of young people, their families and the community.

One thing is certain: when a student drops out of school, the doors of opportunity close.

Dropout rates point to a long history of unmet needs. This life-changing decision to drop out is often made with frustration, a lack of information, and feelings of failure. While the act of dropping out frequently occurs in high school, that event actually begins early in elementary school with behavior issues, chronic absenteeism and poor academic performance. Behind all of that are poverty, trauma, health and mental health conditions, and family instability. These are some of the nonacademic barriers preventing students from entering the classroom ready to learn.

The impact on individuals and the community is significant. Students who drop out are more likely to require public assistance, 2.5 times more likely to have significant health problems in early adulthood, and 64 times more likely to become incarcerated. This is tragic for the individual and the community.

Below are some of the attributes that make CIS uniquely able to provide a pathway of success:

- CIS begins with the belief that a relationship with a caring adult can change the trajectory of a student's life. **Relationships, not programs, change kids.**
- CIS utilizes an evidence-based model of **Integrated Student Supports** in elementary, middle, and high school settings. CIS provides whole school, targeted group, and one-to-one case management for students.
- CIS engages and coordinates with community partners and families to support student success.
- CIS tailors its programs and services to meet the needs of each student and each school. For this reason, CIS is effective in urban, suburban and rural schools.

"Your program is the best thing that's ever happened to our school. I truly believe so many more students will be graduating in the future that would have dropped out if you all were not there to help them through the tough times."

High School Parent



Integrated Student Supports

Integrated Student Supports (ISS) is our evidence-based model that places a dedicated Site Coordinator into a school every day from the opening bell to the closing bell. The ISS model is the way we bring resources from the community into the school where our most at-risk students and their families can benefit from them. **In short, we connect students and families to the resources they need to stay in school and succeed in life.**

Communities In Schools is so successful because we are able to identify students who need our supports the most. CIS staff work with principals, teachers and counselors to identify students with behavioral challenges, poor attendance, and academic concerns. The key to our success lies in our personalized approach that includes creating trusting relationships with students and delivering targeted supports such as:

- One-on-One Case Management
- Truancy supports
- After school programs
- College and Career supports
- Food and Basic Needs assistance
- Life Skills/ Resiliency Skills
- Anger Management
- Decision Making
- Conflict Resolution
- Mentoring
- Counseling
- Health/Mental Health service coordination



"I have witnessed so many students and their families flourish from the support that they receive from Communities In Schools. In a nutshell, CIS brings the world to our students, families, and our school"

School District Administrator

The Building Bright Futures Campaign: 5 Year Goals

In the next 5 years, Communities In Schools of Eastern PA plans to expand our reach to 25 new schools in the region. By 2028, CIS will serve 65 school sites, reaching 50,000 students each year, including more than 3,000 of the highest-risk students who will receive intense one-to-one case management.

Quality Results from Quality Programs

- ROI - for every dollar spent, there is \$11.60 economic return on investment over a 9-year period.
- CIS directs 89 cents of every dollar to programs that directly support student success.
- In 2022, the Mackenzie Scott Foundation recognized CIS of Eastern PA as being one of the nation's highest performing nonprofits.

Setting the Bar High

We had great results during the 2021-22 school year.

- CIS served nearly 37,000 students in Northampton, Lehigh and Berks counties
- 1,562 students received one-on-one case management
- 99% stayed in school
- 88% graduated
- 78% improved social emotional/resiliency skills
- 75% increased academic outcomes

Our results speak for themselves, but there is always more we can do, more students we can serve, more lives we can improve. We need your help.

What will your Gift Do?

- \$250,000 brings 3 years of services into a new school site
- \$100,000 funds a full-time site coordinator to provide Integrated Student Supports
- \$25,000 provides summer-time supports to 60 students
- \$10,000 provides after-school programming at one school site for one year
- \$5,000 provides social, emotional, and academic supports for 30 students for one year
- \$1,500 provides one student with case-managed services for one year
- \$500 provides 20 students with a backpack filled with school supplies and hygiene products

Give with the Assurance that your Gift is Reaching Kids

CIS spends only 11% of its revenue on administration. That means 89 cents of every dollar goes directly to programs that keep kids in school.

Ways to Give

Communities In Schools of Eastern PA is grateful for your support and we want to make your giving experience as meaningful and easy as possible. We are looking forward to discussing with you how your gift can meet your priorities and values and support our strategic needs and goals. Below are some of the ways that CIS is equipped to receive your gift.

Gifts of Cash

Cash gifts may be made over a period of 2 to 3 years, as a one-time donation, or as an automatic monthly donation. Pledge payments will be arranged to best meet your needs.

EITC

EITC allows businesses to donate a portion or even their entire state tax liability in return for up to a 90% tax credit.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities may provide tax advantages to you. Generally, the income tax deduction may be taken for the full fair market value of the gifted asset.

Estate, Planned, and Deferred Gifts

Another way to make a gift to CIS is through bequests, planned, and deferred gifts. Many of these giving opportunities — including charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, for example — provide income for life to you and a loved one.

We are truly grateful for your commitment to build bright futures for our most at-risk students. Your support will help us grow into 25 new schools and serve more than 50,000 students each year!



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Communities
In Schools®

40
YEARS

Eastern Pennsylvania

Building Bright Futures With You!

