

## Striving for equity in educational opportunities



CIS was founded as a social justice organization over 40 years ago. Our purpose is to provide resources and supports for historically marginalized students to address inequalities prevalent in our educational system.

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equity . opportunity . collaboration

### the challenge

The *Opportunity Gap* describes the ways in which the education playing field is not level for all students, even before the first day of class. Race, English proficiency, income, and other environmental factors all contribute to why individuals may face opportunity gaps throughout their lives, hindering them from achieving the same academic success as their peers.

Students from historically marginalized families have just a 51% Opportunity to Learn when compared to White, non-Latino students and nearly two-thirds of Black and Latino youth under the age of 18 fall into this group (Schott Foundation's Opportunity to Learn Index).

We must close the opportunity gap in education if we want to close achievement gaps and this is where our work comes in.

### the solution

Driven by a belief that all students, regardless of circumstance, deserve the same opportunities to reach their potential, for 25 years Communities In Schools of Renton-Tukwila has been striving for equity in educational opportunities providing students the unique supports they need to succeed.

Guided by our core values of equity, opportunity and collaboration, we deliver a unique model of Integrated Student Support, a student-centered approach, firmly grounded in the research on youth development. Our social service professional team work directly inside K-12 schools to address the identified needs of each school and individual students who are facing non-academic barriers to success. We focus on the historically marginalized students in the highest need elementary and secondary schools within Renton and Tukwila. Students are referred for CIS services for a variety of reasons including: food insecurity, homelessness, living in unsafe environments; or experiencing some other form of trauma.

## a model that works

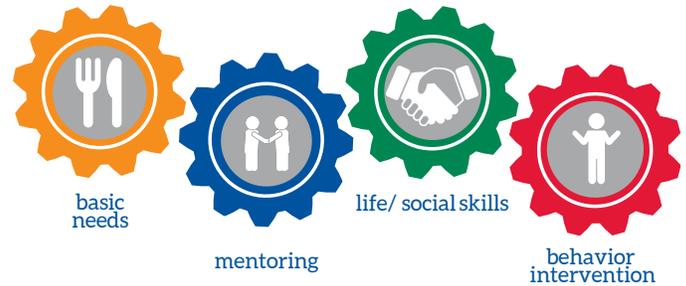
Our model integrates supports around each student, and it works. A 2010 study found that schools where the CIS model was implemented with fidelity experienced more favorable school wide outcomes than similar schools without CIS. CIS model schools experienced lower dropout rates, higher promotion rates (moving up to the next grade), and higher on-time graduation rates (ICF International, 2010).

Additionally, CIS case-managed students report improved relationships with adults, better quality relationships with peers, and improvements in their engagement with school, their educational attitudes, and their belief that education has value for their futures—all important outcomes that research links to future success (MDRC, 2017).

We provide supports in three tiers: Tier 1: school-wide services; Tier 2: targeted programs; and Tier 3: individualized support. By differentiating our supports, we are able to serve most students within a school while focusing attention on targeted students that have significant needs.

Our success has come from building strong and trusted relationships in the community centering racial and economic equity in our approach.

### Types of Integrated Student Supports



## how you can help

The urgency of our mission is amplified by changing demographics, a widening economic gap, and numerous research that directly links inequity with negative outcomes for both the individual and society.

We have a moral obligation to serve more students and there has never been a more important time to invest in young people. Your support will ensure more students have equal opportunities to reach their full potential.

Your investment in CIS is not only a good investment for students, it's a good investment for our community.

“*For every dollar invested in Communities In Schools, there is \$11.60 return on investment.*  
(EMSI economic Impact Study, 2012)



To join us in helping students overcome inequalities, or to learn more, please visit: [rentontukwila.ciswa.org](http://rentontukwila.ciswa.org).

As an organization rooted in equity, we look ahead to the time when success will no longer be predictable based on one's race or socioeconomic status.