



Communities In Schools: A Cost Efficient Model for Reaching Underserved Youth

How much is it worth to keep a child in school and off the streets? Consider the lost potential for that child. Then, consider the costs we all pay. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly 57 percent of adult dropouts are unemployed, compared to nearly 40 percent of adults who completed high school and 24 percent of those with a bachelor's degree. And the U.S. Department of Justice reports that American taxpayers spend more than \$22 billion annually to keep dropouts in state prisons.

Now, consider this. It costs an average of just \$180 a year for Communities In Schools (CIS) to provide services to a child.

How Are the Costs Kept So Low?

Only 5 percent of the roughly 53,000 volunteers and 16,000 community partners working with Communities In Schools are paid staff. Last year, more than three million hours of service were donated to Communities In Schools by more than 53,000 volunteers, at a value of nearly \$60 million. In addition, 16,000 community partners provided service throughout the network.

Leveraged Resources

Communities In Schools works within the existing school and social service systems. Whether a child needs glasses, tutoring, nutritious food or just a safe place to be, Communities In Schools finds the resources and brings them to the child. By working in partnership -- not competition -- with other youth-serving organizations, services are delivered in the most cost-effective way. Often the services exist within a community, but families may not know how or where to access them. That's where Communities In Schools can lend a hand.

Complements Federal Education Policies

While education policies and political leadership have changed over the years, the core principles of Communities in Schools have remained consistent. These principles have also consistently received bi-partisan support. During 15 of the last 16 congressional budget appropriation cycles, Communities In Schools has received federal funding. For every dollar of federal funding received at the national level, Communities In Schools leverages it several times across its network in support from other sources.

Impressive Results

Dropout rates among ethnic minorities in some economically depressed communities are as high as 50 percent. The nearly 1.2 million students directly served by Communities In Schools have been identified as being at risk of dropping out, and 78 percent of them qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Seventy-eight percent of these students who were tracked by CIS improved their attendance last school year, and 80 percent of them improved academic performance. For CIS-tracked students, the dropout rate is 3 percent, half the event dropout rate published by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

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