

# CASE FOR SUPPORT



Striving for equity in educational opportunities, providing all students with the unique supports they need to succeed.



Education remains the cornerstone of success in our knowledge-based economy, but there are still troubling disparities, especially for many minority and low income students. A fair and inclusive system that makes the advantages of education available to all is one of the most powerful levers to make society more equitable, which is foundational to our work. Your support can help create equal opportunities for more students.

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our work is guided by our core values: equity • opportunity • collaboration

## the challenge

Despite Washington State's higher-than-ever 79 percent graduation rate last year, 341 students dropped out of school in the Renton and Tukwila school districts. Poverty is the major contributing factor: students from low-income families are two times more likely to drop out than their higher-income peers. For thousands of students living in poverty right here in our community, the barriers to attending school range from needing appropriate shoes or clothes, to staying at home to watch younger siblings, to lacking mental health services to address trauma. As the number of these students continues to grow, so does the need for our services.

## the solution

Since our inception, Communities In Schools of Renton (CISR) has ensured that children in poverty have the support they need to stay in school and achieve in life. Today, we are part of the nation's largest and most effective and efficient dropout prevention network.

“Driven by a belief that poverty should not be a predictor of success.”

Driven by a belief that poverty should not be a predictor of success, we connect the power of local community resources to the students who need them most. We work alongside educators to help every student reach their potential on a path to graduation – and beyond.

We've been showing up in schools for our students, every day, for over 23 years – and we stay with them through their successes as they lead the way to stronger communities for generations to come.

Our Site Coordinators work directly inside K-12 schools to identify at-risk students and connect them with local community resources. From basic needs like food and shelter, to academic needs like mentoring and college preparation, we partner with the community to provide life-changing support.

As an organization rooted in equity, we look ahead to the time when thanks to our work and the caring community, at-risk students have the same opportunities to unlock potential as their peers. We aspire to a time when every student in our community, regardless of circumstance, has a community of support in and outside the classroom.

## a model that works

Communities In Schools (CIS) is helping to transform public education through a results-oriented model proven to keep students in school and on the path to a brighter future. At the heart of our model are the Integrated Student Supports (ISS) and Site Coordinators who bring services and resources into schools to benefit students at risk of dropping out. It is a model that is both student-focused and data-driven.

### Types of Integrated Student Supports



The CIS model integrates supports around each student – and national data confirms that our approach works. A 2010 study found that schools like ours that implemented CIS services experienced more favorable school-wide outcomes than similar schools without those services. CIS model schools experienced lower dropout rates, higher grade advancement and on-time graduation rates.

Additionally, CIS case-managed students report improved relationships with adults, better quality relationships with peers, and improvements in their engagement with school, their educational attitudes, and their belief that education has values for their future – all important outcomes that research links to future success.

## how you can help

The urgency of our mission is amplified by changing demographics, a widening economic gap, and numerous research that directly links inequity with negative outcomes for both the individual and society.

We remain committed to the promise to do more – and better – by all our students as we look ahead to the time when at-risk students have the same opportunities to unlock potential as their peers. It is therefore imperative we:

- **Sustain:** enhance operational efficiency and secure more consistent funding;
- **Deepen:** as students' needs increase, more in-depth individualized services are needed;
- **Grow:** expand into more schools to support more students.

We have a moral obligation to serve more students in need, and there has never been more important time to invest in young people. Your support will ensure more students have equal opportunities to learn, enhance their academic success and increase their chance for graduation from high school, giving them hope for the future.

Your investment in CISR is not only a good investment for students, it's a good investment for our community.

“For every dollar invested in Communities In Schools, there is \$11.60 return on investment.”

(EMSI economic Impact Study, 2012)

To help ensure all students have equal opportunities to reach their full potential or to learn more, please visit: [renton.ciswa.org](http://renton.ciswa.org).