



## ENSURE CHILDREN SUCCEED BY BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

**THE PROBLEM:** More than 7 million young people are at risk of dropping out of school each year. Children face challenges in and out of the classroom, and it is often difficult for families to secure the public and private services that could help young people stay in school and on track to graduate.

**THE IDEA:** Integrating student services inside schools helps young people access the support they need. Coordination is provided by a school-based staff member who aligns and helps access services so that students can focus on learning.

**HIGH IMPACT OPPORTUNITY:** Communities In Schools (CIS) places a site coordinator inside partner schools to assess needs; identify students at risk of dropping out; and establish relationships with local businesses, social services, health care providers, and others. At each school, CIS helps connect all students to academic opportunities and other resources, while providing case-management services for students at high risk of drop-out. With this model, CIS's nearly 200 affiliates serve 1.25 million young people across the U.S.

**RESULTS:** A 2010 evaluation found a 36% reduction in drop-out rates and a 31% increase in on-time graduation as compared to matched comparable schools. Among case-managed students, the study found a 70% decrease in drop-out rates, 45% increase in attendance, and a 38% increase in grade point average and number of credits earned in 9th grade.

**COST PER IMPACT:** The CIS model costs approximately \$9,000 per school, per year, to achieve a 36% decrease in schoolwide drop-out rates.

**TAKE ACTION:** You can support CIS through financial donations or as a volunteer. You can also support other evidence-based drop-out prevention models, such as ALAS, Check and Connect, and Career Academies.

**TIPS:** Because dropout is a problem that often has both academic and non-academic components, look for models that address a range of student needs, including social and emotional support and academic engagement.



For more information on this model and other ways to help students succeed, see our [Pathways to Student Success](#) report.

For all of CHIP's profiles of high impact giving opportunities in 2013, see <http://www.impact.upenn.edu/about/year-end-giving>.