

Communities In Schools of Georgia (CIS of Georgia)

PURPOSE OF A LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS ORGANIZATION

- Involve the entire community in a cooperative effort with the school district and other agencies to find ways to help kids succeed in school and increase the high school graduation rate.

STRATEGY

- A community development approach to supporting education by unifying the full resources of the community (civic organizations, local government, law enforcement, businesses, faith groups and volunteers) around children, families, teachers and schools as a support system.

AT A GLANCE

- Communities In Schools (CIS) surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
- CIS began in Atlanta over 30 years ago and now reaches more than one million kids annually with programs and activities in 25 states and the District of Columbia.
- Funding, training and technical assistance is provided to 41 locally managed Georgia CIS affiliates serving more than 300 school and community-based sites.
- Communities with CIS programs have seen their school completion rates **increase**, violence and disruptions **decrease**, and attendance and academic achievement **increase**.
- High school “at-risk” students who received sustained services from CIS of Georgia during the past school year achieved a 97.6% stay-in-school rate.
- During the school year, more than 145,000 students were served and more than 5,800 volunteers helped CIS of Georgia provide services to students and parents at school and community locations.

Counties with CIS programs in Georgia

Albany/Dougherty
Athens/Clarke
Atlanta/DeKalb
Augusta/Richmond
Baldwin
Barrow
Berrien
Bulloch
Burke
Candler
Carrollton/Carroll
Catoosa
Central Georgia (4 counties)
Cochran/Bleckley
Coweta
Dodge
Douglas
Effingham
Fitzgerald/Ben Hill
Glascock
Glynn
Hancock
Harris
Hart
Henry
Jefferson
Jenkins
Laurens
Marietta/Cobb
McDuffie
Milledgeville/Baldwin
Rome/Floyd
Savannah/Chatham
Screven
Stephens
Sumter
Troup
Turner
Walton
Warren
Washington
Wilkes

KEY PROGRAMS	RESULTS
<i>CIS promotes a variety of programs that help kids successfully learn, stay in school and graduate.</i>	

Performance Learning Centers® (PLCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLCs provide another learning option to high school students who are not succeeding in a traditional setting. Students complete assignments using online computer-based curriculum and project-based learning assignments. There are 17 PLCs in Georgia. Since 2003, more than 4,800 students have earned their high school diplomas.
Parent Engagement Parent Resource Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PRC helps parents and educators build successful partnerships to benefit children in their communities.
Mentoring Georgia Mentoring Partnership AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS serves as a facilitator for the Georgia Mentoring Partnership. The program provides support and guidance to mentoring programs.
Literacy AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers provide one-on-one tutorial assistance and help improve reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

Communities In Schools of Georgia: Program Descriptions

Each of Georgia's local Communities In Schools (CIS) affiliates tailor activities to meet the specific needs of their community. The CIS of Georgia state office provides training, technical assistance, program evaluation; fundraising support, advocacy, communications, and other functions to our 41 locally managed affiliates so that they are empowered to focus on serving the social and non-instructional needs of students. The following are program areas and descriptions of key CIS state initiatives:

NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

■ **Performance Learning Centers® (PLCs)**

PLCs are geared toward high school students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. They provide another learning option for those students and their parents. They create a professional environment and emphasize personal support and an intense academic program anchored by an online instructional system and project-based learning. Students receive one-on-one attention, complete assignments at their own pace using online computer-based curriculum, and develop a personal life plan.

LITERACY

■ **AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program**

The program is funded by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Its mission is to tutor low-achieving elementary school students and improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary recognition, and basic writing skills. AmeriCorps members assist local affiliates and provide one-on-one reading instruction to youth in grades K-5.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

■ **Parent Resource Center**

Parents, students and educators can access this online information that will help to better assist and become more actively involved in their children's education.

MENTORING

■ **Georgia Mentoring Partnership**

CIS serves as facilitator for the Georgia Mentoring Partnership. The partnership develops and implements a statewide mentoring process that provides support and guidance to mentoring programs. CIS provides training and support, along with other recognized community organizations.

■ **AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA)**

Full-time VISTA members work in local CIS affiliates throughout the state and assist in the development, expansion and sustainability of anti-poverty programming which supports high-risk youth. Programs include academic mentoring and family strengthening.

OTHER PROGRAMS

■ **Dine Out For Kids®**

DOFK provides an opportunity for restaurateurs and sponsors to support at-risk students in their community by donating a portion of the profits from breakfast, lunch and/or dinner to CIS on a specified date. Proceeds from the event will allow CIS to continue to provide after-school, youth leadership, literacy, parent education and other pertinent programs in communities served.

■ **Student Achievement Month (SAM)**

SAM recognizes students (K-12) who are sometimes overlooked and often expected to underachieve. The annual contest allows students to compete in a number of categories for prizes and scholarships. The contest helps students showcase talent in an environment of competition and cooperation, set and achieve new goals, understand the importance of staying in school and preparing for life, and assume responsibility for self-improvement and self-discipline.