



Communities  
In Schools®

Virginia

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



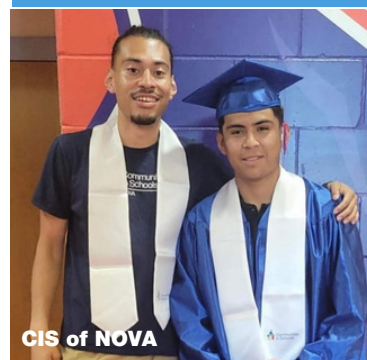
CIS of Hampton Roads



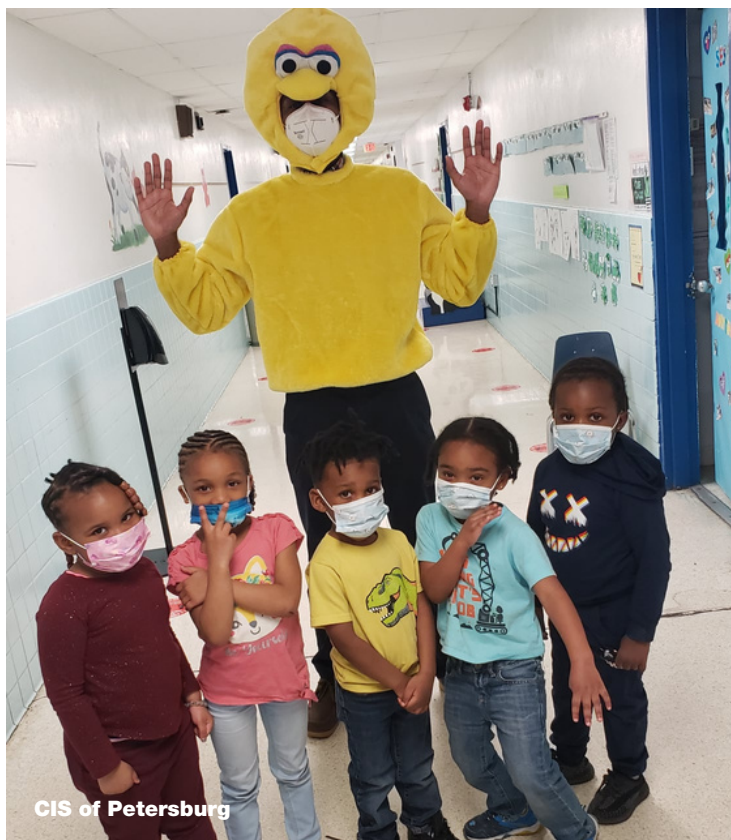
CIS of Richmond



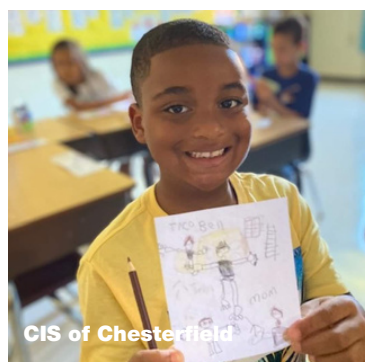
CIS of Appalachian Highlands



CIS of NOVA



CIS of Petersburg



CIS of Chesterfield



CIS of Appalachian Highlands



CIS of Hampton Roads

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## Our Mission

Communities In Schools® surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

## Our Belief

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.

# Letter from our Leadership

As schools across the Commonwealth emerge from layers of disruption caused by COVID-19, they are still experiencing the long term impact of the events of recent years. The benefit of a community school framework that includes an evidence-based model of integrated student supports and places the school as a hub of connectivity for families is clear. It is an approach that keeps kids engaged and motivated to establish a foundation for their personal success and helps maintain a positive environment for learning.

CIS-VA is more committed than ever to advancing this model across Virginia. Much like student success is built on a strong foundation of academics, social-emotional skills, and attendance, the expansion of our network requires a solid bedrock of public and private investment, stakeholder support and commitment to excellence and innovation in program delivery. In this report, we are proud to share that the 2022 school year brought significant progress in the construction of that foundation.

From inclusion in a transformational philanthropic gift to successful advocacy efforts to the completion of the first phase of our comprehensive strategic plan, FY 2022 set the stage for the next era of network expansion, as we seek to bring the CIS model to new districts, while supporting ongoing growth in our existing regional affiliates.

For the CIS of Virginia network, the year brought with it the reality of the pandemic impact in the form of learning remediation and increased focus on social, emotional and mental health needs along with re-engaging students in the daily routine of school. With the unmatched commitment and creative approaches for which they are known, our network's teams reported an impressive collective impact.

