

2023-24

IMPACT REPORT

# Being Present Matters



Communities  
In Schools®

Virginia



# 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 (CIS) of Virginia believes that transformative relationships are key to unlocking an individual's inherent potential.

We are committed to ensuring all students in Virginia, regardless of their background, identity or circumstances, have equal access to opportunities and resources to thrive in school and beyond. We reject discrimination, prejudice and bias in all forms and strive to create and foster inclusive environments where all individuals are welcomed, respected, valued and empowered to engage authentically. By consistently demonstrating our commitment to these beliefs, we contribute to the creation of a more equitable and just society.



## Our Purpose

CIS of Virginia supports the growth and sustainability of a statewide network of six independent affiliates and a developing affiliate serving rural communities in Southside Virginia. The state office:

- **Strives to provide affiliate leaders, staff and boards with the knowledge, tools and resources that build strong and sustainable organizations.**
- **Identifies opportunities for growth and develops new partnerships to expand the reach and impact of CIS.**
- **Ensures fidelity to the evidence-based model that has proven to deliver high-quality supports to the students and families that need them most.**

Leaders from all six CIS-VA affiliates and the state office participated in Leadership Town Hall, CIS National's annual convening designed to bring together CIS network members, educational leaders, and policymakers to discuss strategies for advancing organizational priorities.





# All In for Kids for 25 Years



Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera presented a proclamation to Mark Emblidge on behalf of Governor Glenn Youngkin.



Governor George Allen (right), one of CIS of Virginia's founding chairs, with Dr. Mark Emblidge, founder and president.



Communities In Schools, Inc. founder and CIS of Virginia vice chair Bill Milliken (left) with CIS national president and CEO, Rey Saldaña.

In 1999, CIS of Virginia was established to serve as a hub for growth and sustainability of a statewide affiliate network dedicated to advancing the commonwealth's vision of maximizing the potential of all students. Since that time, the CIS network has grown from three affiliates serving three districts and 33 schools to six affiliates serving 176 schools in 26 school divisions, making transformational integrated student supports available to 1 in 10 Virginia students.

CIS of Virginia celebrated this milestone in September 2023 with a reception bringing together staff members and stakeholders from across the Commonwealth. The reception included a video message from founding co-chair Senator Mark Warner, as well as remarks from former governor and founding co-chair George Allen, longtime champion Delegate Delores McQuinn, Communities In Schools founder, Bill Milliken, and current CEO and President, Rey Saldaña.



*Scan the QR code  
to watch the 25th  
Anniversary video*

Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera presented a proclamation on behalf of Governor Glenn Youngkin. The proclamation declared September 2023 as Student Support Professionals Appreciation Month and recognized the tremendous contribution of student support professionals in positively impacting attendance, course performance, social and emotional competence, and behavior, empowering students to envision and plan for their futures.

The 25th Anniversary celebration was presented by Dominion Energy.

# 2023-24 State Office Highlights

CIS of Virginia promotes collaboration and excellence throughout the statewide network, advancing a shared mission of transforming student experiences and school cultures through implementation of CIS's evidence-based model of integrated supports.

## Network Support

- Hosted two-day CIS of Virginia Network Summit, convening more than **200** network staff and **25** partners for learning and connection
- Conducted **91** training and technical assistance programs including workshops, peer learning, resource sharing, and coaching
  - **24** affiliate-specific and inter-network trainings
  - **37** small group programs
  - **28** network-wide events
  - **263** total hours of training and engagement
- Provided customized data and evaluation support and training
- Facilitated cross-affiliate collaboration and peer mentoring
- Redesigned the Emerging Leaders Fellowship program to foster leadership development for veteran network school-based staff
- Published monthly e-newsletter focused on learning and professional development for school-based staff
- Supported ongoing utilization of the DESSA tool to assess social-emotional learning needs and make data-driven programming decisions

## Network Growth

- Engaged network leadership in strategic funding discussions to help guide ongoing expansion and sustainability
- Supported establishment of an emerging affiliate, **Communities In Schools of Virginia in Southside** with new partnerships in **Greensville County** and **Danville**.



### CIS of NOVA

Senator Mark Warner visited CIS of NOVA at Alexandria City High School to present Congressionally Directed Community Project Funding supporting attendance and engagement across the CIS-VA network.

