

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



cisatham.org

We exist to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

From Our Executive Director

Hey CISCC community! As we wrapped up another incredible year here at Communities In Schools Chatham County, I just wanted to take a moment to share some amazing news and heartfelt thanks. This report will summarize our impact on students and families throughout Chatham County. It is a privilege to share our highlights and the roadmap for our year ahead.

First off, we are so proud of our students. They've worked hard on their attendance, achieved amazing graduation milestones, and shown what dedication and hard work looks like. We especially enjoyed attending several graduation ceremonies this year, and celebrating the next steps our graduates are taking!

I also want to give a huge shoutout to our amazing volunteers. Your support and dedication have made such a difference in our students' lives. Thank you for the over 2500 hours you have given this year, and for all that you do!

Our staff is incredible. Thank you! Their hard work and passion are the driving force behind our success. We couldn't do this without you. This year we have said goodbye to some staff who transitioned away from CISCC. And we have welcomed new staff in new roles.

It takes a whole community to make an impact. To everyone who has given financially, thank you so much. Your generosity makes all this possible and helps us continue our mission of surrounding students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

We are so excited about what's ahead for CISCC. We recently completed a comprehensive strategic plan for the next three years of our work. Together, we can keep empowering our students and building a stronger community.

From all of us at CISCC, thank you for your investment in our work, and for joining us in surrounding students with a life-changing community of support.

Best,



Tych Cowdin
CISCC Executive Director

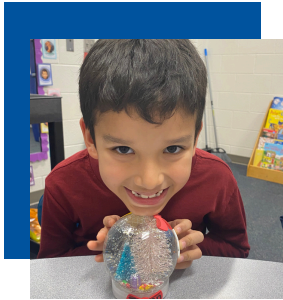


Overview of Our Programs

Communities In Schools Chatham County empowers students to take control of their future and achieve lifelong success. We believe that transformative relationships are essential to unlocking potential. By embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into our strategies and culture, we break down barriers and create equitable outcomes. CIS programs offer students ages 5-19 individualized and sustained support through relationships with trained professionals and volunteers. Our evidence-based approach, in partnership with schools and community organizations, addresses academic, socio-emotional, and basic needs—all at **no cost to students and families**, with support from our bilingual Spanish-speaking staff, and through the generosity of our amazing partners and supporters.

School Based Programs

- CIS Model Programs (Chatham Middle School, Virginia Cross Elementary, Siler City Elementary)
- High School Success Coach (Jordan Matthews High School)
- Youth F.I.R.S.T. (Pittsboro Elementary, George Moses Horton Middle School)



Community Based Programs

- Community Service and Restitution
- Family Advocacy



Our Mission

To surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life

Our Vision

CIS Chatham County will be recognized as a community leader providing encouragement and resources to students to unlock their full potential.

Our Five Basics

- A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community
- A healthy start and a healthy future

2023-24 Impact



Attendance Growth

In the last year, an impressive **75%** of CISCC students maintained or improved their attendance. Attendance is a leading indicator of a student's path to graduation and success!



Students and Families

We have worked directly with over **300** students and **450** parents this year. Overall, more than **1400** students have been connected to CISCC programs throughout Chatham County this year.



Partners and Volunteers

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers. Our work wouldn't be possible without their dedication and generous contribution of time. This year, **over 125** volunteers have given **more than 2,500 hours** to make a profound impact on students and families.



