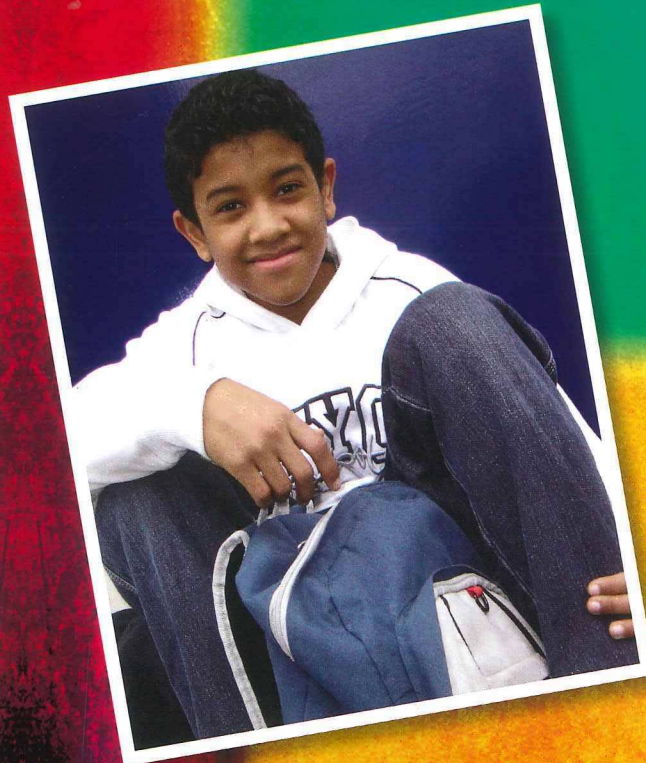




Communities
In Schools

Houston

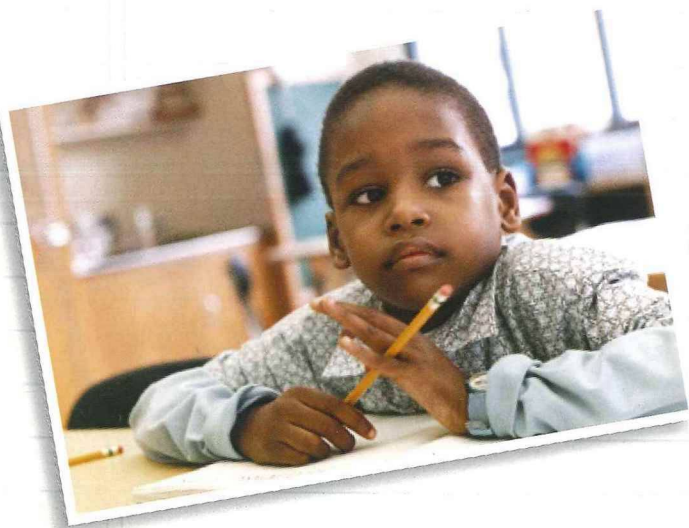
Empowering Students
to Stay in School



Who We Are

Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS) has served at-risk students in the Greater Houston Area since 1979. CIS is a campus-based, nonprofit organization providing direct services and resources to under-served children with unmet needs. By surrounding them with a community of support, CIS empowers students to stay in school and achieve in life.

Working alongside multiple school districts, CIS is able to touch the lives of 30,000 students and their families annually. To maximize resources and prevent duplication, CIS partners with nearly 300 agencies – bringing community expertise directly to the school campus.



What We Do

CIS brings the **Five Basics** on the school campus – essentials every child needs and deserves:

- ✓ A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult;
- ✓ A safe place to learn and grow;
- ✓ A healthy start and a healthy future;
- ✓ A marketable skill to use upon graduation; and
- ✓ A chance to give back to peers and the community.



Why It Matters

The dropout rate is an epidemic that affects the entire community.

- Over 50% of Houston's kindergarteners will leave school before high school graduation
- Houston's graduation rate is the 4th worst in America

Reducing the number of dropouts would produce dramatic economic benefit for the Houston community. Over 130 million dollars would be earned and pumped into the Houston economy if merely half of the students who dropped out of one class year had graduated.

Who We Serve



CIS serves students at greatest risk of dropping out of school. They face varying obstacles, including class failure, teen pregnancy, homelessness, and family crisis.

A startling 95% of CIS students receive some sort of government assistance, and 93% qualify for free/reduced lunch. CIS students are 67% Hispanic/Latino and 28% African American.

Our Results

Two independent evaluations verify that CIS is the only dropout prevention program to make a meaningful impact on both increasing graduation rates and decreasing the dropout rate.

- 98% of CIS students stay in school
- 94% of CIS seniors graduate high school

A True Story

Manuel was a high school student who lost both of his parents before the age of 15. Sent to Houston to live with his sister, his new living situation failed to provide safety or stability. He sustained physical abuse at the hands of his sister's boyfriend and began having trouble sleeping and eating. When the abuse didn't subside, his sister asked him to move out of the house, leaving Manuel homeless and without food or money.

Manuel's high school teacher referred him to CIS, where he met Project Manager Neysa. Neysa provided academic support and counseling services to assist Manuel in overcoming past obstacles to achieve success in school. Neysa coordinated a variety of social services to meet Manuel's needs, including finding rental assistance through the CIS Emergency Needs Fund and a partnering agency's At Risk Youth Fund. CIS also assisted Manuel in attaining a job that met his financial needs and allowed him to work reasonable hours that did not interfere with school.

Once on the verge of dropping out of school, Manuel earned a high school diploma with Honors and received a full scholarship to a local university. The CIS program gives young people like Manuel, who frequently fall through the cracks of the public education system, opportunities for success through the provision of social services and a supportive community.

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Communities In Schools of Houston's mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



**Communities
In Schools**

Houston

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