

# AT&T Aspire: Communities In Schools of Houston Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



## Program Description:

Communities In Schools of Houston (CIS) is based on the belief that programs don't change people—**relationships do!** CIS of Houston's mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Beginning in 1979 on one campus in Houston, CIS now serves 97 Houston area schools in four school districts, several charters and special programs. Last school year, CIS of Houston reached over 36,000 at-risk students with essential dropout prevention services, helping youth stay in school.

CIS of Houston will use AT&T Aspire funding to support Dropout Prevention services designed to meet the needs of at-risk students. Whatever it takes, CIS keeps kids in school! Whether a child needs tutoring, emergency dental care, school supplies, someone to talk to, eye glasses, or a safe place to live, CIS is there to help. CIS believes that when basic needs are met, students can concentrate on learning.

AT&T funding will enable CIS of Houston to enhance its Dropout Prevention program by providing mental health professionals on two high school campuses. Mental health services will be provided in addition to CIS' proven model of student-centered, goal-oriented, and solution-focused delivery. **CIS is the only program providing a comprehensive approach empowering kids to stay in school and achieve in life.**



Estefany Velasquez,  
Community in Schools Student



**Students:**  
300 new  
participants



**Funding:**  
\$300,000

During the 2010/2011 school year:

- **99 percent** of caseload students in grades 7 through 12 stayed in school
- **89 percent** of eligible seniors graduated
- **79 percent** of students targeted showed marked improvement in academics, attendance, and/or behavior
- **91 percent** of caseload students were promoted to the next grade level

"I am amazed by all that CIS does for underserved children in our community. But even more impressive are the conversations with teachers who say that CIS allowed them to focus their time and energy on teaching instead of trying to meet the basic needs of their students. CIS gives at-risk students in our community the support they would not have otherwise, preparing them for school and for life."

-Linda Gale White, Former First Lady of Texas and CIS of Houston Board Member