



Communities
In Schools®

Virginia

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



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COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS® BELIEF STATEMENT

Communities In Schools® believes that transformative relationships are the key to unlocking a student's potential. We will succeed by including in our strategies, ingraining in our culture, and reflecting in our behaviors, principles and practices of diversity, equity and inclusion. As a result, we break down immediate and systemic barriers to create and sustain equitable outcomes.



MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Since March of 2020, due to COVID-19, more than a million Virginia students and families experienced levels of instability, disruption and stress beyond what any of us could have imagined.

This report presents a summary of a truly extraordinary year of challenge and response. Systemic inequities in K-12 public education are disproportionately impacting students of color and students living in poverty, putting many of them as much as 12 months behind in learning. For the Communities In Schools of Virginia network, our response in 100 schools and communities across the commonwealth in the 2020-21 school year also featured moments of exceptional creativity, skill and dedication. But every moment was firmly rooted in the approach we have taken for more than 21 years -- surround students with a system of support from a community of caring adults.

COVID-19 reminded us of the critical role schools play in the lives of children and families. And it showed us more clearly than ever before, that a community school framework that includes an evidence-based model of integrated student supports is essential to that role. CIS-VA is proud to be part of Virginia's movement to achieve equity in education, which starts with ensuring every student has access to resources that make success in school and beyond an achievable goal.

Mark E. Emblidge, Ph.D.
Founder and President

Daniel A. Domenech, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

2020-21 EXPANSION REPORT

OUR VISION:

Now is the time for a bold vision: Bring CIS to every high-poverty school in Virginia. Now, more than ever, supporting vulnerable students is not a “nice-to-have,” it is a must-have. Nearly 400,000 students in Virginia currently attend schools in high-poverty communities, and may lack critical support necessary to achieving success. These students need the framework of integrated student supports that CIS has been proving effective for nearly half a century. With ambitious expansion of our reach, we aim to prioritize the highest-need communities, using eligibility for Title I funds as a key indicator, to advance the community school framework and equitable opportunity for success in school and beyond.

ANOTHER MILESTONE YEAR:

Despite the challenging nature of the 2020-21 school year, significant growth continued throughout the network. In total, our affiliates added:

- 9 new schools
- 1 new school district (City of Chesapeake)
- 10,639 more students (21% increase)

CHALLENGE SCHOOLS GRANT:

CIS-VA was awarded the Challenge Schools Grant by CIS National in 2019. This three-year grant funded by AbbVie, Inc., is supporting expansion in Chesterfield, Hampton Roads, NOVA and Southwest Virginia. In FY2021, the second year of the grant, 12 CIS site coordinators were supported by the grant.

2021-22 FORECAST:

