Communities In Schools of Atlanta surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Our evidence-based approach, adapted to meet each community's unique needs, is the key our success.

What is the Communities In Schools Model?

The Communities In Schools (CIS) of Atlanta is an affiliate and CIS site coordinator leverage partnerships to connect students and families with community resources, tailoring them to their specific needs. Within the school the CIS Model is implemented in the following steps:

1. Needs Assessment

Using school and community data, stakeholder interviews and surveys and identified school priorities, CIS will conduct a needs assessment in collaboration with school staff to determine the priority needs for the community and student populations that the CIS site coordinator can address.

2. Annual Support Planning

The CIS site coordinator, working with the identified School Support Team, will develop a School Support Plan outlining all goals and planned supports for the school year. Supports are tied directly to the needs identified in the needs assessment, have clear objectives and measurable outcomes and processes for evaluating effectiveness and making necessary adjustments.

3. Three Tiers of Support

The CIS Model includes three tiers of support:

- **Tier I Support**: Widely available services designed to foster a positive school climate and address school-level risk factors.
- **Tier II Support**: Targeted services typically provided in a group setting to students with a common need.
- **Tier III Support**: Intensive, individualized services typically provided in a one-on-one setting to students with highly specific needs.

4. Monitoring and Adjustment of Services

A key component of the CIS Model is that all supports, both school-wide and individual, are monitored to determine effectiveness and adjusted as necessary. This process is completed as part of on-going reporting and coordination with school staff and leadership.

5. Evaluation

The support provided by CIS is evaluated regularly based on program goals for the outcomes for the school and individual students. These evaluations will help to demonstrate results and determine what resources are needed to meet desired outcomes.

What is the role of a CIS site coordinator?

The CIS site coordinator is responsible for executing the CIS School Support Plan and meeting the needs of the student population, aligning with the priorities of school leadership. The site coordinator works inside the school with principals, teachers and other student support personnel to forge community partnerships that bring resources into the school to help remove barriers to learning.

CIS site coordinators:

- Work closely with the School Support Teams and school leadership to identify at-risk students in needs of support;
- Coordinate partners and service providers to address the potential sources of drop-out;
- Coordinate supports to impact school-wide climate and culture;
- Case manage 5-10% of the student population, tracking progress of these students and providing individualized support when needed; and
- Monitor, adjust and report on supports in the school.

What types of support does a CIS site coordinator provide?

Based on the needs of the school and community, site coordinators can provide any or all of the following:

- Academic Assistance
- Basic Needs
- Behavioral Interventions
- College and Career Prep
- Community and Service Learning

- Enrichment
- Family Engagement
- Life Skills
- Mental Health
- Physical Health

What data do CIS site coordinators collect to monitor student progress?

In order to determine the effectiveness of supports provided to schools and individual students, CIS site coordinators collect, track and analyze attendance, behavior and course performance data. Additional data and information may be collected and monitored to determine outcomes related to parent engagement, fulfillment of basic needs, college/career readiness, resiliency, social-emotional learning and high-risk behaviors. Individual student data is collected and tracked in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and any state-specific legislation governing the use of student information. Prior to receiving any targeted supports, ALL case managed students must have parental/guardian consent.

What outcomes can a school expect with the implementation of the CIS Model?

As a federated network of local affiliates, Communities In Schools measures its performance methodically, carefully evaluating all aspects of our programs in order to constantly improve. Nationally, we serve nearly 1.5 million students and their families. As a result of this work:

School wide Outcomes

- Increase graduation rates
- Reduce dropouts rates
- Improve school attendance rate

Case managed Student Outcomes

- 99% remained in school
- 93% were promoted
- 91% of eligible seniors graduated
- 83% met academic improvement goals

What does CIS need from you?

Our work is done in close partnership with school leadership, staff and other service providers in the school. We are most effective when there is a mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities, clear lines of communication and open dialogue about what works and what does not. In the end, our goal is the same as yours: support students as they navigate school and emerge ready for what lies ahead. With that, we ask all of our school partners to do the following:

- Work collaboratively with the CIS site coordinator to complete a school-wide needs assessment and an aligned School Support Plan to address identified needs for both the school and individual students.
- Maintain open communication with the CIS site coordinator and CIS Executive Director to provide timely and consistent information regarding progress and challenges around the delivery of the CIS Model.
- Provide access to a workspace location on the campus for the appropriate delivery of programs and services.
- Provide access to and assistance in gathering appropriate data and information for program evaluation.
- Agree to engage the designated CIS staff on efforts that fall within the mission.

Contact Information:

Tishy' Vincent-Johnson
CIS of Atlanta Program Manager
Phone: 404 – 492 - 6640
Email: tvincent-johnson@cisatlanta.org

Joquita Ferguson, MSW
CIS of Atlanta Site Coordinator
Phone: 678-353-1218
Email: JFerguson@cisatlanta.org