CIS-VA remains firmly rooted in the approach we have taken for more than 23 years -- surround students with support from a community of caring adults and empower them to achieve their full potential. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.



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



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

# 2021-22 CIS-VA Highlights

## A Transformational Gift

In February, CIS-VA was part of an unprecedented gift from author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to the Communities In Schools Network and National Office. The \$133.5 million donation from Scott was shared by the CIS National Office and 40 of the 110 affiliate organizations in the CIS network. Along with the state office, three affiliates in the Virginia network also shared in the unexpected gift, which will support organizational sustainability and strategic growth to more high-need communities.

## Growing Investment from the Commonwealth

CIS-VA successfully advocated for two funding requests from the General Assembly to support network growth and sustainability:

### **Increase in annual allocation in the state budget**

CIS-VA's annual allocation in funding from the Department of Education supports network expansion, sustainability and the shared resources and technical support provided through the state office. The funding increase reflects confidence in CIS's evidence-based approach and outcomes, as well as our commitment to leveraging the Commonwealth's investment at the local level. This funding will benefit existing affiliate communities and help us reach new, high-need communities.

### **Creation of a Community School Fund**

This \$10M fund is intended to support the development and implementation of community schools initiatives, presenting another valuable source of potential funding for CIS growth. It is available to CIS and local school agencies; CIS-VA is partnering with the Department of Education as it is implemented.



Lathaniel Kirts, Director of Network Expansion

## State Office Growth

In May, CIS-VA welcomed Lathaniel Kirts as Director of Network Expansion, a new position created to provide leadership for the expansion of the CIS model into new regions and school districts across Virginia. Lathaniel's most recent experience as a site coordinator at Hampton High School, combined with a rich background in public policy and nonprofit leadership, promises to be a tremendous asset to the state office team.

# 2021-22 CIS-VA Highlights



(L-R) Dr. Tracie Daniels, Chief Academic Officer, Petersburg Public Schools; Wanda Stewart, President & CEO, CIS of Petersburg; Sherrie Westin, President, Sesame Workshop; Dr. Mark Emblidge, Founder & President, CIS of Virginia

## Sesame Street In Communities

In March, CIS-VA, CIS of Petersburg, and Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC) launched a new partnership with Petersburg City Public Schools focused on preparing young learners and their families for kindergarten. The partnership, which was the second pilot for a national partnership between CIS and SSIC, aims to help young children build coping skills and foster nurturing connections between them and the caring adults in their lives, supports Petersburg families with young children by providing free, easy-to-use Sesame Street resources through a partnership with CIS of Petersburg and Westview Early Childhood Education Center.

## Strategic Planning

CIS-VA initiated the development of a comprehensive strategic plan in consultation with The Bridgespan Group. Phase I of the strategic plan specifically focused on developing a framework for prioritizing new high-need districts and regions for expansion, as well as assessing opportunities for immediate growth in existing regional affiliates.

## CIS-VA Engagement & Learning Fellowship

The state office is charged with supporting the development of high-functioning affiliate teams and facilitate network engagement to advance best practices and professional development. In support of both functions, CIS-VA created the Engagement & Learning Fellowship, an annual leadership development opportunity for six emerging leaders across the network to collaboratively drive peer-based learning and effective inter-affiliate connection.

## Challenge Schools

2022-23 was the third and final year of CIS National's Challenge Schools initiative sponsored by AbbVie Inc. through which CIS-VA facilitated funding for expansion in four affiliate regions. With a total investment of \$1,193,459 over three years, the initiative provided 40 percent of the cost of expansion to fourteen new schools in Hampton Roads, Chesterfield, Northern Virginia and Southwest Virginia.



CIS NOVA was one of four CIS-VA affiliates to leverage the Challenge Schools initiative to launch new school partnerships. In fall of 2021, their growth included placing two site coordinators in Alexandria City High School, one of the highest-population schools in the Commonwealth, making CIS available to more than 4,000 students.

# 2021-22 Expansion Report

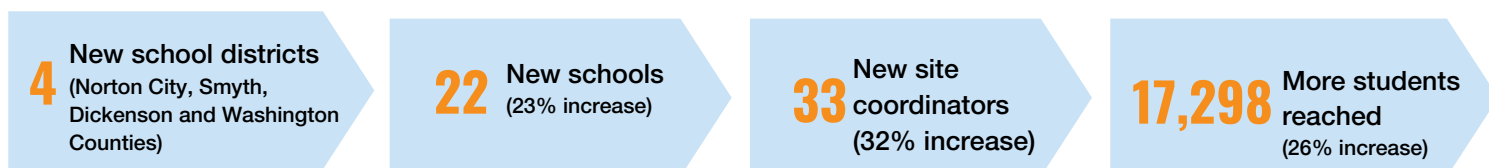
## Our vision:

