

June 2, 2024

PROPOSAL:
CIS MODEL
INTEGRATED STUDENT SERVICES
INITIATIVE

FOR BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CENTRAL GEORGIA

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www.ciscg.org



PROJECT: Communities In Schools of Central Georgia will provide the CIS Model of Integrated Student Services Initiative to eight federally identified schools. Schools served will include Mathilda Hartley Elementary, Ingram Pye Elementary, Union Elementary, Bernd Elementary, Appling Middle, Rosa Taylor Elementary, Bruce Elementary, and Westside High.

Communities in Schools (CIS) of Central Georgia proposes to provide the implementation of the CIS Model of Integrated Student Services (case management and wrap-around services) in FY25 at Ingram Pye Elementary School, Matilda Hartley Elementary School, Union Elementary, Westside High School, Bernd Elementary School, Appling Middle School, Rosa Taylor Elementary School and Bruce Elementary School. Funding will be provided totaling \$600,000 or \$75,000 per school in FY25 with \$300,000 drawn from Title funds and \$300,000 drawn from the General Funds.

BACKGROUND

What is Communities In Schools?

Communities In Schools (CIS) is a nation-wide network of non-profit organizations focused on improving student and school (in person or virtual) success by providing needed support and services. Our goal is to support youth, improve graduation rates, academic achievement, job and post-secondary school readiness.

Communities in schools believes that keeping students in school is not simply a teacher's or school's responsibility. Instead, CIS takes a community development approach to supporting students by coordinating community resources for those challenged with barriers preventing them from being successful in school. When schools, families and communities work together, students are more successful and the entire community benefits.

What is the CIS Integrated Student Services Model?

CIS of Central Georgia and the CIS of Central Georgia Empowerment Coaches leverage partnerships to connect students and families with community resources, tailoring them to their specific needs. The CIS Integrated Student Services 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 Empowerment Coach can address.
- 2- Annual Support Planning – The CIS Empowerment Coach, 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:

- a. Tier I Support: Widely available services designed to foster a positive schoolclimate and address school-level risk factors.
 - b. Tier II Support: Targeted services typically provided in a group setting to students with a common need.
 - c. 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 Wrap-Around 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 demonstrated results and determine what resources are needed to meet desired outcomes.

How does the CIS Integrated Student Services (Wrap-Around) Model Work?

Communities In Schools employs a Wrap-Around Student Support Model to produce positive outcomes for at-risk youth and schools. The CIS Model pairs the provision of widely accessible prevention services and resources that are available to entire school populations with coordinated, targeted and sustained intervention services and resources for the subset of students who are most at risk of dropping out of school. At the school level, the CIS Empowerment Coach works with school administrators to identify school and student needs, developing a plan of whole school and targeted wrap-around services. The Empowerment Coach oversees the delivery of services and ensures effectiveness by monitoring and adjusting services as needed.

Struggling students and their families have a hard time accessing and navigating the maze of public and private services. There may be ample resources in a community, but rarely is there a single point of contact on the ground who is able to connect all the resources with the schools and students that need them most. CIS brings together many partners to offer a variety of supports and opportunities to students, families, schools and communities. The CIS Empowerment Coach helps to facilitate this connection where needed the most, helping to keep students in schools and on the path to graduation while leveraging research-based evidence, relationships and local resources to drive results.

Here are examples of the supports we have provided and expect to expand to the students, families and schools in the identified schools services after further plan development with school leadership:

- Basic needs – What can seem like small obstacles can easily lead students off track. That's why ensuring students have access to basic needs is so important. A student cannot focus in the classroom if he or she is hungry, cold or tired, or cannot see the board. From ensuring students get proper nutrition, are sleeping in safe places and have reliable transportation to and from school, to providing resources or referrals to their families when they are in need, there is no request too small for us. Food, clothing, hygiene supplies, school supplies, shelter and utilities all fall into basic needs. CIS of Central Georgia currently partners with several organizations such as the Middle Georgia Food Bank, Back Pack Buddies, The Mentors Project,

The Southern Center for Choice, Macon Periods Easier, Walmart, WMAZ, the Homeless Coalition, etc.

- **Family Engagement** - We know that greater parental involvement in a student's life promotes greater student success. But parents and guardians often face their own obstacles. Language barriers, busy work schedules, and other family obligations can keep caregivers from getting involved in their child's student life. Communities In Schools see family engagement as a crucial element to our success, and work to remove barriers that prevent caregivers from staying central in their child's education. We've offered parenting classes, sponsored family nights and created parent support groups to help parents stay involved. Our site coordinators work closely with school counselors and family engagement specialist to support families. another school and community resources as needed. CIS of Central Georgia partners with organizations like local technical schools and universities, as well as Macon Works for education and career support. CIS of Central Georgia also partners with Macon Aim, the Community Partnership and others to deliver family services.
- **Physical Health** - Despite the advancements in modern medicine, many kids in America continue to face a number of serious, chronic, health-related issues not least of these being COVID 19. Asthma, obesity and poor dental health are just a few. Add to this poor nutrition, plus lack of regular exercise, and it becomes clear how physical health can be a barrier to success. Communities In Schools is committed to promoting good nutrition, physical activity, access to health services and a healthy school environment. We offer a variety of programs to encourage physical activity, healthy eating and time outdoors. We believe healthy minds and bodies are the vehicles for our students' success. Communities In Schools of Central Georgia partners with First Choice Primary, North Central Health District, Navicent, GCAPP, Sight for Students.
- **Mental Health** - Some students face emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges, either directly themselves or in their immediate family. Our site coordinators are trained to help identify and reach out to kids and families who may need support services. We work with our partner schools, as well as community organizations, to provide the best resources and referrals available to our students and families. Our commitment is to treat every child with dignity and respect, and ensure they receive the services and support they need to be their best. Communities In Schools of Central Georgia currently partners with the Project AWARE, Resilient Middle Georgia Coalition, Mercer Counseling, River Edge, First Choice Primary,

The Southern Center for Choice, On the Same Breath and others to provide mental health services.