4

New school districts
Norton City, Smyth, Dickenson and
Washington Counties

23

New schools
23% increase

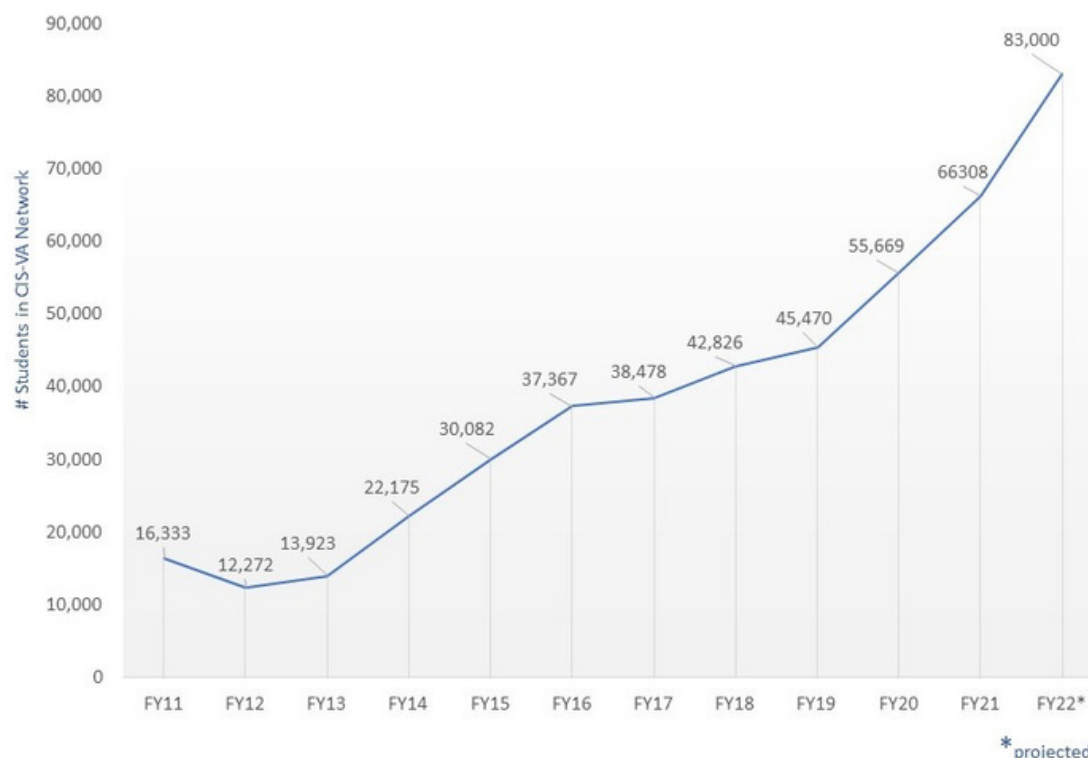
47

Additional network staff
39% increase

83,381

Total student reach
26% increase

CIS-VA NETWORK GROWTH



2020-21 NETWORK REPORT

OUR NETWORK

6

Affiliates

15

School Divisions

100

Schools

58,069

Students served
(88% of students enrolled)



1	CIS of Chesterfield	9 schools / 8,284 students
2	CIS of Petersburg	7 schools / 3,459 students
3	CIS of Richmond	40 schools / 21,954 students
4	CIS of Hampton Roads	17 schools / 11,022 students
5	CIS NOVA	7 schools / 6,326 students
6	CIS of Southwest Virginia	19 schools / 7,024 students
★	CIS-VA State Office	

OUR STUDENTS

85%

Students of color

93%

Low socio-economic status

15%

English language learners

4,145

Case-managed students

OUR SCHOOLS

92%

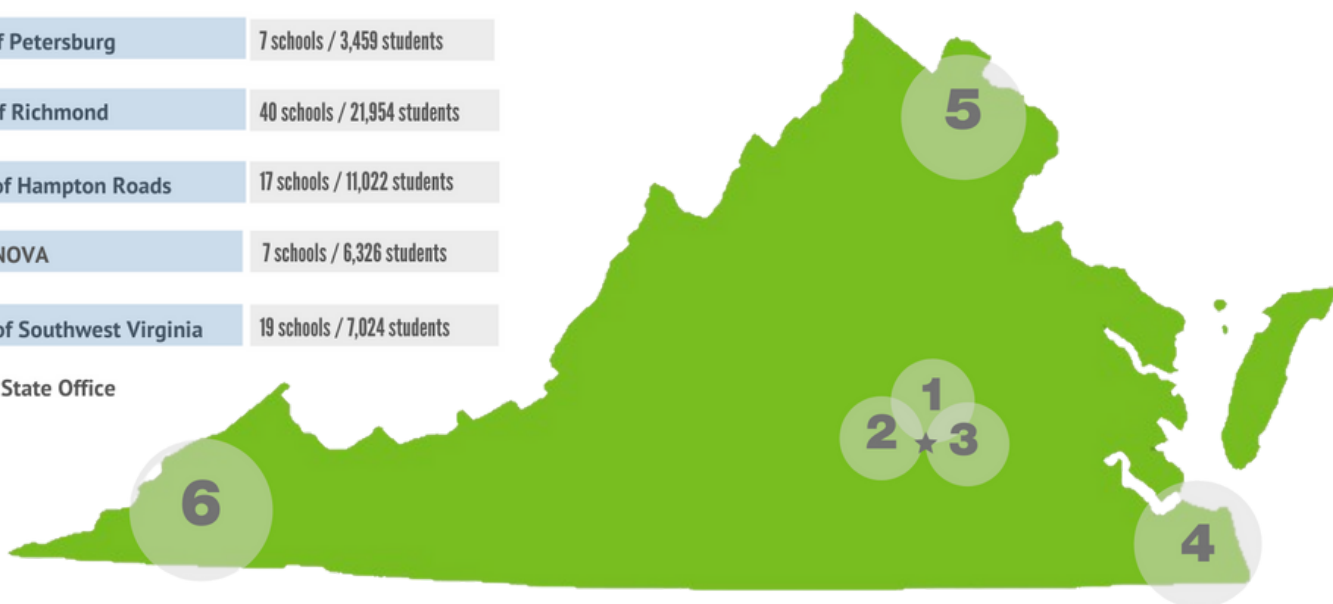
Feed into and/or receive
students from another
CIS school

