



For Immediate Release

News Release

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Five-Year Comprehensive Evaluation Ranks Communities In Schools as the Most Effective Dropout Prevention Organization in America

Texas CIS Affiliates Highest Performing in National Network

Fort Worth, TX – Communities In Schools, the nation’s leading organization dedicated to empowering students to stay in school, today released the results of a five-year comprehensive longitudinal evaluation conducted by one of the nation’s foremost education evaluation firms.

After five years of evaluation which was the largest and most comprehensive evaluation of dropout prevention programs ever completed, the evaluation concluded that Communities In Schools' model resulted in the strongest reduction in dropout rates of any existing fully scaled dropout prevention program that has been evaluated; that Communities In Schools is unique in having an effect on both reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates; and that the Communities In Schools model is effective across states, school settings, grade levels and student ethnicities. Importantly, analyses indicate that the more fully the model is implemented (“high implementers”), the stronger the effects.

The study revealed that across the national Communities In Schools network, Texas has the largest percentage of “high implementers” – programs implementing the Communities In Schools model with the greatest fidelity. In addition, the randomized control trial conducted in Texas produced results almost three times the U.S. Department of Education’s standard for “substantively important results”.

“Logically, this landmark research would launch expansion to reach a larger number of students. However because of budget deficits in Texas, CIS is actually facing cuts that could dismantle the Texas network of CIS programs serving about 89,000 students which took three decades to build.” said Mike Steele, President & CEO of CIS in Tarrant County. “Fortunately, many Texas leaders like Lt. Governor Dewhurst support CIS.....because it works.”

“I’m proud that in the very challenging area of dropout prevention, Texas organizations are setting the national standard for effectiveness.” said Lt. Governor David Dewhurst. “I have spoken personally with Commissioner Scott about working with us to find ways to continue dropout prevention programs, like Communities In Schools, that have proven results.”

N.B. In conducting this research, the evaluators adhered to the approach of the What Works Clearinghouse in measuring program effects, which recognizes the practical importance of understanding the magnitude of effect as measured by effect size.

A copy of the final evaluation report is available at:

<http://www.communitiesinschools.org/about/publications/>

About Communities In Schools of Greater Tarrant County

Communities In Schools was established in Tarrant County in 1992 in Fort Worth ISD serving two schools. CIS now serves 36 schools in eight (8) Tarrant County districts providing services to over 21,000 students and intensive services for over 3,200 students. Office space is provided for full-time CIS social workers in all 36 schools and school districts invest in CIS results by paying half of the costs for their CIS programs.

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