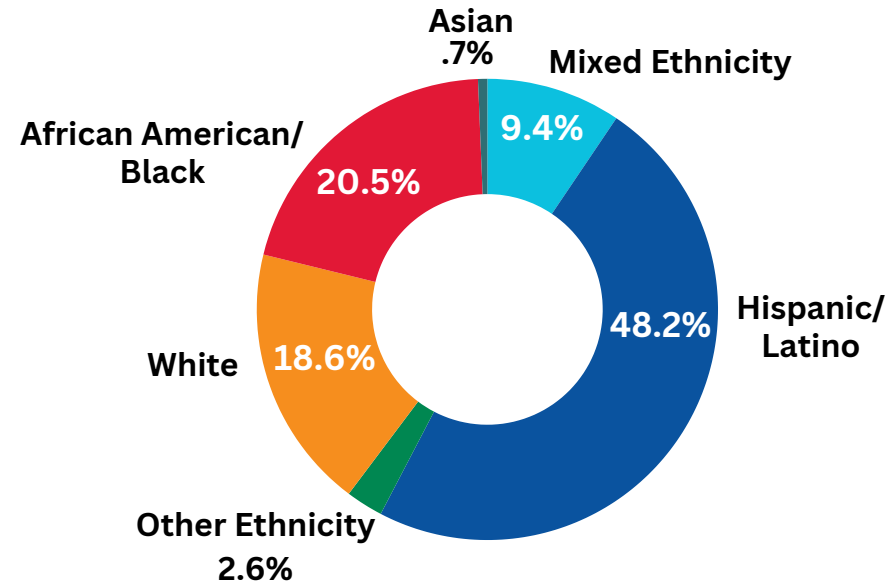
Revenue and Expenses

Over **80%** of our expenses go directly to supporting students and families

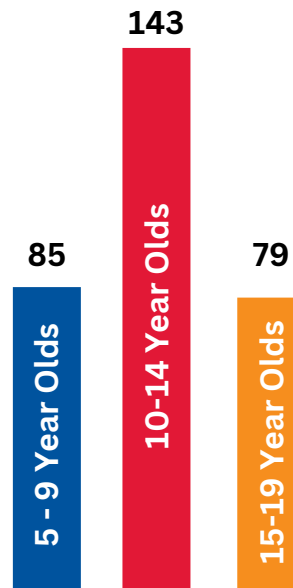
- Total revenue = \$913,349 (Grants = \$813,971, Indv. Contributions = \$99,378)
- Total Expenses = \$895,515



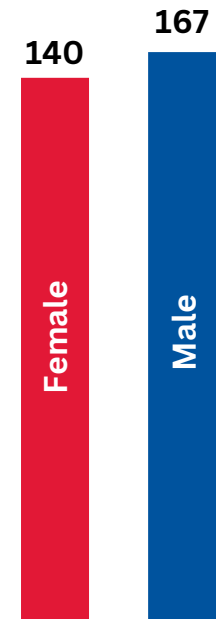
Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served



Number and Age of Youth Served



Gender of Youth Served



School-based Programs

Our Student Support Specialists connect students with caring adults and community resources to help them succeed at school and stay on track to graduate. Youth F.I.R.S.T. Mentoring and Lunch Buddy programs offer additional support for youth.

Schools Served by CIS Model

- Siler City Elementary School
- Virginia Cross Elementary School
- Chatham Middle School



Schools Served by General Youth Services

- Jordan Matthews High School
- George Moses Horton Middle School
- Pittsboro Elementary School

Examples of Services

- Student Support Specialists
- High School Success Coach
- Academic Assistance
- Behavior/Attendance Interventions
- Reading Buddies
- Lunch Buddies
- Mentoring
- Cooking Matters for Teens
- School Supply Distribution
- Summer Bookmobile
- Field Trips/Student Outings
- And many more!

- **88%** of our students saw **increased academic performance**
- **75%** improved their **attendance**
- **72%** experienced **improved behavior**
- **93%** improved their **social and emotional learning**

“I’ve worked with three different school systems and I have never seen a team solve problems about students the way you all do. It’s like you take the time to know the student and their situation, and I know that is not easy but yet you do it. Thank you for being a part of this team!!!”

~Brooke Harris, Assistant Principal George Moses Horton Middle School

Our Unique Model



Community-based Programs

Community Service and Restitution

The Juvenile Community Service and Restitution Program works with youth who have committed crimes in Chatham County and are assigned community service hours and/or to pay back money to victims. Through this program, youthful offenders learn important lessons in responsibility and accountability and often develop positive relationships with their adult supervisors. Young people are also taught valuable life and job skills while volunteering.

Community Service & Restitution Highlights

- **17 Worksite Partnerships** across Chatham County
- **39** youth served
- **100%** of participants saw **no new adjudications** as a result of participation in this program
- **97%** of participants **completed CSR** within the timeframe permitted under JCPC policy
- Welcomed Lydia Miller as our new CSR Program Coordinator



Family Advocacy

Our Family Advocacy program provided children and their parents involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice with support from Communities In Schools of Chatham County staff as they learned valuable communication skills and accountability to help them have success at a school, at home, and in the community. We are grateful for our many years of partnering with Chatham County in this program. After 12 years of this program, CISCC is launching a new Family Navigator Program in 2024. We are excited about the new opportunities this program will provide, as we continue to assist and support our families in Chatham County!