74%

Have attendance or chronic
absenteeism challenges

68

Title I schools



IMPACT OF STATE OFFICE

CIS of Virginia supports growth and sustainability of the statewide network, ensuring CIS serves as many of Virginia's students as possible, as soon as possible, with the best results possible.

CIS Mission

Surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life



CIS-VA Purpose

- Pursue strategic statewide growth and sustainability
- Strengthen network through technical assistance
- Ensure fidelity to our evidence-based model of wraparound support



In support of our network

- 6 independent affiliates embedded in communities across Virginia
- 103 site coordinators working in partnership with schools to deliver and track integrated student supports

Supporting the CIS-VA Network:

Staff training and technical assistance



Growth, sustainability and capacity building

State-wide advocacy



Data collection, analysis and reporting

Statewide partnerships and resource development



Communications support

2020-21 Impact

- Conducted 35 affiliate-specific trainings on 17 unique topics
- Coordinated 16 network-wide training programs, with 96% of staff attending at least one session
- Facilitated cross-affiliate collaboration, including three network-wide workgroups composed of diverse representation from each affiliate
- Conducted two virtual network-wide awards and recognition meetings
- CIS-VA network representation on 11 national committees or workgroups, including 6 state and affiliate leaders served on workgroups for national DEI initiative
- Launched monthly internal e-newsletter focused on learning and professional development
- Developed tool for measurement and tracking of social-emotional learning supports
- Provided \$897,709 in pass-through funds to support affiliate sustainability and growth
- Grew staff to pursue innovation in family engagement and developing a PreK integration of CIS programming

IMPACT ACROSS VIRGINIA

Our network connects students to caring adults and community resources to navigate barriers and ignite potential. CIS's evidence-based model integrates a variety of supports to help students develop the social, emotional and academic competencies that empower their success.

Network Outcomes:

**for case-managed students*

84% Improved in at least one goal area
(attendance, academics and/or SEL)

88% Seniors graduated or received a GED

95% K-11 students advanced to the next grade

95% Graduating seniors had academic and/or career plans

TIER I:

School-wide Services

- 58,069 students
- 4,322 supports
- Avg. 42 supports/school

TIER 2 and 3:

Targeted Programs and Individualized Support

- 4,145 case-managed students
- 56,684 supports
- Avg. 2 goals/student
- Avg. 7 supports/student

Risk Factors:

Case-managed students have an average of **7 identified risk factors each**, most prevalently:

- Low socio-economic status
- Family disruption/stress
- Emotional and/or mental health needs
- Low motivation
- Limited access to household instructional support
- Low educational expectations

Student Goals:

Case-managed students have an average of **2 goals each**.



