

Being Present Matters

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism in Georgia Communities In Schools of Georgia

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Georgia

BEING PRESENT MATTERS



OUR MISSION

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



About Communities In Schools (CIS)

At Communities In Schools, we believe that every student, regardless of their background or circumstances should have what they need to realize their full potential in school and beyond.

We work directly inside 3,460 schools and community sites across the country (245 schools in Georgia), hand-in-hand with parents, families and caregivers, helping them access important resources and support their children's success.



WHAT WE DO



Communities In Schools is a national organization that **ensures every student**, regardless of who they are, their ability, zip code or socioeconomic background, **has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond.**

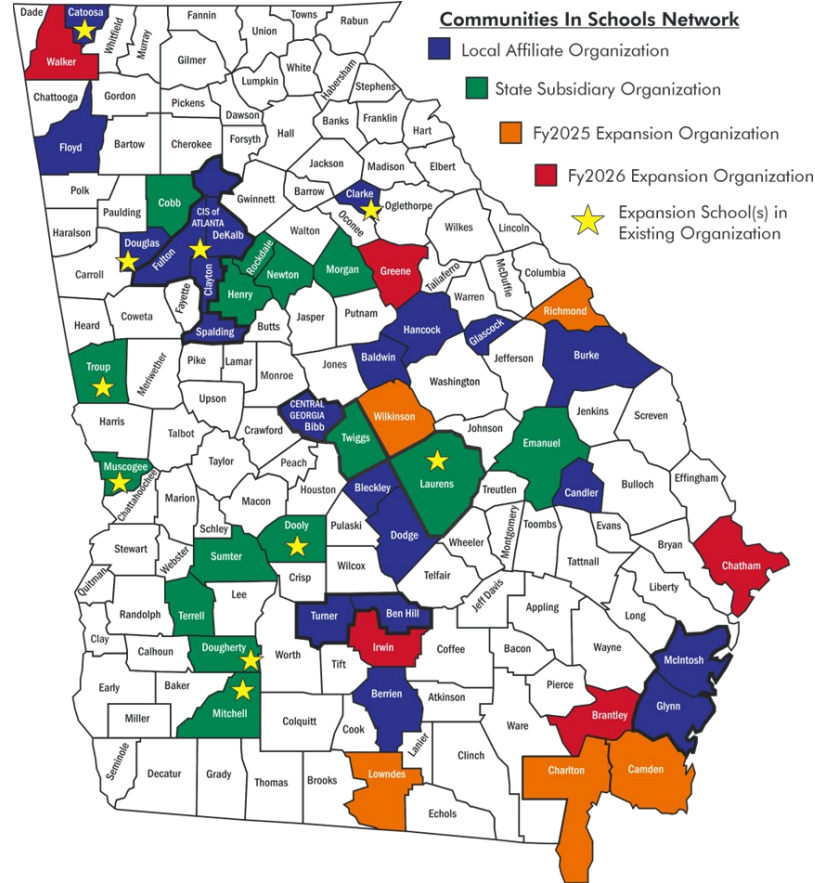


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Statewide Network and Reach



Network 2024-2025

- 16 Local Affiliate Organizations (*independent 501 C 3*)
- 19 Subsidiary Organizations

Serve in

- 41 Counties
- 46 School Districts
- 214 Schools and 2 community-based sites

Our evidence-based model connects students to caring adults and community resources so they show up prepared and ready to learn.

The Challenge in Georgia

- Over 350,000 students miss $>10\%$ of school days each year.
- Rural and low-income districts have the highest rates.
- Absenteeism correlates with lower graduation, test scores, and workforce readiness

BEING PRESENT MATTERS

15 Million students are chronically absent in the U.S.

Georgia faces a chronic absenteeism crisis, with over 20% of students missing 10% or more of the school year. (2024)

This is an urgent problem.



[Watch our TV PSA](#)

ROOT CAUSES OF ABSENTEEISM

Why our presence matters

- Lack of basic needs like clean clothes and shoes
- No transportation
- Trauma
- Housing and food insecurity
- Lack of access to technology
- No access to mental or physical healthcare
- Having household responsibilities such as childcare or needing to work



OUR SOLUTION

- **Based on evidence best practice**
- **Our differentiator** — a **site coordinator** embedded in schools is more valuable than ever as an effective strategy to keep kids engaged in school.
 - Tiered supports from prevention to intervention
 - Customized student support plans
 - Community resource partnerships
 - Data-driven monitoring

“It’s not programs that are transforming young people’s lives, it’s relationships.”

– Bill Milliken, Founder



We believe in the power of community.



“Every day a student misses school, opportunity slips further away. Communities In Schools of Georgia stands ready to partner with the State to ensure every student is present, supported, and future-ready.”

HOW WE DO IT

The CISGA Model: Integrated Student Supports

Tier 1

Coordination of **school-wide services and resources**. → attendance campaigns, incentives

Tier 2

Targeted programs and interventions for small groups of students. → mentoring, family contact.

Tier 3

Intensive, one-on-one support for case-managed students. → wraparound services.



FY2025 Key Outcomes for students served by the Communities In Schools of Georgia Network

We deliver **Integrated Student Supports (ISS)** or wrap around support services to **nearly 119,000 students annually**, including **over 8,950 high-risk, case-managed students**.

- **72.4% of chronically absent students improved attendance**
- **77.5% improved academic performance**
- **88% showed better behavior**
- **98.6% of high school students stayed in school**
- **95%+ promotion in elementary/middle grades**

Lessons and Leverage Points

Translate results into policy-relevant insight.

- **Chronic absenteeism** decreases when interventions address *root causes*, not symptoms.
- Integrated Student Supports can be embedded within **Attendance Review Teams** mandated by SB 123.
- Leveraging CISGA statewide ensures **continuity, data tracking, and equity in service delivery.**





The CIS Network in Georgia continues to make a positive impact on student outcomes

- 96.6% of seniors graduated.
- Approximately 99% of CIS students were promoted /stayed in school
- 72.4% of students who were chronically absent improved their attendance.

• *Results from fiscal year 2025*

Thank you for being present!



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