CENTER FOR SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

Every school...safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Founded in 1979, the Center for Supportive Schools (CSS) helps schools become places where students want to be. CSS is driven by the vision that one day, all children will thrive in schools that graduate them prepared for the rigors of college and lives filled with meaningful work, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment. Our work directly addresses *disengagement from school,* a root cause of students dropping out of school and other high-risk behaviors for students in urban, suburban, rural, economically disadvantaged, or more affluent communities.

OUR STRATEGY AND SOLUTIONS

Since 1979, CSS has partnered with over 775 schools and our impact can be seen in the experiences of over 65,000 students annually. CSS partners with schools to help overcome disengagement by *engaging all members of the school community in the relationships and meaningful dialogue necessary to effect substantial and sustainable change in all students' school experiences.* We accomplish this through the following solutions:

- **Peer Group Connection (PGC):** an evidence-based, school-based program that supports and eases students' successful transitions into middle and high school by tapping into the power of older students to create a nurturing environment for incoming students.

- **Teen Prevention Education Program (Teen PEP):** an evidence-based, school-based program that utilizes peer-to-peer education to increase responsible decision-making among students around issues of sexual health.

- **Achievement Mentoring (AM):** a school-based prevention and intervention program, developed by Dr. Brenna Bry, that pairs adult school staff with students in one-to-one mentoring relationships proven to reduce problem behaviors and improve academics among students at risk of dropping out of high school.

- **Campaign Connect/Community Schools:** a comprehensive, data-informed, relationship-driven approach to engaging the school community in coordinated initiatives designed to improve student outcomes.

- **Customized solutions:** CSS also creates customized solutions in response to specific needs of schools. We have designed custom solutions for over 150 public and private schools throughout the United States.

OUR RESULTS

CSS's work has been rigorously evaluated by research organizations, universities, and independent evaluators. Research findings indicate that students who participate in CSS programs attend school more often than non-participants, are on-track to graduate on time more so than non-participants, and exhibit a higher grade point average (GPA) than non-participants. A four-year longitudinal, randomized-control study conducted by Rutgers University and funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services found that *CSS improves the graduation rates of its student participants by nine percentage points and cuts by half the number of male students who would otherwise drop out.*

For more information about CSS and our solutions, please contact Dr. Margo Ross at mross@supportiveschools.org.

You can also visit our website at www.supportiveschools.org.

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