

Chicago Communities In Schools **Fact Sheet**

Mission

Chicago Communities In Schools (CCIS) links schools with existing community resources to help young people learn, stay in school and prepare for life. Eighty-five percent of Chicago public school students come from low-income homes. These children and their families look to schools for healthcare, social supports and enrichment opportunities. In order to help children succeed in school and in life, CCIS aims to remove barriers to learning by connecting students with a variety of programs and services that address their specific social, emotional, health and enrichment needs. All CCIS programs and activities are delivered at no cost to students or schools.

Goals

- Create new connections and build lasting relationships between schools and community organizations by providing school staff and service providers with essential introductions, support, tools and trainings
- Train school staff to assess student priorities, coordinate services, evaluate programs and build sustainable partnerships
- Teach social service agencies to become experts in delivering programs in schools and customizing services for students
- Create systemic change in how schools identify and address non-educational challenges facing their students
- Leverage philanthropic investments by connecting \$5 worth of services for every \$1 donated

History

Established in 1988, CCIS is reaching record numbers of Chicago students and families in need. It connects the school system's most at-risk students with vision, dental and asthma care, conflict resolution and anger management, health prevention and education, counseling, and arts and academic enrichment. Since its inception, CCIS has more than quadrupled the number of students it serves annually from 12,000 to more than 55,000. The network of service providers has also grown in the past 12 years to include more than 130 providers. This has resulted in more than 1,000 services being connected to schools and students. CCIS currently works with 152 partner schools and connects services to more than 100 non-partner schools. CCIS has been able to maintain this exceptional growth without proportional increases in staff and budget. In fact, the costs of services have decreased from an average of \$29,000 per school to an average of \$10,000 per school.

CCIS is an affiliate of Communities In Schools (CIS), the nation's leading dropout prevention organization. An independent non-profit with its own board of directors and funding, CCIS accesses the national network of nearly 200 CIS affiliates to share and learn best practices that will benefit more children in Chicago and across the country.

Accomplishments

CCIS annually connects more than 55,000 students across the city with more than 1,000 services and programs they otherwise would not receive. Special initiatives focused on core needs shared by schools and service providers across the city include:

- Healthy Foods, Healthy Moves: InForm Chicago: Builds healthier communities by promoting the importance of good nutrition and physical activity to Chicago youth of all ages in both school and community settings.
- Gilead Sciences HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative: Connects students in partner schools with high-quality HIV/AIDS prevention and education and provides targeted trainings, tools and support to HIV/AIDS service providers.
- Agency Impact Initiative: Increases the scope, scale and impact of social, emotional and health services delivered through the public schools by providing necessary training, tools and strategic support to Chicago's community agencies.