Communities In Schools®
Lakewood
Supporting Clover Park & Franklin Pierce Schools

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# Considering Board Service: What to Expect

Thank you for your interest in exploring board service with Communities In Schools of Lakewood.

Joining a nonprofit board is an important commitment, and we believe the decision should be thoughtful and mutual. Our process gives prospective board members opportunities to learn about CISL, meet people connected to our work, ask questions, and consider whether board service is a good fit—while giving us the opportunity to get to know you and learn about the experiences, relationships, skills, and perspectives you might bring to the board.

## Exploring Board Service

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a CISL board member, we will typically begin with an informal conversation with a current board member, the Executive Director, or another member of CISL leadership.

Sometimes a board member will reach out to someone they believe may be a good fit. Other times, someone interested in CISL will reach out to us. Either way, the first step is simply getting to know one another and beginning to explore whether board service might make sense.

## Learn More About CISL

As you explore board service, we want you to have a clear understanding of who we are, how we work, and what we ask of our board members.

You may be invited to:

- Meet with additional board or staff members
- Visit a CISL school site or attend a CISL event
- Learn more about our programs and the students and families we serve
- Review CISL's Values, Beliefs & Commitments
- Review board expectations and engagement opportunities
- Ask questions about our current priorities, opportunities, and challenges

These conversations and experiences are also an opportunity for you to decide whether CISL feels like an organization and board community where you would like to invest your time and energy.

## Deciding Whether to Move Forward

There is no expectation that every conversation will lead to board service or even an application.

As we learn more about one another, we may mutually decide that now is not the right time for board service. Sometimes the connection may lead to another way of engaging with CISL—such as volunteering, attending an event, making a community connection, or supporting our work in another way.

If there is mutual interest in continuing toward board membership, we will talk with you about the next steps in the process.

**Application & Interview**

Once you and CISL have had an opportunity to explore board service and there is mutual interest in moving forward, you are invited to complete the formal board application.

At this stage, we will ask for the CISL Board Application and resume.

**The Board reviews application materials before candidates are invited to interview.** Candidates who move forward will complete Conflict of Interest disclosures and then meet with a committee consisting of the Executive Director and at least one current board member. Interview topics and questions are shared with candidates in advance.

**Board Consideration**

Following the interview process, the interview team's recommendation and the candidate's application materials are brought to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

The Board makes the final decision and invitation regarding new board members.

**Welcome to the Board**

If the Board invites you to join, you will receive a welcome from the Board Chair and begin our new board member orientation process.

**Questions Along the Way?**

We welcome questions throughout the process. You do not need to know whether you want to join the board before reaching out. **If you're curious, that's enough to start a conversation.**

**Kerri Pedrick, Executive Director**
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**Matthew Campbell, Board Chair**
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**Ready to apply?** Complete the CISL Board Application