

Superintendent and Principal Testimonials

Superintendents and principals want to hear from colleagues who have first-hand experience with the work of Communities In Schools (CIS). The testimonials included below can be used when engaging with educators interested in learning more about the value of CIS for their students, schools, and communities. Testimonials below depict rural, suburban, and urban experiences.

“I see CIS as being the wind beneath the wings of a kid. Many of the kids are beating their wings pretty hard every day to stay in the air, and CIS comes along and takes care of the non-academic barriers to a kid’s successful flight...Every year I get to go to over 20 high school graduations and hand out diplomas... We’ve gone from a 66 percent graduation rate to 89.6 percent – that’s thousands of kids on a very different trajectory. I watch kids walk off the stage and I know that without CIS, they wouldn’t have a diploma or a plan for next steps. It’s thrilling to see what this organization has done for our community.”

Ann Blakeney Clark, Superintendent,
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina

“It’s easy to make the decision to have Communities In Schools be a part of your school because the return on investment, the kind of impact it makes on our children and in our children’s lives, and the gaps that it fills no teacher, principal, assistant principal or counselor will ever be able to fill. Communities In Schools has been a godsend. No matter where I go in my career, I’m going to take Communities In Schools with me...it helps meet the needs of the entire child as well as the family.”

Dr. Sharon M. Shields, Superintendent,
La Vega ISD, Texas

“Communities In Schools is making sure that children and families have an opportunity to get needed resources so we can remove the barriers and have effective teaching and learning.”

Dr. Dana Bedden, Superintendent,
Richmond Public Schools, Virginia

“Communities In Schools not only removes emotional and physical barriers, but helps address academic issues as well. There has been a 70–75 percent graduation rate for many years in this country. We can do better, and Communities In Schools helps us do so.”

Michael Rice, Superintendent,
Kalamazoo Public Schools, Michigan

Anonymous Sources*

*All quotes obtained from the CIS *School and District Support Study* (June 2016) responses.

Superintendents

“CIS works collaboratively with school based leaders to conduct home visits for students with excessive absences.”

“By helping feed our families and providing our students and families one of the basic essentials, the school system can begin to focus on education.”

“CIS Coordinators often sit on school based teams (attendance, EWI, behavior, etc.) and support the staff as a fully contributing team member. They also support teachers by providing extra academic or behavioral assistance, and in many cases execute whole school activities in line with Principals' asks or vision.”

Principals

“[Our CIS site coordinator’s] work has helped engage... families that we have been unable to engage in the educational process. We are grateful for her.”

“[Our CIS site coordinator] provides direct support to meet the needs of students in terms of their mental, emotional, and physical needs that we as [a] school cannot.”

“He uses Chess Club to keep kids engaged at school and teach life lessons in the process.”

“She is an integral part of my leadership team, and is involved in much of the decision making we do on a regular basis.”

“CIS is a very valuable resource to all associated with our school.”

“We have an above average CIS/SSW; because of her work ethic, professionalism, and skill she is able to reach students and families others would not.”