



Communities In Schools

Tennessee

GOOD NEWS FROM CIS-TN | February 2021

NEW VIDEOS RELEASED

CIS sees potential in every student, and we know you'll see it too!

We know that every community, school, student, and family we serve is unique. Watch and learn how two site coordinators serving two different communities – one urban, one rural – have tailored the CIS program to meet the needs of their students and families.



Bledsoe County

In Bledsoe County, CIS is surrounding students with a network of support they can trust and turn to no matter where they are in life.

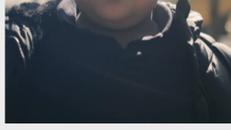
"I've always been told every child deserves one hero. So, every child deserves one person in the school that they trust and for a lot of children they may not have that but here they found that in her [CIS site coordinator] and when they did they trusted her and they would come to school and they would succeed." – Michelle Raines, Coordinated School Health Coordinator at Bledsoe County High School

WATCH VIDEO

Nashville

CIS is eliminating barriers to success for students at Bellshire Design Center.

"Every day my children look forward to running into him in the hall and they know if anything happens they can go to Mr. Gibson [CIS site coordinator]." – Diana Boyd, parent of CIS student



WATCH VIDEO

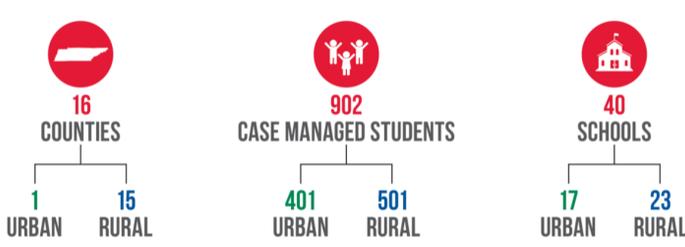
PROGRAM UPDATES

In Schools and Beyond

School closures due to the ongoing pandemic have greatly impacted many in our communities. At CIS-TN we are committed to continuing our work to support and connect students and their families to community resources across the state.

Our site coordinators are working closely with local nonprofits and community organizations to ensure we have up-to-date information on current services and resources available, so we may connect students and families to the appropriate resources to help them thrive during this challenging time.

2020-21 School Year Snapshot



Mid-year Impact

Across the state, 64% of CIS-TN case managed students are maintaining or showing improvement toward their individualized goals in attendance, behavior, coursework and/or social emotional learning.

LEARN MORE

Mid-year Highlight: Social Emotional Learning

Supporting Students Through Grief and Trauma

Now more than ever it's important to ensure students have the skills and tools they need to recognize and regulate their emotions and behaviors.

Nashville

This year a middle school site coordinator has been working with her students to complete the Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders: Thinking and Acting to Prevent Violence curriculum. This program is designed to deal with behaviors of youth as they become involved in violence either as aggressors, victims, or bystanders. Students learn how to effectively problem solve and use conflict resolution skills in a way that keeps them safe and allows them to retain self-respect while still respecting others.

This year a student was shot and killed that the group members knew. Together the group was able to process through that trauma by utilizing the tools they had learned to develop safety plans that facilitated the development of decision-making skills that would increase the possibility of the students not ending up in risky situations. They also discussed setting boundaries with peers, saying "no" to peer pressure, and taking a moment to think about how the present decision could impact their long-term goals. A few days later, another situation emerged in which some members of the group were asked to participate in illegal and risky behavior and they declined!

Rural

When Cole first started working with his CIS coordinator Marilyn he was very guarded. He wouldn't share personal information and didn't take responsibility for his behavior. To build rapport, Marilyn would draw and watch YouTube videos with him. She provided support through individual meetings where they discussed skills like emotion regulation. Slowly Cole became comfortable and began to open up to her.

Cole shared that he lives with his grandparents because both of his parents struggle with addiction. His grandfather was his primary caregiver until he passed away. When his grandfather died, he immediately took on the role of caregiver for his grandmother - she has stage 4 cancer. Cole hadn't had the opportunity to grieve the loss of his grandfather.

"When I found out about his situation at home I realized that his behavioral issues weren't because he was a bad kid or wanted to be like that, it was his grief coming out in the form of anger." - Cole's CIS coordinator

Cole became a totally different kid when he started to process his grief. On days that were more emotional for him, Marilyn would go around the school to talk to each of his teachers. She let them know that Cole was putting in the work and if he seemed withdrawn or acted out that it was a normal part of the grieving process.

"I know he's happier these days because I can see it on his face," said Marilyn. "He's more relaxed, able to concentrate in his classes, and his teachers say he's doing well and up to date on his work."

Student and coordinator names have been changed to protect their identities.

Supporting Families During the Holidays

A couple of our site coordinators shared their experiences

"The mother of one of my students has had a number of battles that led her to be hospitalized for most of the month of December. The grandmother didn't know how Christmas was going to happen. After talking to the grandmother and hearing the need, CIS jumped in and made Christmas happen for the student! The mother was able to shift her focus from worrying about gifts for her child to getting better."

"This holiday season was extra special for me as a site coordinator. With all that is going on, people were extra generous in their giving. I had so many people reach out to donate to our students and families. Seeing the weight lifted off parents because of the donations for Christmas presents and new clothes was extraordinary. Families were able to use their funds to pay their bills and provide food because they knew their children were going to get to have presents under their tree."

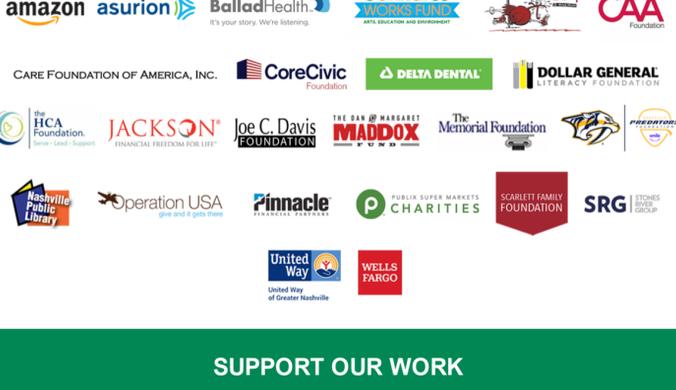
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNER RESOURCES

Are Students Present and Accounted For? An Examination of State Attendance Policies During the Covid-19 Pandemic

This report includes a scan of attendance policies for 50 states and the District of Columbia that have been updated for Covid-19 and provides seven recommendations for states.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We are incredibly grateful to our donors who have enabled us to continue providing critical resources and support to more than 18,000 students across the state who are in need of our services. Thank you!



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make an online donation

We know the power that one individual can make in the life of a child – teachers, mentors and hopefully you! When you donate to CIS-TN you're investing in a child's life and your community.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

Support CIS-TN Every Time You Shop

It's easy and automatic!

Kroger Community Rewards: Scan your Kroger Plus Card every time you shop and Kroger will make a donation to CIS-TN at no extra cost to you.

AmazonSmile: Select Communities In Schools of Tennessee as your preferred charity and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to CIS-TN.

LEARN HOW TO ENROLL

STAY CONNECTED



CIS of Tennessee | 1207 18th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37212 | 615.727.1341 | www.cis-tn.org

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.

View this email online.

1207 18th Ave. S
Nashville, TN | 37212 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



Subscribe to our email list.