CIS-VA remains committed to advancing community school principles across Virginia, with a focus on the evidence-driven CIS framework of integrated student supports that has been proven effective for nearly half a century. With ambitious expansion of our reach, we aim to prioritize the highest need communities based on criteria including:

- ✓ **“High-priority,” schools**, a designation inclusive of any school receiving Title 1 support and/or underperforming on a key VDOE accreditation metric (math achievement gap, English achievement gap, chronic absenteeism).
- ✓ **Rural communities** where funding for and availability of supportive resources are scarce. Continuity of CIS presence in school feeder patterns from elementary through middle and high schools.
- ✓ Districts identified as requiring **corrective action** by the VDOE to meet accreditation requirements or other critical standards in order to best serve students.

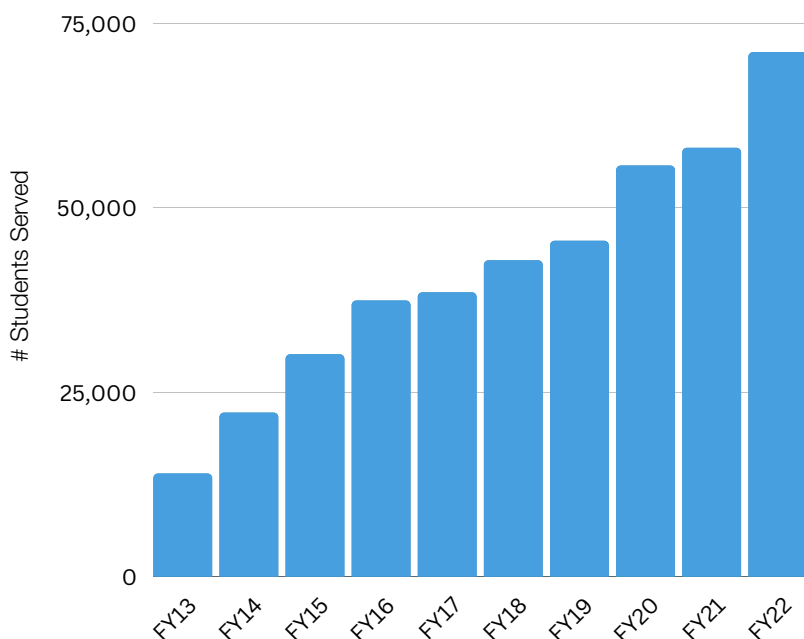
## Another milestone year:

2021-22 brought more significant growth to the CIS-VA network in both breadth (new schools/districts) and depth (additional supports in existing schools). In total, our affiliates added:



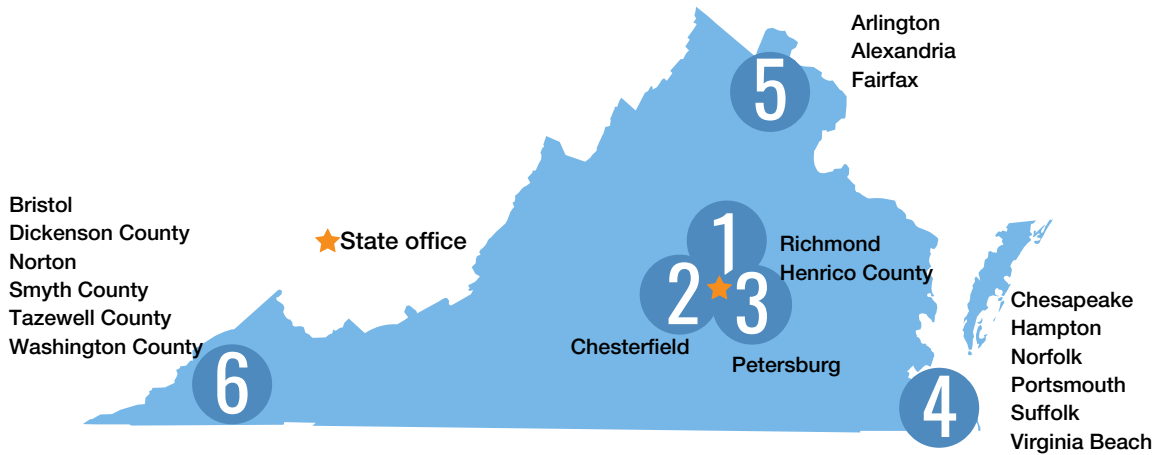
## Students served network-wide:

Whole-school; at least one CIS support; typically 80-85% of enrolled population



2021-22 showed a **41% increase** in students receiving 1:1 case management support, the **largest single-year growth** for the CIS-VA network since 2012.

