



When tragedy struck Uvalde, Communities In Schools was there in a matter of hours to help begin the healing process. CIS deployed a team of licensed mental health clinicians with a targeted emphasis on school-based, trauma-informed mental health crisis support for students, staff, and family members. Now, we are very fortunate that CIS is providing mental health professionals to serve UCISD throughout the district. After seeing how impactful their work is, I strongly encourage the Legislature to increase funding for CIS so they can serve more schools and students in need in Uvalde and beyond.

Gary Patterson, Interim Superintendent
Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

LEADERS IN STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

CIS is the largest provider of school-based behavioral health services for students in Texas, providing more than 500,000 hours of mental health services last school year. Through its statewide network of 27 affiliates, CIS provided intensive, case-managed services to more than 123,000 students on over 1,500 school campuses in 201 school districts.

Whether a student is struggling to cope with an emotional stressor at home or is dealing with complex trauma or grief, CIS provides students with mental health and wellness support. Trained CIS mental and behavioral health professionals provide trauma-informed interventions that alleviate emotional and behavioral challenges, enhance coping skills, improve student well-being and, in turn, scholastic achievement.

STRENGTHS BASED APPROACH

CIS helps kids stay in school by applying a multi-tiered system of support designed to help address chronic absenteeism that can lead to truancy. By leading reengagement with students disconnected from school, CIS helps close the achievement gap and improve student outcomes. CIS is committed to serving students as they face economic, behavioral, and academic challenges.

CIS mental and behavioral health professionals working with students utilize an integrated referral process that invites community, family, and school stakeholders to identify students who have barriers to academic achievement, behavior concerns, or have experienced traumatic events.

After receiving parental consent, CIS professionals employ a strengths-based approach to assess students' needs and determine the appropriate service plan. The strengths-based approach draws on students' personal strengths and existing support within their ecosystem, instead of an emphasis on deficits and starting from ground zero. This early intervention process prevents emerging issues from turning into serious concerns thereby avoiding negative outcomes.

COST-EFFECTIVE & POSITIONED TO EXPAND

With more than four decades of experience serving vulnerable students in Texas, CIS is positioned to provide the services and resources necessary to empower students to realize their boldest aspirations. CIS has the expertise and existing infrastructure necessary to expand, and the CIS cost-share model allows for sustainable program growth to serve more students, campuses, and school districts.

CIS affiliates leverage state funding with additional public and private fundraising from local communities. **For every dollar invested by the state, CIS provides on average more than three dollars in services.** This model, which is unique to CIS, multiplies the impact of state funding and allows CIS to help more students in need.

To meet the all-time high demand for CIS services and further expand to address remaining gaps in the student mental health care system, CIS affiliates in Texas are requesting an additional \$25 million per year in state funding.





The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute has worked with districts across the state to understand the real-world challenges students face, particularly those in crisis or who have experienced trauma. CIS ensures their students have access to the support they need to cope with mental health challenges and is a critical partner to student well-being in Texas.

Andy Keller, PhD
President & CEO of Meadows Mental Health

BY THE NUMBERS



99%

STAYED IN SCHOOL
(GRADES 7-12)

97%

WERE PROMOTED TO
THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL

97%

OF ELIGIBLE SENIORS
GRADUATED

90%

IMPROVED IN
ACADEMICS¹

83%

IMPROVED IN
BEHAVIOR¹

CIS is recognized with best practice designation by the Texas Education Agency and Health and Human Services Commission for its early mental health intervention practices.

123,912

STUDENTS RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL
CASE-MANAGED SERVICES

974,886

ATTENDEES AT SCHOOL-WIDE ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN 502,000

HOURS OF SCHOOL-BASED
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
PROVIDED TO STUDENTS
ACROSS TEXAS IN THE
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



4,823 volunteers



1,521 campuses



27 CIS affiliates
in Texas



201 school
districts

The demand for CIS' integrated student support programming was already at an all-time high in Texas before COVID-19. Mental health experts tell us that the indirect impact of COVID-19 on the mental and behavioral health of students could be as damaging as the pandemic itself and will only be increasing in the coming years as the achievement gap widens and learning loss increases because of the COVID slide. There will be an increased need for students to be able to access the mental health and academic support that CIS provides. **Because of this, it is paramount that the state increases its investment in CIS by \$25 million per year in the next biennium.**

Data is from the 2021-2022 school year.
¹based on students targeted in each area