Family Advocacy Highlights

- **24 Families Served**
- **96%** of students and families demonstrated **enhanced family functioning** as a result of our services
- **87%** of students and families **successfully completed the program**
- **91.3%** of participants saw **no new adjudications** as a result of this program

Exciting Update

In 2024, we are launching a new initiative in partnership with United Way and other key partners. Our new Family Navigator will focus on alleviating poverty and providing vital resources and connections to some of Chatham County's most vulnerable families. Our focus and efforts will be similar to Family Advocacy, but we have some new plans in the works for assisting families. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

Staff and Board of Directors

Administrative Staff



Tych Cowdin



Perla Ayala



Eva DePaz



Wes Tubel

Model School Programs



Deanna Fox



Janet Solano



Rosa Salazar



Ruby Martinez

Community Service & Restitution



Lydia Miller

General Youth Services



Travis Patterson



Shirille Lee



Karmen Brown

Thank You to Our Staff who Transitioned Away in 2023-24



Maria Soto



Katie Lindley



Veronica Nunez



Hadasa Rivera



Jazmin Mendoza-Sosa

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Community Organizer

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Chemical Engineer,
Retired

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Vice Chair
American Board of
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RER Nurse, Chatham
Hospital

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Planner, Town of Siler
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Professor Emerita,
Retired

Woodrena Baker-Howell
Public Defender of
Orange
and Chatham Counties

Chris Poston
Ex-Officio
Sr. Exec. Director of
Excellence and
Opportunity, Chatham
County Schools

2024-25 New Board Members

Marian Gibson
Town Manager, Retired

Leslie Strohm
Vice President for
Strategy and General
Counsel, U of L and
UNC, Retired

Michelle Cassell
Writer, Journalist



Funding Sources

We are grateful to our donors and funders who invested in our work in 2023-24. It takes all of us to surround students with the community of support they need to stay in school and achieve in life!

Individual Donors

Patty Blanton and Bob McConnaughey	Carmen Coley	Tara Gregory	Robert and Vivian Lamb	Otis Patterson	Charles Stewart
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Funders

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC	Chatham County Schools	Healthy Blue NC
Browns Chapel United Methodist Church	Chatham Trades, Inc.	United Way of Chatham County
Carolina Club	CISNC	Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club
Chapel In The Pines	CORE	Pittsboro Presbyterian Church
Chatham Community Church	David Weekley Homes CARE Fund	Reintegration Support Network
Chatham Community Library	DJJ	Right Here, Right Now Project
Chatham County	DPS/DJJ Chatham YDC	School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA)
Chatham County Board of Commissioners	Education Justice Alliance	Siler City CHC Staff
Chatham County Government, Manager's Office	El Futuro	Town of Siler City (Parks and Recreation)
Chatham County Partnership for Children	Girl Scouts of North Carolina Coastal Pines	Volunteers For Youth, Inc

Get Involved

2024-25 Goals

Successfully Launch the Family Navigator Program

- In collaboration with United Way and other key community partners, we aim to launch the Family Navigator Program, providing critical support and guidance to families. This initiative will strengthen our ability to offer tailored, hands-on assistance, creating a robust network of resources for those in need.

Expand Awareness and Access to CISCC

- We are committed to broadening the reach of Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) to ensure more students, families, and community partners are aware of, and can access, our vital services. By expanding our footprint, we'll support even more students in unlocking their full potential.

Enhance Programming for Greater Impact

- Our focus is on continuously refining and enhancing our programs to ensure maximum effectiveness. We will prioritize innovative approaches that deliver positive outcomes, empowering students and families to overcome challenges and thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Engage Alumni as Agency Ambassadors

- We will deepen our connection with our diverse network of alumni, inviting them to serve as ambassadors for CISCC. Their voices and experiences will be instrumental in promoting our mission, fostering stronger community ties, and inspiring future generations.

Broaden and Diversify Funding Sources

- To sustain our growth and continue delivering impactful programs, we are focused on broadening and diversifying our funding sources. This will enable us to scale our services, ensuring that no student or family is left behind in our pursuit of success for all.

Volunteer

- Your time and expertise can change a student's life
- There are a variety of ways to volunteer, including mentoring, becoming a reading or lunch buddy, tutor, Teen Court, and more
- If you are interested in volunteering, visit cisatham.org/volunteer-application

Spread the Word

- Help us introduce CISCC to others in our community
- Like/share our social media posts
- If you receive our e-newsletters, would you consider forwarding it on to friends (or even send this annual report?)
- We have many community events, including our annual Community Breakfast. Consider bringing a friend or two along with you!

Become a Donor

- This year, we are seeking to raise an additional \$100,000 to meet our ongoing needs
- 80% of all donations go directly to supporting families and students
- Donations, of any amount, play a vital role in our work
- If you would like to donate, visit cisatham.org or scan the QR code below or mail a check to our address below.

Communities In Schools Chatham County

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Siler City, NC 27344
(919) 663-0116
cisatham.org