# 2021-22 Network Report



	6 Affiliates	19 School Divisions	122 Schools	127 Site Staff	80,200 Students reached
1	CIS of Richmond	2	39	52	23,229
2	CIS of Chesterfield	1	10	13	10,194
3	CIS of Petersburg	1	7	7	4,179
4	CIS of Hampton Roads	6	21	20	14,662
5	CIS NOVA	3	9	10	13,523
6	CIS of Appalachian Highlands	6	36	25	14,411

## Our Schools (2021-22)

122 Schools / 80,200 Students Enrolled

96%

High Need

76%

Low parent engagement

72%

Bullying and safety issues

94%

Basic needs gap

## Our Students

5,851 receiving 1:1 case management

94%

Low income

53%

Family stress/disruption

52%

Mental health concerns

75%

Experienced trauma

# 2021-22 Network Impact

## Tier 1 / Whole-School Supports

Through widely-available services and resources, school-wide supports are designed to foster a positive school climate and address school-level risk factors. They are short-term interventions, services or resources that are open to all students. Site coordinators also work with schools to establish school-wide goals that help prioritize whole-school programming.

### School-wide goals in 2021-22:

**90%** Improve Attendance

**30%** Improve Academics

**30%** Improve School Climate  
(parent engagement, social-emotional learning)

### Top Supports Provided:



Attendance monitoring/ incentives



Food distributions



Family engagement events

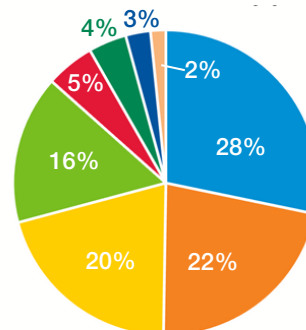


Enrichment / motivation events



Awards / recognition ceremonies

### Tier 1 Support Distribution:



■ Attendance Monitoring ■ Basic Needs  
■ Family Engagement/Other ■ Enrichment/Motivation  
■ Life/Social Skills ■ Academic Assistance  
■ Physical Health ■ College/Career Preparation

### Impact:

**5,048**

School-wide supports provided

**41**

Supports per school (average)

**603,007**

Total students served  
(Total number includes students/families served more than once)

**119**

Students reached per support (average)

**69**

Parents/families served\*

**469**

Events held

Across Virginia, CIS affiliates serve as a critical connector to ensure the basic needs of students and families are met.

Initiatives that provide food, clothing, hygiene products and school supplies require robust community and corporate partnerships, and are a key way that site coordinators engage with families and build relationships that lead to deeper opportunities to provide ongoing support.



# 2021-22 Network Impact

## Tier 2 & 3 / Targeted Programs and Individualized Supports

Those students in need of more personalized support can do so as part of a site coordinator's caseload. Tier 2 supports are typically provided in a group setting to students with common needs. Tier 3 supports are delivered individually and on a regular basis. Both level of supports are supported by documented goals and are tracked to assess student progress.

### Student goals in 2021-22:

**78%** Improve Attendance

**55%** Improve Social-emotional Learning

**38%** Improve Academics

**22%** Improve Behavior

### Top Supports Provided:



Supportive guidance and counseling



Social-emotional learning



Attendance monitoring

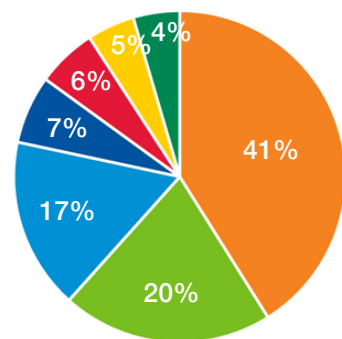


Academic Assistance



Home visit/parent or caregiver contact

### Tier 2 & 3 Support Distribution:



■ Case Management ■ Life/Social Skills  
■ Attendance/Behavior ■ Academic Assistance  
■ Check-ins ■ Enrichment/Motivation  
■ Family Engagement/Other

### Impact:

**5,851**

Case-managed students

**77,584**

Programs and supports provided

**13**

Supports provided per student (average)

