



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Communities In Schools of Texas to Enhance Student Support in East Texas with \$100,000 Grant

**[Austin, Texas]** (July 31, 2025) – Communities In Schools of Texas, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring all students stay in school and achieve their full potential in life, will support the expansion of critical services for students in East and Southeast Texas. With \$60,000 allocated to CIS of Southeast Texas and \$40,000 to CIS of East Texas, the affiliates will strengthen their efforts in Jasper, Jefferson, Angelina, Orange, Liberty, Hardin, and Panola Counties. These funds will enable CIS to address students’ most pressing needs—access to nutritious food and mental health support—through on-campus food pantries, food backpack programs for school breaks, and free mental health counseling.

CIS of Southeast Texas will use the funding to provide meal support and mental health care, ensuring students and families facing food insecurity and emotional challenges have the resources they need. “Our students face barriers that go beyond academics,” said Reecie Goodman, Executive Director of CIS of Southeast Texas. “By meeting these basic needs, we help students focus on learning and build a foundation for lifelong success.”

In East Texas, CIS will tackle food insecurity, a daily obstacle for many students that impacts academic performance, mental health, and physical well-being. “When students are hungry, their ability to learn and thrive suffers,” said Bobbie Hurd, CEO of CIS of East Texas. “This funding allows us to provide essential nutrition and support, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.”

Communities In Schools of Texas connects students across Texas to caring adults and community resources to alleviate academic, behavioral, and economic challenges, closing the achievement gap and reducing chronic absenteeism. The highest needs among students in East and Southeast Texas are access to nourishing, healthy food and mental health counseling.

“CIS site coordinators are physically present inside schools and reach into the lives of vulnerable students, identifying their struggles, meeting their needs, and ensuring they are staying on the path to learn and graduate with a plan to achieve in life,” said Sharon Vigil, President of the Board for CIS of Texas stated. “These expanded services will help students overcome obstacles, improve attendance, and achieve academic and personal growth.”

In the 2023-2024 school year, CIS served 122,787 Texas students with individualized support and impacted over one million students across 1,447 campuses. Of the at-risk students case managed by CIS, 99% stayed in school, 98% were promoted to the next grade level, 98% graduated, 91% improved academically, 90% improved their behavior in school, and 76% improved their attendance at school.

Funding was made possible through a grant by the TLL Temple Foundation.

### **About Communities In Schools of Texas**

Communities In Schools of Texas is a nonprofit organization made up of 27 local Texas CIS affiliates that support students at-risk of dropping out by surrounding them with a local community of support to ensure they stay in school and achieve in life. CIS of Texas, part of a national organization, ensures every student, regardless of who they are, their ability, zip code or socioeconomic background, has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond. Working directly inside 1447 schools across Texas to impact over 1 million students annually, we connect at-risk students to caring adults and community resources that help them overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future. Together, we serve over 122,000 students annually in Texas public schools and work to ensure they graduate high school with a plan to succeed. Find us online at <https://www.cisoftexas.org/>, [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

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