



## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Communities In Schools' Proven Model Yields Significant Economic Benefits in Delaware, According to New Study**

*Every Dollar Invested In Communities In Schools of Delaware Unique Site Coordinator Model Produces Increased Graduation Rates and An Average of \$12.50 in Economic Impact for the Local Economy*

(Dover, Delaware) – Communities In Schools, the nation's leading organization dedicated to empowering students to stay in school and achieve in life, recently released the results of a comprehensive economic study, conducted by EMSI, one of the nation's leading economic modeling firms.

The economic model was based on a subset of results from a recent five-year longitudinal national evaluation conducted by another independent research firm, ICF International. That evaluation concluded:

- Communities In Schools is unique in having a substantively important effect on both reducing dropout rates and increasing on-time graduation rates.
- Communities In School's intensive case management services produce the strongest reduction in dropout rates of any existing fully scaled dropout prevention program that has been rigorously evaluated.
- The Communities In Schools model is effective across states, school settings, grade levels and student ethnicities.

*Jim Wolfe, former President and CEO of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce says, "Today's students are tomorrow's workforce. And Communities in Schools' research has shown that reduced dropout rates and improved graduation rates are within our grasp--and a great benefit to the local economy. That's an investment we can't afford to miss."*

Using the dropout and graduation results from the ICF school-level study, and basing their calculations only on those Communities In Schools affiliates working in high schools<sup>1</sup>, EMSI

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<sup>1</sup> The sites that solely serve elementary and middle schools still generate benefits, but because of data limitations those impacts are not captured here. By limiting the analysis to the most rigorous and defensible results available

calculated the costs of the organization, including dollars directly invested and the opportunity costs of labor and capital. They then calculated the benefits of the increased high school graduation rates attributed to Communities In Schools and their subsequent higher earnings by these graduates, and social and taxpayer savings based on the students' increased academic achievement.

Among the significant findings of the **nationwide study** are:

- The average **annual rate of return to society is 18.4%**.
- The benefit/cost ratio is 11.6, which means that **every dollar invested in Communities In Schools creates \$11.60 of economic benefit for the community**.
- High school graduates will be net contributors to their communities for an average of **44 years of their working life**, using their increased income to purchase homes and cars, and paying taxes that will support police officers, fire fighters and teachers.

Based on the economic conditions in local areas, and the number of high schools that local Communities In Schools affiliates serve, the results can be even better. For example here in Delaware

- The results for **Communities In Schools of Delaware** are:
  - The average **annual rate of return to society is 19.6%**.
  - The benefit/cost ratio is 12.5, which means that **every dollar invested in Communities In Schools creates \$12.50 of economic benefit for the community**.
  - High school graduates will be net contributors to their communities for an average of **44 years of their working life**, using their increased income to purchase homes and cars, and paying taxes that will support police officers, fire fighters and teachers.

“Our analysis demonstrates that Communities In Schools produces meaningful economic and social impacts,” said Tim Nadreau, research economist at EMSI. “The Communities In Schools model produces lifetime benefits for students who will earn more, businesses who will have access to a more skilled workforce, and taxpayers who will have both a greater contribution and reduced costs from these graduates.”

*“Communities In Schools is a proven solution, delivering cost effective results and significant economic impact for the citizens of Delaware” said Jim Purcell, President of Communities In Schools of Delaware. “By bringing caring adults into the schools to address children’s unmet needs, CIS provides the link between educators and the community. **The result: Teachers are free to teach, and students—many in jeopardy of dropping out—finally have the opportunity to focus on learning.**” Purcell states.*

A copy of the full study is available on our website at:

<http://www.communitiesinschools.org/about/publications/publication/economic-impact-communities-schools>

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from the third-party evaluation, EMSI took the most conservative approach to this analysis to avoid overstating the impacts.

### **About Communities In Schools**

Communities In Schools surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Through a school-based coordinator, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to critical community resources, tailored to local needs.

Working in more than 3,400 schools, in the most challenged communities in 25 states and the District of Columbia, Communities In Schools serves nearly 1.3 million young people and their families every year. It has become the nation's leading dropout prevention organization, and the only one proven to both increase graduation rates and reduce dropout rates. Visit our website at [www.communitiesinschools.org](http://www.communitiesinschools.org)

### **About Communities In Schools of Delaware**

Communities In Schools of Delaware surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Currently in 10 school sites through a school-based coordinator, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to critical community resources, tailored to local needs. Working in more than 14 schools, in the most challenged communities in Delaware, Communities In Schools has access to nearly 9,000 students and provides case managed services to nearly 600 young people and their families every year. We have become one of the solutions to students not performing well in school, and the only one proven to both increase graduation rates and reduce dropout rates. Visit our website at [www.cisd Delaware.org](http://www.cisd Delaware.org)