“I’ve watched Communities In Schools evolve as they innovatively use data and proven programs to reach at-risk students in a personalized way. CIS isn’t afraid to step outside the box to develop strong plans for students struggling with poverty. We shouldn’t be either.”

James Speed
N.C. Mutual Life Insurance (Ret.)
How can we transform a student's life? What can we do to not only guide a student to another path, but keep them there past graduation?

I've posed some questions, and the answers aren't easy. Changing the picture begins with us, and our work is at its strongest when we successfully identify and peel away the many unique stresses and behaviors our students bring to school each day.

More than half of our students live in poverty. As we remove barriers, teachers can free eager minds, unlocking the potential of our bright students.

I am inspired by the results that show how CIS can eliminate barriers for students facing seemingly insurmountable challenges to create lifelong impact. I'm encouraged that we are engaging in conversations with businesses regarding their involvement with creating the next-generation workforce.

During the 2014-15 school year, we strengthened our team, tools and service delivery. We continued to prioritize the use of data to drive our decisions and impact, ensuring that we are in the right schools, using the most effective tools and reaching students at the right time.

Our results, showcased in our student stories, are further validated by RTI International's independent review of our work. Last year, 160,835 students were supported by school-wide interventions, in addition to the almost 19,000 receiving targeted services. One of those students, who you'll read about in this report, missed nearly a month of school. She now has a new trajectory thanks to the strong combination of a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult and the effective use of a research-based program.

Not only are we seeing proof that our model of integrated student supports works, our economic impact on communities across North Carolina continues to expand. By combining evidence-based supports to increase attendance, improve behavior and enhance coursework, each day we are helping students across the state beat the odds and break the cycle of generational poverty.

I'm excited for a future where every child receives a personalized toolkit for success. Let's continue our work and transform lives.

Thank you for your support,

Eric Hall, Ed.D.
President and CEO
POWERING the future

It’s a weighty statement, but a truthful one. As each student walks across the stage at their high school graduation, our future becomes even brighter. Starting early and finishing strong is critical to preparing students to receive their diploma with confidence and a clear game plan.

From kindergarten to 12th grade, we do whatever it takes to remove barriers and help our students reimagine their future. The majority are facing a wall that has confronted so many others — generational poverty. By encouraging students who may be without role models, we help them express behavior in a healthy and positive way, checking in and connecting regularly. We show them a world beyond their barriers.

Last year, working with students, parents, and schools, CIS provided 1,423 graduates the necessary supports to make the walk across the stage. Not only did we change the outlook for the students, but for their communities, as well. Every dollar invested in CIS creates $11.60 of economic benefit for the community.

DO THE MATH

According to a 2014 report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, high school graduates earn an average of $8,000 more each year compared to students who drop out, providing valuable tax and spending revenue to local and state economies. When you consider that nearly $300,000 is the possible cost to North Carolina communities over the lifetime of each dropout, spending $8,300 to educate a student is a sound financial — and social investment.
Nearly **98% of our 12th grade students graduated** at the close of the 2014-15 school year. With a diploma in their hands, high school graduates are on the path to success.

**MOVING FORWARD**

Our work is about more than seeing students receive a high school diploma. We want to see them thrive after they cross the stage — regardless of where their post-high school plans lead them. By working with our students to create a game plan, they are ready for their next step.*

*Known outcomes of graduates who received an individualized support plan as validated by RTI International

“CIS is a critical part of transforming the way our students tackle barriers, making way for our teachers to shape students that not only dream big, but make those dreams come true.”

Dr. Bill Harrison
Superintendent, Alamance-Burlington School System
Making a Statement
2014-2015

Total Number of Students Receiving Targeted/Intensive Supports with an Attendance Goal: 7,983

Total Number of Students Receiving Targeted/Intensive Supports with a Behavioral Goal: 5,296

Total Number of Students Receiving Targeted/Intensive Supports with a Coursework Goal: 11,515

Total Number of Students Receiving Targeted/Intensive Supports*: 18,763

Communities in Schools:

Schooldistricts Served: 38
Schools Served: 396

* Students with an Individualized Support Plan
Learning fractions can be tough — especially if you have missed nearly a month of school. To a fifth grader like Makayla, it felt like she was always trying to catch up. School was simply too much.

Makayla wasn’t missing school just to be rebellious. She hadn’t been feeling very well, she was lonely, and honestly, she had dreamt of what life would be like with a new family.

After experiencing homelessness — only to find temporary housing until it was burned down — Makayla lived in a constant state of anxiety, fear and helplessness.

One day, she asked Julie Rahm for help. Julie is a CIS Student Support Specialist, and her response was to immediately enroll Makayla in the research-based WHYTRY program, which teaches social, emotional and leadership skills.

Today, Makayla knows what it is like to experience a confidence boost. She also feels equipped to handle challenges she may face in the future.

“She had the courage to ask for help and was strong enough to make any changes needed,” Julie said. “She is now a confident young lady. I am proud of her growth.”

Makayla, a blossoming leader on her cheerleading team, has built healthy relationships with peers and caring adults. She received her first-ever academic awards, including an award for math, and has an average daily attendance rate of 96 percent. CIS transforms students’ lives. Just ask Makayla.

“Our students deserve the right to start and finish strong, which means receiving the wrap-around supports they need early and consistently. Verizon is proud to invest in a low-performing elementary school where CIS can change the trajectory. If we all invested in one, then one day there may be none.”

Mike Bickel
Verizon Business
CISNC SUPPORTERS*

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Nucor Steel Hertford County
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Pepsi Bottling Ventures (Nature’s Twist)
PNC Bank
PotashCorp

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RTI International
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Schwab Charitable
Schwartz & Shaw PLLC
Shanahan Rheumatology & Immunotherapy
Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation
SRI Shoe Warehouse
St. Andrew’s Church
St. Paul’s Church of Murfreesboro
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
State Farm
Stella & Dot
Stusqu PLLC
Synergy Spa, Aesthetics & Wellness
Triangle Landscape Supplies
Vance Athletic Supply Co., Inc.
Vaughan’s Plumbing Supply, LLC
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