



Communities
In Schools®

Mid-America



KANSAS CITY IMPACT REPORT

IN 2017, Communities In Schools of Mid-America was awarded funding as part of a collaborative investment strategy between Communities In Schools (CIS) National and Costco. The competitive award process included a multi-phased application and due diligence period that began in January 2016 and continued through May of that year. This collaborative effort was part of a nationwide Communities In Schools Growth and Impact Investment strategy. The investment required school districts and communities to agree to provide fifty percent of total operating funds during years two and three of the three-year project period, with CIS National providing a matching investment for up to 10 schools. The funds, paired with local investment, initiated expansion into Kansas City, Missouri, with the purpose of delivering the comprehensive CIS Model of Integrated Student Supports to schools positioned for the greatest impact.



more than
20,000
students served

At the same time that the CIS National Growth and Impact grant was awarded, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, with support from the Hall Family Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation, was launching new work around K-12 education quality through the development of SchoolSmart Kansas City (SchoolSmartKC).

CIS of Mid-America connected with Awais Sufi, who helped design the SchoolSmartKC effort and served as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization, about the CIS Growth and Impact strategy. Guided by its mission to close the achievement gap for students in Kansas City, SchoolSmartKC's partnership was integral to CIS of Mid-America's expansion into Kansas City Public Schools and Kansas City Charter Schools. SchoolSmartKC became the first local investor in CIS of Mid-America's expansion into the Kansas City region, providing support during the planning period and beyond. In addition to funding secured from SchoolSmartKC, CIS of Mid-America leveraged District and Charter School funding partnerships, plus critical support from the local philanthropic community. These elements blended to form a strong foundation for implementing Communities In Schools of Mid-America programming in Kansas City, Missouri, and positioned the project for future success.





During the first six years of programming, CIS of Mid-America delivered services in 16 schools serving more than 20,000 students. Student Support Coordinators in these schools dedicated more than 26,600 hours to individual, small-group, and whole-school programming, creating a positive learning environment at school, teaching students how to cope with challenging experiences, and providing students with the tools and resources needed to develop and pursue a future of their design. This work would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the Kansas City funding community.

