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Welcome to the New School Year!

CIS Site Staff Assessing Needs, Building Relationships with Students and Parents

The 2023-24 school year has begun and our team of 90 Site Coordinators, who are spread across the district, were there to enthusiastically greet students on their first day. Our team is now in the process of working with teachers, counselors, and administrators to identify thousands of students who can benefit from our services. Once identified, our Site Coordinators will spend the next several weeks assessing their needs and helping them set annual goals around attendance, academics, and social-emotional health.

From day one, our Site Coordinators work to build trusting relationships with students *and* their parents/caregivers, which allows them to go beneath the surface to identify the underlying causes of a student's attendance, academic, or behavioral concerns. Site Coordinators then implement supportive strategies tailored to the student's individual situation and needs. Building genuine, caring relationships with students and families is a hallmark of CIS and critical to improving student success and well-being.

More Title I Schools = More Students Who Need CIS Support

With our recent expansion into Oakdale Elementary and Renaissance West Academy, CIS-Charlotte is one step closer to having a presence in more Title I Schools. CIS has historically placed an emphasis on being housed in Title I schools, as the students in these schools tend to have the greatest needs. As a reminder, Title I schools are schools that have significant numbers of students living at or below the poverty line. Over the past several years, the number of Title I schools in CMS has increased. **Did you know that now, more than half of all CMS Schools (102 of 181) are designated Title I?**

Research shows that students living in poverty face more barriers, which tends to negatively impact their attendance and academic performance. These are the schools and students that need our services the most. CIS is strategically in these schools to ensure that all students have access to equitable resources and opportunities to achieve success in school and reach

their full potential. Currently we are supporting 42 Title I schools, but as you can see, the need is significantly greater.

We need your support as a community to rally around our students and schools across the district. Your [financial support](#) will help us reach more students in more Title I schools. With your support, we are looking forward to providing students with all they need to experience a positive and successful school year!

Celebrating the Class of 2023! 589 CIS Graduates, with 88% attending College

The 2023-24 school year is underway, but we are still proudly celebrating 589 CIS high school graduates in the Class of 2023 who received their diplomas in June. In case you missed our Senior Spotlights on our social media channels, you can find them on our website at [this link](#). Meet CIS graduates [John'na](#), [Marvin](#), [Mikayla](#), and more, who share how CIS supported them and made all the difference in their high school journey. Congrats again to this outstanding class of CIS graduates!



[John'na Hall](#)
Myers Park High School



[Marvin Vasquez](#)
Garinger High School



[Mikayla Rose](#)
West Mecklenburg High School



Championing Educational Equity with CIS National President Rey Saldaña

On August 17, CIS Charlotte hosted Rey Saldaña, our National President, for his first visit to our city. Saldaña was the keynote speaker for our All In For Kids luncheon fundraiser. During his visit, he met with city leaders, staff, and conducted several media interviews, including this interview with [Queen City News TV](#).

Saldaña's remarks at the luncheon centered on the importance of educational equity, and how CIS is leading a national movement to re-think education. [Read more](#) of Saldana's remarks, and check out this [photo gallery](#) of the event!

"Communities In Schools gets to be part of a movement that is happening right now across the country, one where we are re-thinking what school can and should be, especially for the students that get left behind. It isn't just about math scores and reading scores, it is really about creating a place of belonging for many of our young people."

- Rey Saldana, CIS National President & CEO



Queen City News Interview: CIS Presidents discuss increased needs in schools, CIS goal to support all Title I Schools nationwide and locally

[Click the thumbnail or this link](#) to watch Queen City News interview with Rey Saldaña and Men Tchaas Ari.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Board of Directors, who began their three-year terms in August. We deeply appreciate our board members for their time, expertise, and commitment to CIS and our students. Visit our website for a complete list of our current [Board of Directors](#). Welcome to Laetitia, Steve, and Kenya!

Laetitia Dowd - Founder/CEO, Dowd Advisory

Steve Lank - President, Financial Resources Group Investment Services (FRGIS)

Kenya Moses - Chief Operating Officer, NSI Industries



Laetitia Dowd



Steve Lank



Kenya Moses

Do Good CLT Podcast Highlights CIS

CIS Graduate and Site Coordinator share CIS Impact on their Educational and Career Paths

We are excited to be featured in this month's Do Good CLT Podcast! Our President and CEO, Men Tchaas Ari, was joined in the studio by CIS Site Coordinator Bryani Woods and recent CIS graduate [Jaliah Wilson](#). Wilson graduated from Phillip O. Berry Academy in June and is now a freshman on full scholarship at N.C. A & T University. Both Woods and Wilson share the pivotal impact that CIS has had on their educational and career paths. Many thanks to Share Charlotte and Queen City Podcast Network for this terrific opportunity to share our story!



Listen here on [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Spotify](#).



Did you know? In the education world, September is **Attendance Awareness Month!** Improving attendance takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to the particular strengths and challenges of each student, school, and community. This month we proudly recognize the dedication of our Site Coordinators, schools, and community partners in ensuring students have the resources and support they need to be in school every day. Thank you for joining with us to encourage and celebrate strong daily attendance in our schools!

Follow us on social for our latest news and stories!



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