60% Improve social-emotional learning



60% Improve academics



40% Improve attendance

Supports Provided:

(case-managed students)



- Case Management 49%
- 1:1 Check-ins 15%
- Life/Social Skills 11%
- Academic Assistance 6%
- Behavior Interventions 6%
- Family Engagement 5%
- Enrichment/Motivation 5%
- College & Career Prep 2%

COVID-19 Impact:

Key Network Facts:

- 67%** case-managed students functioned remotely all year
- 31%** households are food insecure
- 37%** students lack household instructional support
- 31%** students have limited access to technology

Basic Needs Support:

- 1,784** more school-wide supports provided
- 43** Average number of basic needs supports per school (65% increase)
- 35,221** students provided with food, clothing, supplies and other basic needs
- 86%** of all basic needs supports were food-related

Changes in Student Goals & Supports Provided:

- 3,786** more SEL student supports provided
- 15%** increase in individualized, intensive case management supports provided
- 862** more school-wide family engagement supports provided

The Power of the Porch Visit:

CIS staff engaged in **12,075** socially-distanced home visits, which became known as "porch visits." This form of support was a multi-faceted, critical tool that allowed staff to assess student and family needs in real time, identify barriers affecting school engagement and address attendance, academic and SEL concerns. The inter-personal approach fosters relationship-building with both students and families, leading to lasting connection and trust.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER: AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS



CIS NOVA

Virtual Student Supports

As many school buildings remained closed for the duration of the school year, site coordinators had to get creative with providing supports virtually. Hallie Baumgardener, middle school site coordinator for **CIS of Hampton Roads**, combined mentorship and important social-emotional learning when she was able to engage local football star, author and business executive Eugene Holloman in facilitating virtual reading group. Holloman's first book, "The Athlete-Student," weaves his own personal experiences into a story about the challenges many athlete-students face, and tackles important topics such as mental health, depression and stress management. The reading group engaged 5-10 students weekly for 15 weeks and was a catalyst for meaningful connections and insightful discussions between the students.

Meeting Basic Needs

The Petersburg community felt the impact of COVID intensely, and **CIS of Petersburg** was deeply engaged in helping meet basic needs of more than 3,000 students and 500+ families, including partnership in weekly food distributions and deliveries. CIS of Petersburg has numerous partners in the faith community who play a critical role in communicating and providing easy and safe points of distribution. The city saw a sharp uptick in homelessness, and the CISP team regularly visited temporary dwellings to locate and check in on students and provide food and other basic supplies, even securing hotel rooms for families in urgent need of shelter.

Community Engagement

Thanks to an innovative partnership with Amazon, **CIS NOVA** has been able to support 8,400 students and families in Arlington and Alexandria with immediate access to basic necessities. Amazon's "Right Now Needs Fund" was conceived to help remove barriers to learning for students in underserved communities. In October 2020, the company committed \$1M in Education Assistance Product Vouchers and entered into partnership with CIS NOVA for distribution. Families redeemed vouchers for necessities such as clothing, household and hygiene products, food, school supplies and technology. An added benefit to the program was unique opportunity for community-building as site coordinators empowered families to connect during voucher distribution for peer learning, technical assistance and advice.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER: AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS

Re-engaging Students, Igniting Potential

CIS of Southwest Virginia partnered with Bristol Public Schools to place “engagement coordinators” at two schools. The engagement coordinators were tasked with connecting with students who had opted for virtual learning but were not responsive to school contact -- in other words, those most at risk for dropping out. While not an easy task, the approach proved highly successful. For example, engagement coordinator Kim Pierson became a lifeline for one student who had chosen to learn remotely for reasons that went beyond the pandemic. He was not very connected with the school or his peers, was often the victim of bullying, and lacked trust in the benefit of school. However, when Pierson began working with him remotely, things began to change. She was able to build a trusting relationship outside of the building and convinced the student to come to the school for one-one-one tutoring. From there, she transitioned the student into summer programming that included learning in group setting. Now, thanks to CIS, the student is back at school, learning with his peers.

Meeting Students Where They Are

School closures proved that the relationships between site coordinators and families offered a lifeline, especially in times of crisis. The **CIS of Richmond** team evolved into a constant presence in neighborhoods, finding ways to check-in, deliver food and other household items, conduct family needs assessments, navigate technology, and address stress and trauma. Both virtually and in-person, CIS of Richmond found ways to support new challenges facing students, which varied greatly for different age groups. Severe challenges emerged in high schools, including teen homelessness, psychiatric referrals, hospitalizations, community violence, all of which required significant after-hours intervention and a sustained high level of response from CIS team members. Middle school site coordinators reported higher engagement with families occurring alongside their student support. At the elementary level, the virtual school format limited direct connection to students, but was a catalyst for new communication tools and focused relationship-building with parents and caregivers. For all grade levels, CIS provided a critical web of support during a challenging time.