**92%**

Supports provided directly by CIS site coordinator

**564**

Supports provided per CIS staff member

### Network-wide Outcomes:

**87%**

Students improved attendance, SEL, behavior and/or course performance

**96%**

K-11 students were promoted

**89%**

Seniors graduated or received a GED

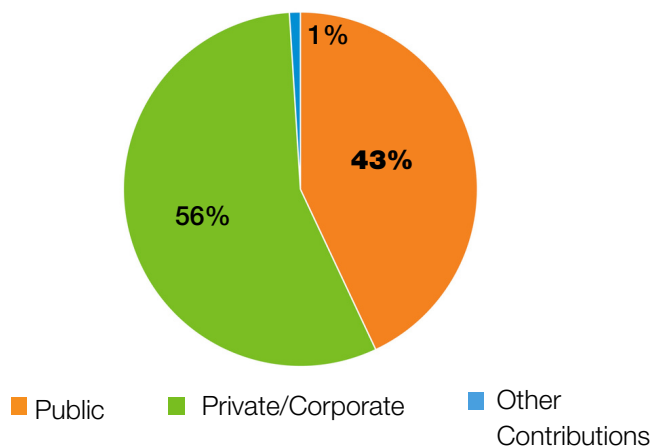
**94%**

Graduates had academic or career plans

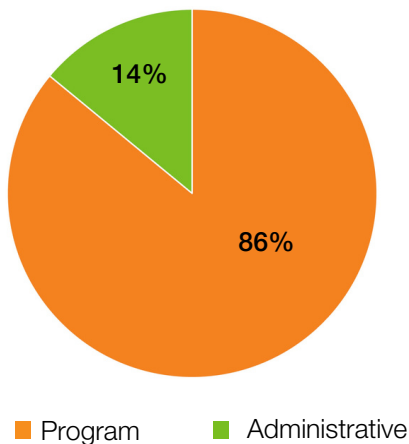
# Financial Report

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 in school and beyond.

## Revenue: \$2,884,166



## Expenses: \$1,604,860



# The Path Forward

CIS-VA's quest to reach all high-need schools in the Commonwealth continues. In the current 2023 school year, our network is serving 127 schools, making wraparound supports available for more than 84,000 students. We are broadening our reach, even beyond high school, helping students transition to the workforce and community college. And we are deepening our service in many schools, with 15 schools in the network housing more than one site coordinator so that more 1:1 support can be provided.

We are strong partner in advancing the community school framework and bringing evidence-based integrated supports to unserved communities across Virginia.

## 2022-23 Priorities

### Broaden our Reach

- Leverage the Commonwealth's investment in the Community School Fund
- Pursue new public and private partnerships essential to our ability to serve more students better and faster

### Deepen Our Impact

- Align our staff expertise and resources with anticipated growth and the changing needs of students and families
- Pursue innovative partnerships and dynamic network engagement that empowers excellence and fidelity in delivering the CIS model



With a network-wide increased focus on addressing social-emotional learning (SEL) for students, CIS-VA is investing in tools to add value to evidence-driven work in this area. A key initiative of the 2023 school year is a piloting the integration of the DESSA, a widely-respected behavior rating scale that aids in identifying SEL needs and tracking results in order to better demonstrate outcomes.

# Leadership

## Board of Directors

### Chair

Daniel Domenech, Ph.D.  
American Association of  
School Administrators

### Vice Chair

Bill Milliken  
Founder,  
Communities In Schools, Inc.

### Treasurer

Yvonne Brandon, Ed.D.  
Former Superintendent,  
Richmond Public Schools

### Secretary

David Fernandez  
Altria Group, Inc.

Robert Blue  
Dominion Energy

Larry Cooley  
Management Systems  
International

Sarad Davenport  
TMI Consulting, Inc.

David Hallock  
Two Capitals Consulting

William Hazel, Jr., M.D.  
Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Michael Ligon  
Retired

Elizabeth Lodal  
Retired

Asha Patton-Smith, M.D.  
Kaiser Permanente Mid-  
Atlantic Region

### Ex-Officio

Mark Emblidge, Ph.D.  
Founder & President

### Founding Co-chairs

The Honorable George Allen  
The Honorable Mark Warner

## Affiliate Leadership

Patrick Brennan, Executive Director  
CIS NOVA

Harold Fitrer, Ed.D., President & CEO  
CIS of Richmond

Ashley Hall, Executive Director  
CIS of Chesterfield

Hope Sinclair, Ph.D., Executive Director  
CIS of Hampton Roads

Chase Stewart, President & CEO  
CIS of Appalachian Highlands

Wanda Stewart, President & CEO  
CIS of Petersburg

## CIS of Virginia Staff

Mark Emblidge, Ph.D.  
Founder & President

Julie Dillon  
Sr. Director of Development & Communications

Lindsay Forston, Ph.D.  
Sr. Director of Program & Evaluation

Lathaniel Kirts  
Director of Network Expansion

Rita Layne  
Director of Administration & Finance

Leanne Lytle  
Director of Program & Evaluation  
(Hired August 2022)



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