## Resources

- Engaged in strategic advocacy with state and legislative partners to secure more than **\$8M** in state and federal funding

**\$5.2M** passed through in funding to affiliates

**\$5M** in Community School Funds awarded by the VDOE to support new and expanded partnerships across the network were administered

**\$977K** in Congressionally Directed Community Project funding were administered to affiliates to support student engagement in 13 schools

# 2023-24 State Office Highlights CONTINUED

## 2024 CIS-VA Network Summit



In September, the CIS of Virginia network came together to “Level Up” their knowledge, connection and capacity to serve students in their communities at the annual CIS-VA Network Summit. Highlights included:

- A keynote presentation and workshop featuring youth development expert Stephanie Malia Krauss
- 20+ engaging and interactive workshops over two days
- Exhibit hall featuring local and statewide community partners and resources
- Panel discussions focused on youth mental health and family engagement
- The annual All In For Kids Awards celebrating excellence in the network



## 2023-24 Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders Fellowship provides a unique leadership development opportunity for school-based staff across the network. Over the course of the year-long fellowship, coordinators selected through an application process develop leadership skills, cultivate cross-affiliate collaboration, lead network-wide learning initiatives and support a collaborative and dynamic network culture. The 2023-24 fellows were:

- **Hallie Baumgardner**, CIS of Hampton Roads
- **Danielle Chwirut**, CIS of NOVA
- **Theus Dixon**, CIS of Hampton Roads
- **Lorayeh Lenore**, CIS of Richmond
- **Bethany Smith**, CIS of Appalachian Highlands
- **Elizabeth Stowers**, CIS of Chesterfield
- **Darian Wyatt**, CIS of Petersburg

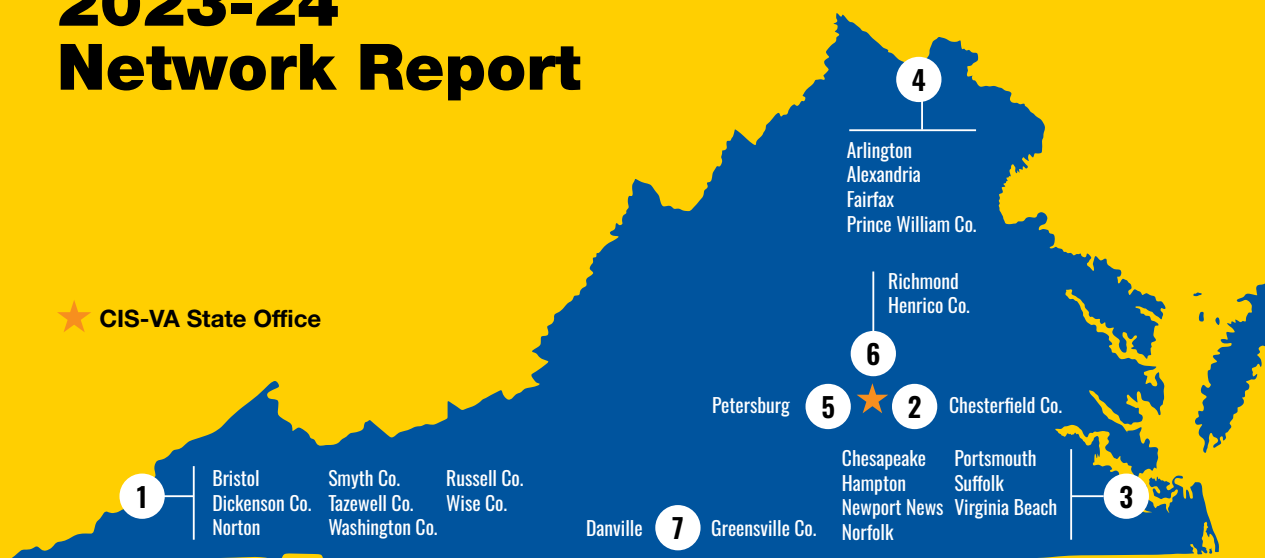


I have seen the benefit of the fellowship through an increase in confidence. The knowledge I have gained gives me the confidence that I am equipped to be a leader, and has given me a better understanding of the greater purpose I serve within CIS.”

