

Communities In Schools
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Good morning!

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to bring Communities In Schools (CIS) Texas in a straightforward presentation that defines the following:

Who, what, when, where, how, how much and WHY.

CIS is a non-profit charitable organization serving Texas at-risk students for more than 30 years, placing professional staff on school campuses providing one on one case management every school day and **BEYOND*.**

By the Numbers

In 2010-11, over 10,000 community and corporate volunteers were engaged in support of CIS and its students.

In that year alone:

- **88,646 students were case managed**
- **584,577 students were served with school wide service**
- **773 campuses in 75 counties and 144 school districts.**

The results:

- **99% stayed in school**
- **87% promoted to the next grade**
- **84% eligible to graduate, graduated**
- **89% targeted for academics, improved**
- **77% targeted for attendance, improved**
- **93% targeted for behavior, improved**

**Funding from General Revenue and TANF to CIS totaled \$20,973,318
Leveraging these dollars locally, CIS affiliates raised \$54, 597,303.**

The cost to the state of Texas: \$218.06 per case managed student

The "By the Numbers" above answers the question: WHY?

Now on to *BEYOND:

“BEFORE AND AFTER THE BELL”

Every campus is required to conduct some type of before or after school activity which stems from or results in improvements in Academics, Behavior and/or Attendance (ABA).

CIS campuses throughout our state provide a variety of these activities including CIS Central Texas’ project: The XY-Zone. Recent studies have shown that there is a growing educational achievement gap between males and females with boys falling behind girls in the education system. The disparity is even greater for African-American and Hispanic young men. The mission of the XY-Zone is to support and guide adolescent males as they journey into manhood, helping them to succeed in school and prepare for life. XY-Zone staff designs the program to meet the individual needs of teen males at each campus, while ensuring that participants are part of a positive “brotherhood” that works to build character and leadership. Recently the XY-Zone was featured in a report (The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color: A Review of Research, Pathways and Progress) during a Congressional hearing on Capitol Hill by the College Board Advocacy and Policy Center as models of progress at meeting the needs of hard to reach young men. Communities In Schools of Central Texas was recognized as an organization that demonstrates a substantive commitment to access and equity for young men of color, and have played a critical role in improving the lives and educational experience for the students Communities In Schools serves

CISDR has historically developed STEP Teams (choreographed line dancing) which are very popular with student populations that don’t typically feel like they fit in with cheerleaders or drill team. They meet after school, but only after 45 minutes of homework club and tutoring. The members are only allowed to participate if they have met the requirements confirmed by the classroom teachers (been on time, completed home work, participate in class).

CIS sub population specific supportive guidance groups like Boys to Men work primarily with African American young men. The objective of the group is to teach middle school boys etiquette, responsibility, leadership and help set their moral compass. CIS engaged local fraternities like A- Phi- A local chapters to mentor the boys and provide them with positive male role models.

CISDR, like other affiliates, do not work alone – incorporating community partners who can relate to our students, is essential in creating a lasting impact. Supportive guidance may come in the form of a local A-Phi-A chapter mentoring boys while their female cohorts are guided by the sister A-K-A sorority. Building a sense of community both in and out of school.

Summer

Each CIS program is required to conduct summer enrichment programming – an extension of the school year in June to support summer school and in July to reinforce & prepare students for the upcoming school year. The absence of a structured environment during the summer months has historically shown a level of learning loss that forces school into remediation more than directly into new material at the onset of the school year. Summer extended learning initiatives bridge the learning retention gap for students, thus allowing teachers to delve into new material and not lose ground at the onset requiring a catch up mode throughout the school year.

**** as schools have a limited amount of time to engage students in the classroom and a lot of material to cover, taking students from the classroom to address significant life issues impeding academic success is counterproductive. We find that students who have ready access to that one-on-one relationship beyond the scope of 8 a.m. to 3pm, fair much better with regard to academic outcomes, self confidence and trusting adults then those who don't have that impactful connection.**

SIX DAY SCHOOL WEEK *(Hear cheering from our students?!)*

CISDR is going into its 3rd year of Ketchup Saturdays. An initiative started in recognition of the fact that student progress can be summarily slowed from 4pm Friday to 8am Monday – when their personal lives become barriers to a successful week at school. Additionally, falling behind during the school week(s) can put students in neutral or worse, in reverse while bringing truancy and dropping out forward as better options.

Occurring at 6 week session intervals, Ketchup Saturdays creates a student/adult ratio of no more than 3:1, where students receive attention in small groups from CISDR staff. Students react with a sense of comfort, knowing that if they don't know an answer or aren't a savvy aloud reader, the small group response will not be a large embarrassing one. Ketchup Saturdays offers transportation to and from the CISDR conference room and indoor atrium creating a fresh, exciting environment that inspires a true appetite for learning. By removing the stigma often associated with school, school buildings, and the same routine, students are energized and receptive.

As a form of “muscle confusion” Ketchup Saturdays allow these students to think outside the box, as well as encourages and shows their parents new ways to engage with their students' academic careers.

Takeaway: Like our state of Texas, Communities In Schools STANDS and DELIVERS!