

The problem

1 out of **6** students
drops out of school.



Students facing poverty and **students of color** will drop out at even higher rates. Poverty and trauma are toxic forces that drive many students to drop out, yet education policy overlooks these barriers to learning.

Change is possible

Communities In Schools (CIS™) has a proven solution to keep kids on the path to graduation: **integrated student supports.**



We surround kids and families with a community of trained, caring adults and resources that keep students on the path to graduation. We're by their side supporting them beyond the classroom.

Sean's Story

For Sean, the grief of losing his mom manifested in explosive outbursts and plummeting grades. CIS site coordinator Lee McLeod refused to let him give up. Lee checked in daily and connected him with grief counseling and academic help. Sean recalls, **"She made me think I could do better, so I did."**



Community at the center of our movement

8,100

community partner
organizations

3,800

non-profit and
youth development
professionals

41,000

community
volunteers



Partnership for policy change

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is the voice for the K-12 public education school system and the critical intersection between federal policy, states and districts. Together, Communities In Schools and CCSSO will embed **integrated student supports** policy in each partnering state's educational ecosystem.

The evidence is clear

1.6 million

students served

99%

of students
stay in school

86%

of students
improve academics

95%

of seniors graduate
or receive a GED

We need your help supporting the whole child

*CIS and CCSSO will establish a statewide framework for embedding **integrated student supports** in the U.S. education system to create effective conditions for learning – ensuring vulnerable students stay on the path to graduation.*



Lighting the torch for systems change: **\$1 Million**

Communities In Schools and CCSSO will convene a National Summit of 2,500 educators, community leaders, and experts to lend their expertise to the development of national guidelines for integrated student supports. They will become ambassadors for our model and help to build national momentum. Using those guidelines, CIS and CCSSO will conduct discovery research and develop a strategic action plan to expand integrated student supports in our existing school programs.



Demonstrating the potential of our model: **\$5 Million**

In addition to the plans outlined above, we'll implement demonstration projects in two states with the lowest-performing, most economically disadvantaged high schools in communities that we have not yet reached. We'll start with Regional Convenings with representatives from state agencies, local districts, schools, and communities resulting in plans that unite the many people who are key to children's futures. Then, we'll work with schools to hire site coordinators to provide integrated student supports. Throughout the following year, we'll hold trainings and provide data-informed support to school staff. Our goal is to build capacity in local leaders to allow communities to own this work so that this practice becomes part of the school fabric.



Paving the road to brighter futures: **\$10 Million**

Systemic change is only possible when amenable public policy is in place. With this funding, CIS can implement the model in five states following the same plans described above, while CCSSO works to change state practice in targeted jurisdictions. We'll unlock public funding and improve local administration of existing funds to pay for integrated student supports and remove barriers to accessing public resources for economically disadvantaged communities. All the while, we'll be creating a larger and larger pool of local champions who work tirelessly in their communities to connect students to the resources they need to succeed.