2023-24 FELLOW



# 2023-24 Network Report



## Affiliate Stats

		DISTRICTS	23-24 SCHOOLS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
1	CIS of Appalachian Highlands - VA	8	53	21,885
2	CIS of Chesterfield	1	13	12,815
3	CIS of Hampton Roads	7	30	23,529
4	CIS of NOVA	4	17	25,118
5	CIS of Petersburg	1	8	4,425
6	CIS of Richmond	2	40	23,630
7	CIS of Virginia in Southside	2	2	1,916
TOTAL		25	163	113,318



## Our Schools

<b>94%</b>	Title 1 eligible
<b>90%</b>	Have a goal to improve attendance
<b>91%</b>	Connected to another CIS school
<b>99%</b>	Support students before or after school hours
<b>74%</b>	Reported parents do not regularly engage in school
<b>99%</b>	Have a basic needs gap



## Our Students

<b>90%</b>	Low income
<b>61%</b>	Experienced trauma
<b>68%</b>	Students of color
<b>57%</b>	Mental health concerns
<b>10%</b>	English language learners
<b>33%</b>	Chronically absent

CIS-VA was pleased to join two CIS-VA affiliates in recognition of milestone anniversaries in 2024.



**CIS of Chesterfield: 30 Years** (L-R) Ashley Hall, executive director; Bobby Ukrop, founding chair; Martha Frickert, former executive director; Eileen Morissett, immediate past chair



**CIS of Appalachian Highlands: 10 Years** (L-R) Brett Davis, chief development officer; Chase Stewart, president & CEO, Alex Littleton, chief operations officer, Bill Milliken, founder, CIS National; Rey Saldaña, president & CEO, CIS National

# Network Impact

→ Tier 1/ Whole School: 163 Schools

## 96%

of schools made improvements in at least one identified goal

### Top School Goals:

- Improve attendance
- Improve school climate
- Improve family engagement
- Improve academics

TOP SUPPORT CATEGORIES	# OF SUPPORTS
Basic Needs	3,282
Attendance	2,494
Enrichment/Motivation	1,106
Life/Social Skills	1,051
Family Engagement	943
Academic Assistance	367
College and Career Preparation	131

## Deeper Dive: Outcomes in Priority Areas

### Attendance

**90%** of schools had a goal to improve attendance

**5,933** students had an individual goal to improve attendance

**4.75** average number of attendance supports per student

**27,705** supports delivered with the intent to aid attendance

### Tier 1 Impact

**9,644** Supports provided

**59** Supports per school (avg)

**129** Students reached per support (avg)

**57,300** Parents/families served

**173,003** Basic needs items provided

**1,409** Volunteers engaged



### CIS of Petersburg

The Girls With Pearls Leadership Club is committed to identifying, educating, cultivating and elevating that next generation of young women leaders. The CIS Girls With Pearls Program was facilitated in four schools where 57 students participated in an intensive leadership training program covering topics including bullying, confidence, stress management, self-care and communication, and engaging leaders in the community including First Lady of Virginia Suzanne Youngkin.

### Social-Emotional Learning

**3,925** students had goal to improve SEL

**64%** of all case managed students received at least one SEL support

#### For those with SEL as a goal:

- **23,312** total supports delivered
- **6** supports per student provided (avg)
- **82%** made measurable progress

# Network Impact

→ Tiers 2 and 3: 8,625 case-managed students

## Student Goals

Case-managed students have an average of 1-2 goals.

GOAL	% CASE-MANAGED STUDENTS WITH GOAL	% MADE PROGRESS ON GOAL
Improve attendance*	69%	68%
Improve SEL	46%	87%
Improve academics	42%	82%
Improve behavior	5%	88%

\*avg. number of days absent at beginning of year = 15

## Student Supports Provided

164,800 total supports and check-ins provided

TOP SUPPORTS PROVIDED	# OF SUPPORTS
Case Management	70,184
Life/Social Skills/SEL	32,825
Attendance	16,274
Academic Assistance	11,686
Enrichment/Motivation	11,486

## Deeper Dive: Outcomes in Priority Areas

### Academics

**3,617** of case managed students had a goal to improve academic performance

#### For those students:

- 21,511 total supports delivered
- 6 supports per student provided (avg)
- 87% made measurable progress

## Tiers 2 and 3 Impact

**84%** Improved attendance, SEL behavior and/or course performance

**98%** K-11 students promoted

**97%** Seniors graduated or received GED

**95%** Graduates had a plan for post-graduation



### CIS of Richmond

In the 2024 school year, CIS of Richmond boosted its support capacity at two high schools by piloting the addition of a workforce development coordinator to partner with existing CIS staff. These coordinators brought students opportunities for career exploration, skill development, career readiness and personal development, empowering them to take charge of their futures. Pictured: CIS of Richmond site coordinator Kristi Vandygriff (second from left) focused on workforce readiness with students at Highland Springs High School.