CIS of Chesterfield

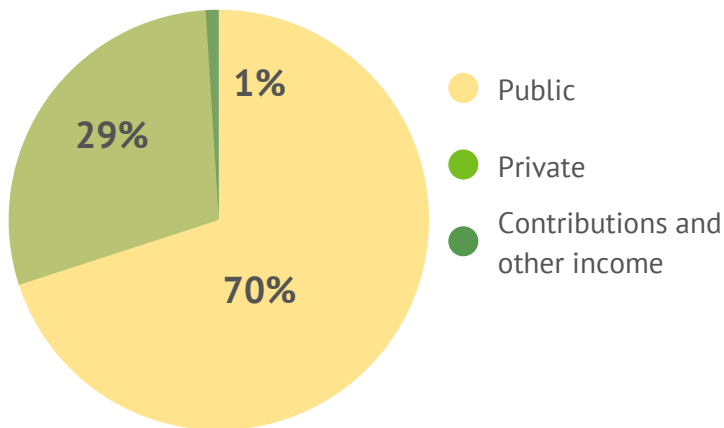
Individualized Support

When Julisse started attending Carver College and Career Academy, an alternative high school in Chesterfield County, she was determined to succeed but also burdened by years of personal challenges and struggles in school. Mary Thompson, site coordinator with **CIS of Chesterfield**, quickly became a key component to her successful adaptation to Carver, helping her identify and prioritize specific goals. When the pandemic began, Thompson recognized that Julisse needed some extra support. She conducted multiple home visits to provide Julisse encouragement and support, and even brought art supplies to help with her anxiety about COVID and virtual school. With this extra support, Julisse graduated in June 2021 and was able to reflect on her time at Carver with great positivity, noting “I really felt like Carver was the first school I went to where I felt supported.” Julisse is pursuing interests in social justice, social work and political science, but most of all wants to make her family proud and help young girls -- especially her younger sister -- achieve their own success.

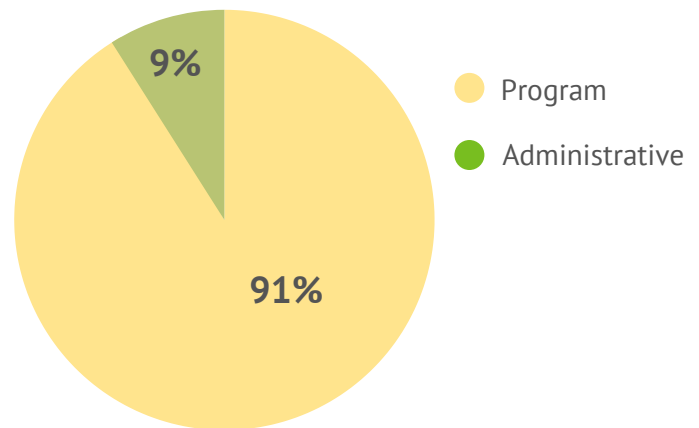
FINANCIALS

Investment from the community is essential to our ability to expand the network, support affiliate excellence and report on outcomes. We are grateful for our partners in both the public and private sectors who share our commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed.

REVENUE: \$2,035,764



EXPENSES: \$1,521,553



LOOKING AHEAD

CIS-VA continues to grow.

In the 2022 school year, our network is serving 123 schools, making supports available to more than 83,000 students.

Ensuring all students have the resources and support they need to engage in learning is more critical than ever, and CIS-VA is poised to be a strong partner in advancing the community school framework and bringing evidence-based integrated supports to more communities across Virginia.



2021-22 PRIORITIES

EXPAND our reach, working toward our vision of bringing CIS to every Title I school in Virginia.

PURSUE new public and private partnerships essential to our ability to serve more students better and faster.

ALIGN our staff expertise and resources with anticipated growth and the changing needs of students and families.

ADVOCATE for innovative approaches to implementing whole-child supports and the community school framework in high-need schools.

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#AllinForKids

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