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## **Communities In Schools of Georgia Prepares Families for a Successful School Year With New Online *Parent Resource Center***

**ATLANTA – August 8, 2012** – As students across Georgia head back to the classroom, Communities in Schools (CIS) of Georgia has launched a new online resource as part of a statewide initiative to help parents and caregivers support students and a successful school year. The CIS of Georgia *Parent Resource Center*, available at [www.CISGA.org/ParentResourceCenter](http://www.CISGA.org/ParentResourceCenter) provides helpful tips and information for parents, educators and other caregivers including:

- Important curriculum changes taking effect in Georgia schools this school year
- Advice for ensuring a smooth transition to middle school and high school
- Tips for preparing for standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT
- Ideas for making the most of parent/teacher conferences
- How to help students with homework
- How to identify and prevent “bullying”

Additionally, the online *Parent Resource Center* includes a searchable directory that makes it easy for parents and caregivers to locate traditional resource centers, often offered in partnership with local school systems, in individual counties across the state of Georgia.

“Parents are children’s first, and most influential, teachers and help shape each child’s perception of successful education,” said Carol Lewis, Communities In Schools of Georgia Chief Operating Officer. “We know that parents want to help their children succeed and that educators welcome parental involvement. We believe this resource will help both parents and educators better support students at all grade levels. “

In addition to the launch of the *Parent Resource Center*, CIS of Georgia is also supporting students as they head back to school by partnering with Walmart to host the 2012 “Build a Backpack” initiative. Beginning July 30 and continuing through August 31, customers shopping at select Georgia Walmart stores will have the opportunity to purchase and donate school supplies to benefit Georgia students. For a complete list of participating Walmart locations across the state, visit [www.CISGA.org](http://www.CISGA.org) or find CIS of Georgia on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/CISGeorgia>).

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### **About Communities In Schools of Georgia**

Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation’s leading dropout prevention organization. CIS partners with local school districts and community organizations to connect resources and services to kids at-risk of dropping out and their families. Through the CIS model, local affiliates promote student achievement by meeting the unique needs of each youth, which might entail providing social services, mentoring, after-school tutoring, to name a few. Third-party experts validated that the CIS model is one of only a few programs that reduces dropout rates and increases student achievement, which leads to stronger economies and communities. In Georgia, 41 CIS local affiliates and 18 Performance Learning Centers(R) (PLCs) provide services to more than 140,000 students in hundreds of school and community-based sites. PLCs provide another learning option for high school students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. In addition to PLCs, other key programs include mentoring, tutoring, parent education, literacy, after-school programs and youth leadership. Communities sponsoring CIS programs have seen an increase in their school graduation rates, a decrease in violence and disruptions, and an increase in attendance and academic achievement. For more information, visit [www.cisga.org](http://www.cisga.org) or call 404-897-2955.