### College/Career Readiness

**131** Whole-school supports delivered

**431** total supports provided to students with an established goal

**96%** of students made measurable progress



# Expansion Report

The CIS of Virginia network's growth trajectory continued, with expansion efforts yielding **36% increase** in students with access to CIS's transformational, evidence-based model of integrated supports.

## 6

new school division partners:

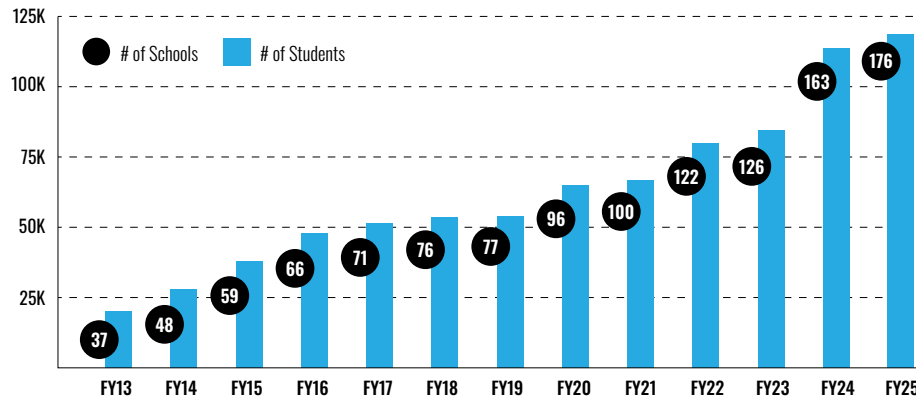
- Danville Public Schools
- Greenville County Public Schools
- Newport News Public Schools
- Prince William County Public Schools
- Russell County Public Schools
- Wise County Public Schools

**37** new schools

**2,403** additional students receiving 1:1 case management

**30,011** additional students reached

## Network Growth: Schools & Students Served



## CIS of Hampton Roads

Advocating at the General Assembly is an important component of CIS-VA's work. In 2024 staff and students from CIS of Hampton Roads participated in a day of visits with their representatives, including Delegate Jackie Glass of Norfolk.



## Scaling for Success: A National CIS Initiative

In February 2023, Communities In Schools, Inc. announced that Ballmer Group was committing up to \$165M to help scale CIS's model of integrated student supports to 1,000 new schools across the country. This initiative established a fund designed to accelerate growth throughout CIS's federated affiliates over a five year period.

CIS of Virginia and its affiliates will have three opportunities to apply for funding, requiring a 50% match and demonstration of public sector partnerships.

**In FY24, four Virginia affiliates participated in the first funding cohort, collectively receiving \$5,167,889 over the first three-year funding period, facilitating a new or deeper presence in 37 schools.**

The Scaling for Success Initiative will be a catalyst for expansion over the next four years.

# Community School Implementation Fund

In the 2023 and 2024 school years, the CIS of Virginia network leveraged \$5M in funding from the Virginia Department of Education’s Community School Implementation Fund, an initiative to develop, deepen and expand the community school framework across the commonwealth. The funds were invested strategically by five affiliates to support growth in new and existing partner districts, and elevate overall affiliate capacity. The funding also supported CIS of Virginia’s establishment of two new partnerships in the unserved Southside region.

The CIS-VA network was uniquely positioned to turn the Community School Implementation Fund investment into powerful outcomes in the form of improved attendance rates, reduced achievement gaps and successful graduation and grade progression of students most at risk of disengaging or dropping out of school.

