

## The Most Effective Dropout Prevention Organization in America

### The Study:

A five year, comprehensive longitudinal evaluation was conducted by ICF International, one of the nation's foremost social science evaluation firms. This study is the largest and most comprehensive evaluation of dropout prevention programs ever completed.

### Purpose:

The purpose of this study was to determine which dropout prevention organizations had the greatest effect on reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates.

### What Was Tested:

There were eight unique distinct, interlocking phases of this study including:

- An implementation study that examined results from 1,766 CIS sites nationwide
- A quasi-experimental study that compared results from 602 CIS sites against 602 matched sites without a CIS presence
- A "deep dive" study of 368 CIS sites to identify best practices
- Three randomized controlled trials, the gold standard in social science evaluation, studying 573 students at nine sites

### Test Results:

ICF International concluded that the Communities In Schools model resulted in

*"The strongest reduction in dropout rates of any existing fully scaled dropout prevention program that has been evaluated."*

*"CIS is unique in having an effect on both reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates."*

*"The CIS model is effective across states, school settings, grade levels and student ethnicities."*

More important, analysis indicates that the more fully and carefully the model is implemented, the stronger the effects.

### Breakdown:

Does Communities In Schools work?

The CIS model has proven to not only work, but be the most effective dropout prevention model in the country. CIS schools demonstrated positive effects on both dropout and graduation results relative to non-CIS schools. CIS schools experienced consistent academic improvements in state-mandated assessments for math to non-CIS schools. The effective implementation of the "CIS Model" produces the strongest outcome.

A key strength is the ability to implement it with intentionality-selecting the right school to enter and being able to determine what services to provide.

### Communities In Schools' Impact on Duval County Schools:

- Communities In Schools of Jacksonville showed significant gains in reading scores of middle school students.
- CIS schools at all levels reported consistently positive improvements in attendance.
- Fewer CIS students dropped out of school during ninth grade compared to students not receiving CIS services.
- CIS students completed more credits during ninth grade.
- Students receiving CIS services for two consecutive years had more favorable outcomes than students with just a single year of service.
- 83% of students participating in DUVAL READS! increase their reading level by one grade.
- In the 2010-2011 school year, 97% of students in the CIS program, Take Stock in Children, were promoted to the next grade.
- In the past two years, 95% of students participating the CIS program, Achievers for Life, were promoted to the seventh grade on time.
- During the 2010-2011 school year, SEP Student Advocates provide services to 1,771 students in Duval County schools.
- 64.7% of students participating in the CIS program, TEAM UP, had less than 10 absences in the 2008-2009 school year.