



Prevent Dropouts = Preserve CIS

Texas' Dropout Problem - Texas has an unacceptably high dropout rate and ranks among the lowest out of 50 states in high school graduation. Three out of ten students statewide do not graduate from high school. A single class cohort of dropouts **costs the state \$10 billion**, primarily in lost wages. Dropouts are more than twice as likely to live in poverty, three times as likely to be unemployed, and eight times as likely to be incarcerated during their lifetime.

CIS is Cost Effective - Communities In Schools is the nation's leading dropout prevention program for at-risk students and the only such program that both increases graduation rates *and* decreases dropout rates. Recent studies commissioned by the Texas Education Agency indicate that CIS is **the only effective dropout prevention program**.

CIS and the State Budget - Administered by TEA, CIS has received \$32.2 million per biennium to support students. TEA has recommended cutting \$3.5 million of General Revenue appropriations. CIS also receives \$4.8 million per year in TANF funds due to the fact that the students served are primarily low or very low income.

Leverage Effect of State Funding - State dollars appropriated and contracted directly from TEA to CIS allow local affiliates to raise private funding. For every dollar the state invests, local programs are able to raise two additional dollars to serve more of the highest need students in the highest need schools. ***If state funds are cut, local affiliates will not be able to replace them in this economy.***

Impact of Proposed Budget Cuts - The CIS programs established in 737 schools across Texas cannot absorb the proposed cut. Local CIS programs estimate that if the current proposed budget reductions are approved they will have to make draconian cuts such as:

- **Immediately layoff 144** of the current 1,445 CIS professional staff employed locally
- **Permanently eliminating programs at 77** of the campuses served by CIS
- **Directly case managing 8,500 fewer** at-risk students every year

With a state investment of only \$235.87 per student each year, CIS is a wise and prudent use of taxpayer money. In these challenging economic times, **CIS is a cost efficient program** that saves *the State of Texas* and school districts money.

Value of CIS - In 2009, of the 85,000 students case managed across Texas:

- 98% stayed in school
- 93% were promoted to the next grade
- 82% of seniors graduated
- 80% improved in academics
- 88% improved their behavior

CIS is a Cost Efficient Solution - For every dollar invested in CIS, the state receives an exponential return and significant long-term cost savings. **Prevent dropouts by preserving CIS funding.**