→ **The Community School Fund directly increased the CIS-VA total student reach by 27%.**

## Funding Impact: Affiliates

	NEW POSITIONS	NEW DISTRICTS	SCHOOLS SERVED WITH FUNDING	NEW SCHOOLS	STUDENTS REACHED	ADDITIONAL CASE MANAGED STUDENTS
CIS of Appalachian Highlands - VA	12	2	12	12	4,509	546
CIS of Chesterfield	10.5	0	6	2	7,881	134
CIS of Hampton Roads	7	0	7	7	5,800	449
CIS of NOVA	5	1	3	3	4,111	74
CIS of Richmond	9	0	4	0	3,484	213
CIS of Virginia in Southside	3	2	2	2	1,916	107
TOTAL	46.5	5	34	26	27,701	1,523

### Funding Facts

- 94%

of schools had a goal to improve attendance
- 88%

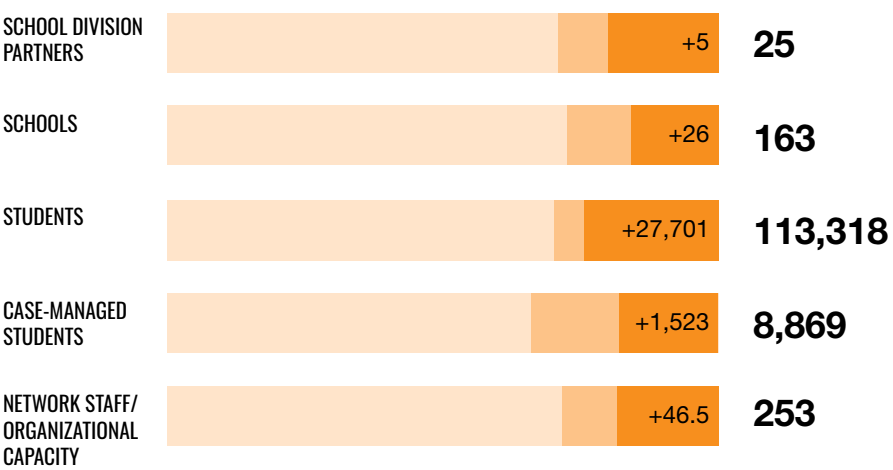
of students made measurable progress in at least one goal area
- 100%

of schools continuing CIS partnership beyond funding period

### Funding Impact: Statewide Reach

Growth of the CIS of Virginia network at the end of the funding period (June 2024)

- CIS reach before funding
- Total growth
- Growth directly attributed to funding



# Communities In Schools of Virginia in Southside

CIS of Virginia launched an initiative to establish a regional presence in Southside Virginia with two inaugural partnerships with Greenville County Public Schools and Danville Public Schools. Based on a positive experience in one high school in each division, these partnerships have already expanded for the 2024-25 school year, and discussions are underway with several neighboring school districts.



Willie Gillus, CIS-VA Director of Emerging Programs, and Dr. Kelvin Edwards, Superintendent, Greenville County Public Schools

## 2023-24 CIS-VA in Southside Impact

### Tier 1 / Whole School

#### SCHOOLS SERVED:

##### Greenville County High School

- School goal: Improve absenteeism rate
- Outcome: Percentage of chronically absent students reduced from 32% to **25%**; school received full accreditation

##### George Washington High School

- School goal: Improve academic performance
- Outcome: Graduation rate improved from 74.5% to **78%**

**1,916** Students reached

**42** Whole-school supports provided

TOP SUPPORTS CATEGORIES	# OF SUPPORTS
Academic Assistance	9
Enrichment/Motivation	7
College/Career Readiness	7

### Tiers 2 and 3

**107** Case-managed students

**2,604** Supports provided

TOP STUDENT SUPPORTS PROVIDED	# OF SUPPORTS
Attendance	1,068
Academic Assistance	356
Life/Social Skills	287

→ **Outcomes:**  
95% Improved attendance, SEL, behavior or course performance

### A Growing Presence: 2024-25 Schools

#### Danville Public Schools

- O. Trent Bonner Middle School
- Westwood Middle School
- George Washington High School  
(3 student support coordinators)

#### Greenville County Public Schools

- Greenville Elementary School
- Wyatt Middle School
- Greenville County High School



CIS of Virginia in Southside's first Student Support Coordinators Nicole Boone and Brenda David.



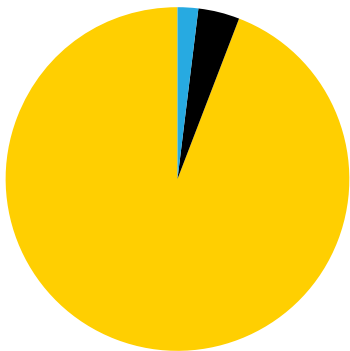
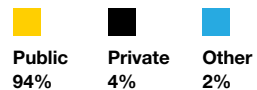
# 2023-24 Financial Report

Investment from the community is essential to our ability to expand CIS's reach in a sustainable manner, support affiliate excellence and report on outcomes. CIS of Virginia is grateful for steadfast partners in both the public and private sectors who share a commitment to ensuring every child's potential is maximized.