26,621

hours of support provided

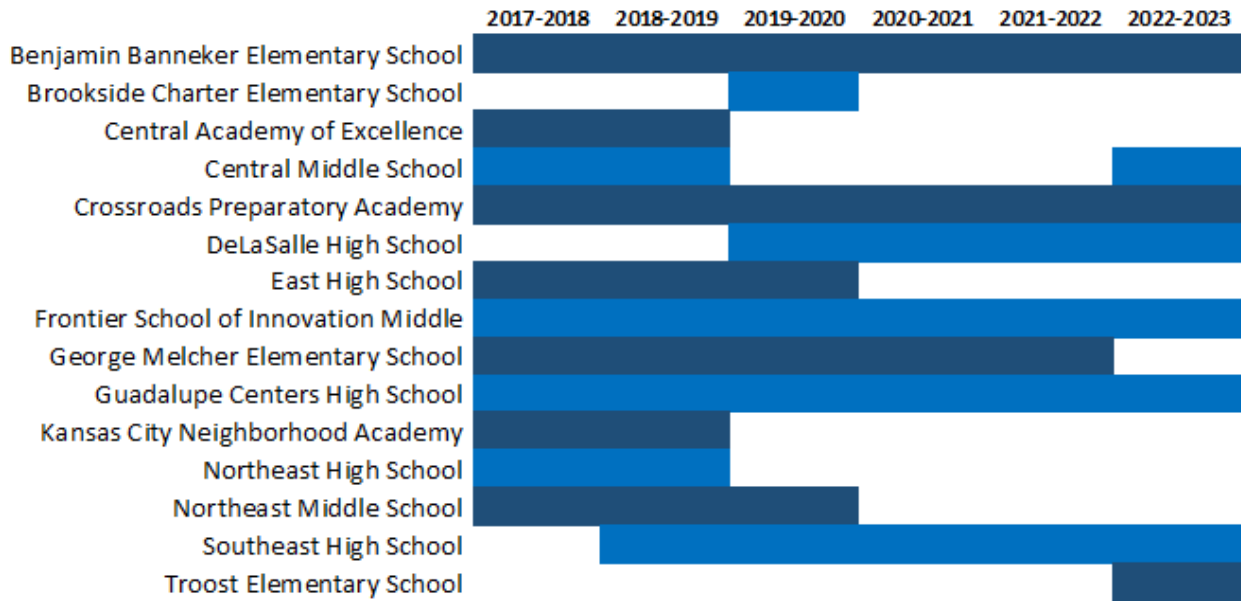
116,317

basic needs items provided



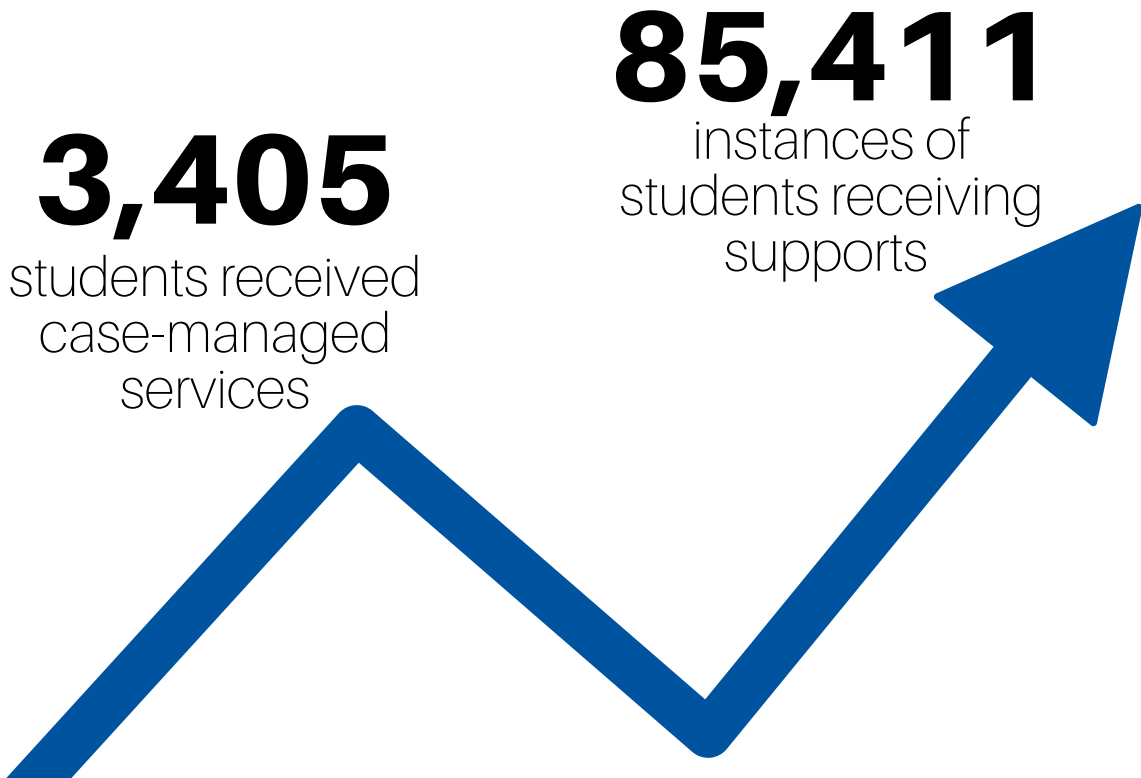
THE IMPACT

Since the 2017-2018 school year, CIS of Mid-America has provided case management services to more than **3,000 students** attending schools in the Kansas City Public School District and local Charter Schools. Our program has been hosted by the following schools:



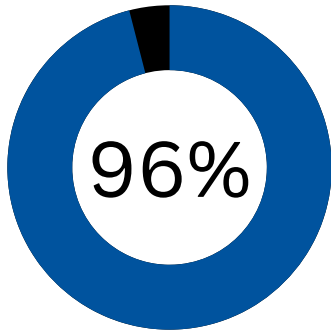
"To those supporting our work in Kansas City, thank you. Your contributions help students overcome obstacles and reach goals. Because of you, students are surrounded by a team of caring individuals doing whatever it takes to ensure they succeed. You are a critical member of our team."

