

Newsletter | September 2023

It's back-to-school season, and we've got a lot to cover! In our latest newsletter, we highlight:

- Our upcoming fundraising breakfast, which is set for **Sept. 21 at 7:30 a.m.** Thanks to our generous sponsors, it's free to attend; learn more and [reserve your seat here](#).
- The tremendous progress our students made last year, as captured in our [2022-23 school year impact reports](#).
- Get to know our [new CEO, Meredith Benton](#).
- Program updates from our schools, and ways you can get involved.

Keep reading to learn more...

Sept. 21: Our Annual Fundraising Breakfast

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY: Join us for our annual *All in For Kids* fundraising breakfast, featuring motivational speaker, best-selling author, and former CIS-TN board member Reggie D. Ford and a panel discussion with a rural high school graduate and her program manager.



Thursday, September 21

at 14Tenn

1410 51st Ave. North
Nashville, TN 37209

Coffee and networking begin at **7:30 am**;
the program will run from **8-9 am**

Parking is available on-site at 14Tenn.

**RSVP
HERE**

Get to Know Our New CEO

Get to Know Our New CEO, Meredith!

Meredith Benton joined CIS as our CEO last month, and we are so thrilled to have her on board! Learn more about Meredith, from her favorite class in school growing up to the upcoming trip she's most looking forward to, [in this Q&A](#).

Read the Q&A



Back to School Program Highlights

Our program managers are back to school this fall at our **41 partner schools** across the state, including five new Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), all in the Maplewood cluster. Learn more about this expansion in an interview our CEO and Chief Program Officer did with [WSMV's "Today in Nashville" show](#), and catch up on updates from across our schools here:



Ida B. Wells

Our program manager wrote about working with a student who would "never speak, just smile," the "light switch" moment that followed, and how she has helped support her family through a hard time. [Read her story.](#)



Wartburg Central High

Meet Henry, who struggled to attend school regularly until his CIS program manager helped encourage him to make friends, and then helped him stay on track when tragedy struck. [Read the full story.](#)



Grand Junction Elementary

Our program manager arranged for an NFL player and former UT football star from the area to visit with students to discuss the importance of good attendance. [Learn more about his visit here.](#)



Halls High School

Our program manager at Halls High School provided individual resume writing and job search tips to students, including conducting mock interviews to help improve



Paragon Mills

Mother To Mother partnered with CIS to make sure every student at Paragon Mills had the school supplies they needed to start the year. [Learn more about how](#)



KIPP Collegiate High

Every student's request to receive an additional school polo shirt, hoodie, or jacket from our program manager's "Uniform Closet" was met

public speaking!

[Mother to Mother supports
all of our schools.](#)

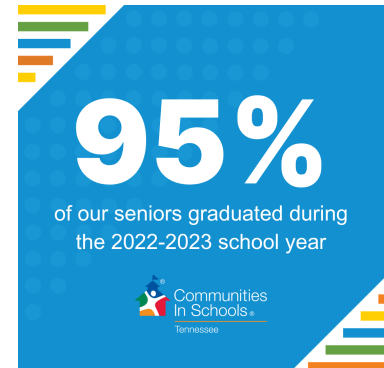
during the back-to-school season. Student volunteers also pitched in to serve dinner at the school's Open House.

Our Impact: 2022-23 School Year Report

Our program managers meet the unique needs of the school and students they serve by providing tailored, evidence-based services that lead to meaningful progress. Among our case-managed students last year:

- 74% improved their attendance
- 72% increased their social and emotional learning skills
- 99% were promoted to the next grade level

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



Get Involved with CIS

Want to learn more about CIS and how you can help? The best thing you can do short-term is attend our breakfast on **Thursday, September 21**, at 14Tenn. It's free to attend thanks to the support of our generous sponsors; [RSVP here](#).

If you can't make it to the breakfast but would still like to get involved, we are always looking for volunteers to help with a variety of projects at our schools; contact **Leah Susi** at lsusi@cistn.org to learn more.



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