- Attendance Supports – CIS of Central Georgia will check on identified in person learners each morning when the school bell rings and will reach out to parents of identified students not present as well as case managed services as requested.
- Behavioral Interventions - Many of our students face and overcome difficult obstacles in their lives. However, their survival skills aren't always effective in the classroom or the work place. Our program teaches students positive ways to cope with anger, conflict resolution and other strategies to keep them focused on school. From one-on-one coaching to guest speakers and role-playing exercises, our hands-on approach helps student recognize patterns of behavior, break the cycle and see tangible improvements. We work with several mental health partners as well as delivering evidenced-based programming such as Overcoming Obstacles for positive behavior support.
- Life Skills - Life skills cover a broad range of topics – including personal health and hygiene, job attainment, money management and other essential skills such as how to study, how to manage time, and even how to set and achieve goals. Site coordinators teach students how to work together with others, interact with authority figures and manage anger and other emotions. Mastering life skills helps students engage more effectively with others, resolve issues diplomatically and understand the importance of compromise, patience, and other social values. Our program includes one-on-one training, hands-on role playing and motivational presentations from successful community leaders. We are in discussions with mentoring organizations to provide student support as well.
- College and Career Prep - Both higher education and the modern workplace are evolving rapidly, and with this shift come new opportunities, greater competition, more complex skill sets, and job titles that didn't exist a few years ago. It's a lot to process, especially for students already dealing with their own unique challenges. For students pursuing college, we help decipher the application process, explore scholarship opportunities, tour campuses and conduct mock interviews. For those planning to enter the work force, we help students discover enjoyable, sustainable career paths and connect them to internships, job shadowing opportunities and leadership training courses. For those undecided, our Empowerment Coaches provide a safe sounding board to articulate goals and fears, and explore options.
- Academic Support - Our Empowerment Coaches work hard to ensure that students have the resources to progress academically. From providing students with tutors, to finding and creating quiet spaces where students can study, we do whatever it takes to create an optimal learning environment for our students. We also provide a wide range of information and opportunities for college-bound and career-minded students. Many of our kids have a limited frame of reference of what their careers can be, so an important part of our job is making them aware of the possibilities

and encouraging them to “dream big”. From there, we help them understand and meet the requirements to ultimately achieve their goals.

CIS Model of Integrated Student Services Wrap-Around Services Initiative FY25 Scope of Service and Implementation

- 1- July: Contracts signed.
- 2- July/early August: Communities In Schools of Central Georgia will meet with the leadership of the identified schools to provide CIS School Leadership training and provide a manual. Will receive identification of CIS space in the school if it is a new site and if it has changed in sites served in FY24. Will identify current needs and gaps in services/resources. CIS Central Georgia will develop a Needs Assessment and School Support Plan.
- 3- July: CIS Central Georgia will advertise for any needed Empowerment Coach gaps. The CIS Central Georgia CEO will review applications, develop interview questions, and set up and complete interviews. Principals will be included in interviews as requested.
- 4- July: Technology, supplies, and materials will be purchased for Empowerment Coaches.
- 5- July - August: Empowerment Coaches will be hired for gaps. All Empowerment coaches will receive appropriate training.
- 6- August: Meet with leadership at each school to introduce any new Empowerment Coaches and receive any further details for the school support plan as well as a list of students for case management if necessary. CIS Parent Permission forms sent home (or calls made) for signature (approval).
- 7- July - August: CIS of Central Georgia and partners will collect school supplies (including uniform shirts and socks) for distribution as needed. In some cases, CIS partners may hold events and CIS will provide informational flyers and support to families.
- 8- August: A 30/60/90 Day Plan will be developed for each school.
- 9- August: Empowerment Coaches begin service at schools. Empowerment Coaches meet individually with case-managed students and identify any physical/mental health needs in early interviews. Referrals will be made as quickly as possible. Empowerment Coaches begin the scheduling/implementation of Tier I services identified as a priority. The Weekend Back Pack program will be assessed at each school and CIS will assist in programming if the program as needed.
- 10- A calendar will be established for the CIS Executive Director to meet monthly with school leadership/district leadership to report on progress and needs.
- 11- Empowerment Coaches and case management will continue according to the 30/60/90 Day Plan with adjustments as necessary.
- 12- Twice monthly the Empowerment Coaches will provide CIS leadership and school leadership a report on progress and needs.
- 13- Each month on an identified date the CEO/Program Manager/Empowerment Coach will meet with district/school leadership to report on progress and needs. Adjustments will be made if needed.

14-Data collection and input will continue throughout the school year. At a minimum attendance, behavior, and academic data will be collected for EOY evaluation.