- Malissa Martin, President and CEO & Kelly Stanford, Chief Program Officer -

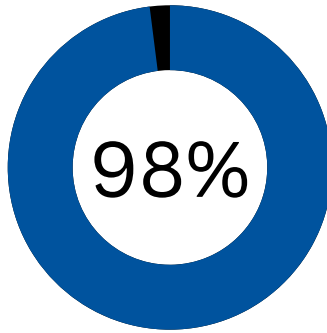


THE OUTCOMES

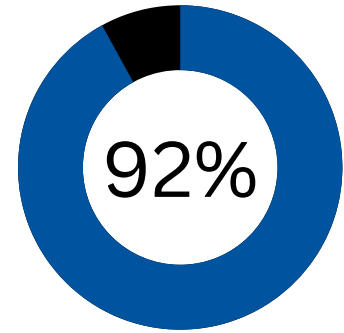
During the 2021-2022 school year, students receiving targeted services reported reaching their goals in various outcomes measured by CIS of Mid-America, including academics, behavior, and attendance.



SENIORS GRADUATED



STAYED IN SCHOOL

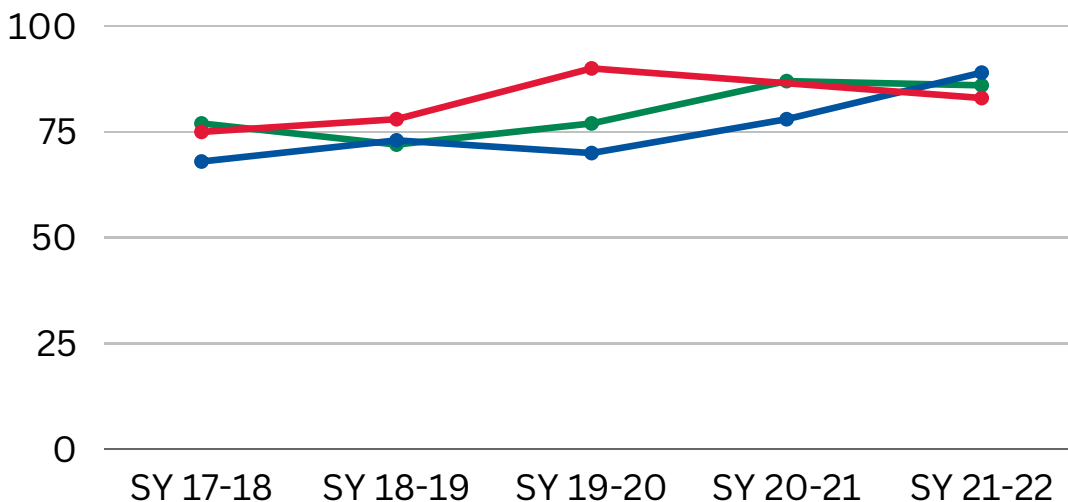


PROMOTED TO NEXT GRADE

"I served as a Student Support Coordinator in Guadalupe Centers High School for the first three years of the pilot program. The student population was over 90% Hispanic, and therefore, the needs, challenges, and opportunities of those students did not resemble those of other schools. Fortunately, the CIS of Mid-America Model is incredibly adaptable and seeks to inform its support planning on the evolving needs of the students. As a Hispanic, I connected with students and their parents in their native language and delivered or brokered support that empowered them to achieve in life. I am confident that the holistic approach to the program impacted not only students but also their siblings, caregivers, and teachers."

