



Communities
In Schools

Greater Tarrant County

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DEMAND INCREASES BY 23% TO SUPPORT AT-RISK STUDENTS

Communities In Schools of Greater Tarrant County Grows Into 8 Additional Schools

TARRANT COUNTY – Over 8,000 students per year leave school without a high school diploma in Tarrant County. Only seven in ten students entering the ninth grade graduate. Fighting the school-dropout rate continues to be one of Tarrant County's top priorities – and one of its most challenging problems.

Communities In Schools of Greater Tarrant County is proud to respond to an unprecedented 23% increase in demand for its programs for the start of the 2013-14 school year. Eight new schools & two new districts – Lake Worth and White Settlement – will have on-campus CIS social workers present to readily assist at-risk youth.

- Young people without diplomas are the last to be hired, the first to be laid off, and often the last to be rehired.
- Statistically, they're more likely to be involved in criminal activity and more likely to be incarcerated.
- They're more likely to rely on public assistance, and they're more often uninsured.
- As parents, they are less likely to expect their own children to graduate, thus perpetuating the cycle.
- Graduation rates for Hispanic and African American students still lag behind white graduation rates by almost 6 percent and 13 percent respectively.

“Significant funding increases from the Texas Education Agency, school districts, United Way, and community donors are making it possible for Communities In Schools to answer the demand for expansion into 8 new schools with on-campus social work staff,” said Mike Steele, President of Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County. “While the graduation rate is 88.7% in Texas, 95% of Communities In Schools seniors graduate from high school. What makes this difference even more impressive is the fact that CIS students are referred to us because schools say that they are among the most likely to leave before graduation. ”

It is evident that failing to complete high school impacts the whole community. In fact, new research confirms that an investment of \$1 to increase graduation rates yields a return on investment of over \$13. At a time when even more children are living in poverty, schools and education remain the most powerful anti-poverty tools available. Great schools always have been, and remain, the economic driver for our country's future.

About Communities In Schools of Tarrant County

Communities In Schools of Tarrant County is a 501c3 non-profit that is part of a national network of CIS programs serving more than 1.2 million students. CIS is placed in 47 schools across 10 Tarrant County school districts this year, serving students who are identified by their schools as most at-risk of dropping out. CIS serves not only students, but their families, assessing their unique needs and working with more than 80 community partner organizations to connect the students with the resources they need to address a wide range of issues. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

www.cistarrant.org