In 2023-24, CIS-VA's resource development efforts resulted in more than **\$5.2M in direct support for the affiliate network**. CIS of Virginia administered funds to affiliates that supported growth and sustainability in the form of investment in affiliate infrastructure and leadership, support for new site coordinator positions and ability to deepen impact at high-population schools.

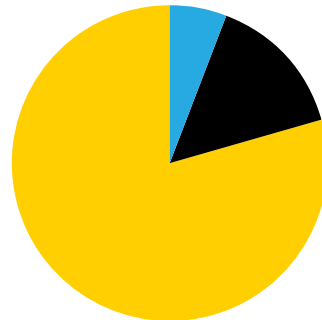
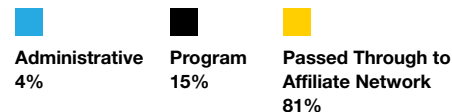
## Revenue

**\$7,063,456**



## Expenses

**\$6,124,829**



### FUNDER SPOTLIGHT:

## Dominion Energy Foundation

CIS-VA is grateful to Dominion Energy, a longtime partner to several affiliates in the statewide network and presenting sponsor of CIS-VA's 2023 Summit and 25th Anniversary Celebration. In addition to generous financial support, Dominion Energy is actively represented on the CIS-VA board of directors, as well as on the boards of three affiliates in the Greater Richmond region.



Dominion Energy is proud to support Communities In Schools. CIS plays an important role in ensuring Virginia's future workforce is strong, capable and healthy, a key factor in making sure Virginia remains a top state to do business."

— HUNTER APPLEWHITE,  
PRESIDENT, DOMINION ENERGY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



# CIS of Virginia Board, Staff & Affiliates

## 2022-23 CIS-VA Board of Directors

### Chair

**David Fernandez**  
Altria Group Inc.

### Vice Chair

**Bill Milliken**  
Founder, Communities In Schools, Inc.

### Treasurer

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

### Robert Blue

Dominion Energy

### Larry Cooley

Management Systems International

### Sarad Davenport

TMI Consulting, Inc.

### Dan Domenech, Ph.D.

Retired - American Association of  
School Administrators

### David Hallock

Two Capitals Consulting

### Michael Ligon

Retired - Universal Corp.

### Elizabeth Lodai

Retired

### Colette McEachin

City of Richmond

### Asha Patton-Smith, M.D.

Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic

### Pat Wright

Former State Superintendent  
of Instruction

### Ex-Officio

### Mark Emblidge, Ph.D.

Founder & President

### Founding Co-chairs

### The Honorable George Allen

### The Honorable Mark Warner

## Staff

### Mark Emblidge, Ph.D.

Founder & President

### Julie Dillon

Senior Director of Development  
& Communications

### Lindsay Forston, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Program  
& Evaluation

### Rita Layne

Director of Finance & Administration

### Leanne Lytle

Director of Program & Evaluation

## CIS of Virginia in Southside

Director of Emerging Programs

### Willie Gillus, Jr.

Program Director

### Lathaniel Kirts

### Student Support Coordinators:

#### Danville Public Schools

- **Breniyah Henderson\***,  
O. Trent Bonner Middle School
- **Bailey Wray\***, Westwood Middle School
- **Justin Bethea\***,  
George Washington High School
- **Brenda David**,  
George Washington High School
- **Crystal Cobbs\***,  
George Washington High School

#### Greensville County Public Schools

- **Kyenna Benjamin\***,  
Greensville Elementary Schools
- **Dwainett Young\***, Wyatt Middle School
- **Nicole Boone**, Greensville High School

\*Hired August 2024

## Network

### CIS of Appalachian Highlands

Chase Stewart, President & CEO

### CIS of Chesterfield

Ashley Hall, Executive Director

### CIS of Hampton Roads

Hope Sinclair, Executive Director

### CIS of NOVA

Patrick Brennan, Executive Director

### CIS of Petersburg

Wanda Stewart, President & CEO

### CIS of Richmond

Harold Fitrer, Ed.D., President & CEO

