

## Scaling for Success Press Release: August 15, 2023

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### **Communities in Schools of Indiana Kicks Off Back-to-School Effort with Scaling Initiative Expanding Resources and Supports to More Students**

*Additional services are scheduled begin at the start of the 2023-2024 school year*

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Communities in Schools of Indiana has been awarded funding to expand their integrated student supports model into nine more schools across the state- seven in Indianapolis and two in Lafayette.

The first round of funding distributed to affiliates nationwide totals \$13 million of the \$165 million Ballmer investment announced earlier this year. The funding is designed to catalyze local public and private investment in the model through a 1:1 match requirement over the first three years and commitments to sustain the work long-term. The Indiana state office will be receiving approximately \$1.2 million.

This investment enables Communities in Schools of Indiana to provide critical coordinated resources to students in their school buildings through a trained professional- a site coordinator- who can help connect them to supports and services needed to succeed in school.

With this new funding, CIS of Indiana will add two more schools in the Lafayette School Corporation (Amelia Earhart and Vinton Elementary schools), scale to all elementary schools in the MSD of Lawrence Township (Amy Beverland, Crestview, Forest Glen, Mary Castle, and Skiles Test), and support new site coordinators in the MSD of Decatur Township (at the new Decatur High Ability Academy and by adding a second site coordinator at Lynwood Elementary).

Expanded supports and resources will roll out to new and existing partners at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

“The districts that partner with us want to ensure that all of their students have the tools they need to be successful academically, so they joined CIS of Indiana for this grant and committed to integrating these site coordinators into their schools,” Executive Director Hadley Moore Vlahogorge shared. “Kids can’t learn if their basic needs aren’t met. If a student is struggling with hunger, lack of access to medical care, or has no way to wash clothes- and these are just a few of the many common challenges we respond to- the site coordinator can ensure that child and that child’s family are connected with needed resources in the safe, welcoming building they already go to every day.”

Communities in Schools of Indiana is the state office of the national not-for-profit that ensures integrated student supports are available in schools so students, families, and community

members can access what they need to thrive. “We’ve been partners of these three amazing districts for many years; I’m thrilled they’ve committed to growing and sustaining the program in their schools. It’s an honor to continue to serve their students, families, and stakeholders, and it demonstrates how invested they are in the continued success of their young people,” Moore Vlahogorge concluded.

For more information on Communities in Schools of Indiana, please refer to our website: [www.cisindiana.org](http://www.cisindiana.org) or contact Hadley Moore Vlahogorge (information listed above).

With the increased presence of Communities in Schools nationwide, Title I schools are directly impacted through our proven ISS model. This results in positive outcomes of student success, increased attendance and engagement and more students advancing grades or graduating from high school.

### **The Ballmer Investment**

[https://www.communitiesinschools.org/articles/article/communities-schools-announces-unprecedented-investment-expand-student-support-model-1000-new-schools-nationwide-ballmer-group-invest-165-million/#:~:text=Communities%20In%20Schools%C2%AE%20\(CIS,I%2Deligible%E2%80%9D\)%20schools](https://www.communitiesinschools.org/articles/article/communities-schools-announces-unprecedented-investment-expand-student-support-model-1000-new-schools-nationwide-ballmer-group-invest-165-million/#:~:text=Communities%20In%20Schools%C2%AE%20(CIS,I%2Deligible%E2%80%9D)%20schools)

### **More About Communities in Schools**

Communities in Schools® (CIS™) is a national organization that ensures every student, regardless of race, zip code, or socioeconomic background, has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond. Working directly inside 3,000 schools across the country, we connect students to caring adults and community resources that help them see, confront, and overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future. Together, we build a powerful change movement made up of peers, students, and alumni committed to building an equitable path to education for future generations. For more than four decades, Communities in Schools has demonstrated measurable success in creating equitable outcomes for schools and students of color and students that live in impoverished communities.

### **About Ballmer Group**

Ballmer Group is committed to improving economic mobility for children and families in the United States, funding leaders and organizations that have demonstrated the ability to reshape opportunity and reduce systemic inequities. We focus on multiple impact areas and systems that can impact economic mobility - such as early learning, K-12 education, college and career pathways, housing, behavioral health, and criminal justice - and we support leaders and organizations that focus on undoing systemic racism and the barriers it has created. Ballmer Group is both a national and regional funder – we have a presence and invest deeply in southeast Michigan, Washington State, and Los Angeles County. Ballmer Group was co-founded by philanthropist Connie Ballmer and her husband Steve Ballmer, former CEO of Microsoft, founder of USAFacts, and chairman of the Los Angeles Clippers. Learn more at [www.ballmergroup.org](http://www.ballmergroup.org).