- Christy Young, Former Student Support Coordinator -

CASE MANAGED STUDENT OUTCOMES



BEHAVIOR IMPROVED

ACADEMICS IMPROVED

ATTENDANCE IMPROVED

STUDENT VOICES MATTER

A conversation with two caseload students from Crossroads Preparatory Academy and their CIS of Mid-America Student Support Coordinator, Craig Toombs.



Student Ca'son Phillips with SSC Craig

When did you start working with your Communities In Schools of Mid-America Student Support Coordinator?

Ca'son: I began working with CIS last year. I believe it was the month after the school year began.

Markeya: I began working with CIS last year at the beginning of the school year.

What were some challenges you faced when you began working with CIS?

Ca'son: Anger management issues.

Markeya: My tardiness and attendance.

How did your Student Support Coordinator (SSC) help you?

Ca'son: Mr. Craig created a safe environment for me to express my issues without feeling like I needed to use violence or unhealthy anger.

Markeya: Mr. Craig helped me by constantly reminding me to get to class, even ensuring that I had a pass and checked with my teacher so that I didn't get tardy while trying to do a check-in.

What is one of your favorite memories of working with your SSC?

Ca'son: Mr. Craig created an opportunity for students to assist with the Harvesters Pantry. I enjoyed doing something that was going to benefit other people.

Markeya: Mr. Craig handed out turkeys to families. My mom received one of the turkeys, and I appreciated that.

What was your first impression of the CIS program and your Student Support Coordinator?

Ca'son: My first impression of CIS was that Mr. Craig creates a safe environment where students have a space at Crossroads Preparatory Academy to confide in adults. I was struck by how Mr. Craig gives from the heart to all students.

Markeya: I felt there was someone in the building I could trust.

If you were to recommend the CIS of Mid-America program to a friend, what would you say?

Ca'son: I would say that CIS is a place that can support you in overcoming problems and issues to you. They also offer resources to support your growth.

Markeya: It's a safe place that offers support to grow into healthy habits in school and beyond.



Student Markeya McMillan with SSC Craig

JUAN M. RANGEL

Director of Family Engagement
SchoolSmartKC



CIS of Mid-America has truly been an honor to work with. Their superpower is in the schools they support to help students succeed academically, get to school, and many times redirect behavior that best supports student growth. When I visited Student Support Coordinators (SSC) at the schools, I saw students throwing themselves, literally, at the SSC, seeking their attention and support. I have also witnessed staff and faculty doing the same. Each SSC brings different and unique components to each of their schools...fit is critical. **Who doesn't want somebody to be on their side every day? CIS of Mid-America is always on the side of students. I would say they are the support our students need to achieve academically.**

JASON WILLIAMS

Principal Impact Strategist - Power
Health Forward Foundation



The care coordination piece is the one I think is most impactful to our community. Coordinators, on a daily basis, experience the challenges students face at home, in school, and in the community and can connect students to support. I've seen in real time the food insecurity needs of students addressed through Communities In Schools. The staff that's placed in the schools are some of the most thoughtful, caring, community-minded individuals I have had the pleasure of meeting. **When there is a need, those individuals spring immediately into action.**

DR. JIMMIE BULLARD

Principal
Benjamin Banneker Elementary, KCPS



The CIS of Mid-America program provides a level of support for all stakeholders. The student-centered program supports our schools' academic achievement goals, attendance, and social and emotional support. The programs build sustainable relationships with the students, families, and school staff. **The level of support provided by Communities In Schools is life-changing.** The results have been amazing. Students are more engaged in the classroom. Student attendance is up 10%, and students follow school expectations at a higher rate.

ALEX DELANEY

Board Chair
CIS of Mid-America Board of Directors



The work of Communities In Schools of Mid-America is invaluable to the students they serve. By providing students with the support and resources they need to stay in school, they are allowing them to reach their full potential. This organization is helping to create a brighter future for the students they serve and the communities they live in. **They are giving students a chance to build a successful future, and their impact on the lives of those they serve cannot be understated.**



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