

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



## Program Description:

Communities In Schools is the leading dropout prevention organization in the nation, surrounding at-risk students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Founded in 1989, Communities In Schools of Jacksonville is the largest Florida affiliate and reaches more than 7,500 students in 40 Duval County Schools.

AT&T Aspire funding will support the placement of Site Coordinators in two of Duval County's persistently low-achieving high schools to serve ninth grade students who are at-risk of not graduating. Jacksonville has a high dropout rate of 2.3 percent, higher than the statewide dropout rate of 1.9 percent. The case management division will provide students with a caring adult who will take part in individual and group sessions to assess and respond to student's individual academic and social challenges. Site Coordinators will also establish partnerships with the community, parents and volunteer organizations to integrate services and support into schools to meet student needs. Last year, 86 percent of students in the case management program were promoted on time.

AT&T Aspire will also fund the implementation of a new Summer Bridge/STEM program for rising ninth graders during the summer of 2013 at the two high schools. The purpose of the two week program will be to provide academic support and enrichment with an emphasis on introducing students to high school science, technology, engineering and math, while also smoothing the transition into high school. Last year, only 32 percent of 11th graders at Nathan B. Forrest High School and 35 percent at Terry Parker High School passed the science portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), showing a high need for science based studies at the high school level.



**Students:**  
320



**Funding:**  
\$240,000

- There will be a case load of **320** new at-risk students that will be influenced by the AT&T Aspire funding over the next two years.
- Communities In Schools of Jacksonville Site Coordinators are expected to provide intensive case management services to nearly **1700 students** during the 2012-2013 school year.
- In the 2011-2012 school year, **98 percent of seniors** in the case management program graduated.
- Communities In Schools of Jacksonville received Total Quality System Accreditation in 2012 in recognition of the organization's success of increased dropout rates and increased graduation rates.

*"Having someone as caring, intelligent and loving as my Communities In Schools Site Coordinator has positively impacted my high school career. Through Communities In Schools, where I was weak I have been built up to be strong and where I was strong to be stronger."*

*Avoyn Campbell, Senior, two years in the program*

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Communities In Schools of Jacksonville  
[www.CISJax.org](http://www.CISJax.org)