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**\*\* ATTN TV Reporters: B-Roll Available Upon Request\*\***

## **Communities In Schools of Philadelphia Announces Continued Improvement in Philadelphia Graduation Rates in New Report Released Today**

### **TV Ads by Academy Award-Winning Filmmaker Highlight Leading Reasons Why Kids Drop Out, Including Hunger, Homelessness, Lack of Medical Care**

Philadelphia, PA -- As kids around the country are graduating, Communities In Schools of Philadelphia – part of the nation’s largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them succeed in life – today released a report demonstrating the organization’s impact on dropout rates, highlighted by local success stories. The report was released as part of a national [public awareness campaign](#) featuring young people from around the country who have graduated from high school as a result of their involvement with Communities In Schools.

On the eve of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, Saturday, May, 17, the Communities In Schools report places a spotlight on the disproportionate number of students of color -20%- who didn’t make graduation last year for a number of reasons ranging from lack of medical care to homelessness. The CIS report points to successful interventions for at-risk students and the need for continued support to ensure that these students gain equal access to education.

Every 26 seconds, a young person in America drops out of school. When students drop out, they are more likely to end up in poverty, suffer poor health, be dependent on social services, enter the criminal justice system and cost the U.S. billions of dollars each year in lost revenue and increased spending on government assistance programs.

“After nearly 40 years of service in youth programs, education, and nonprofit leadership, I have seen many changes in how we serve the unmet needs of youth nationally and locally. What will never change, however, is how essential mentorship and one-on-one relationships are to changing the nature of youth development. Communities in Schools of Philadelphia ensures that the best, brightest, and most passionate site coordinators are woven into the fabric of our schools and communities. That is the work. They are the reason. This is how we change the picture,” said Martin Nock, President and Chief Executive Officer of Communities In Schools of Philadelphia.

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To change the picture in Philadelphia, Communities In Schools is serving approximately 14,600 students on 44 campuses this year, working hand in hand with schools, communities, partner organizations and families to surround students with a strong network of support.

**According to the new report, Communities In Schools of Philadelphia achieved the following during the 2012-13 school year:**

- Six middle schools, 26 high schools and 12 Alternative Education Schools were served
- Approximately 14,600 students were served by Communities In Schools of Philadelphia
- 12,375 of students received Level One supports (school-wide prevention services)
- 2,245 of students received Level Two supports (targeted and sustained interventions, case management)
- 79% percent of seniors receiving targeted and sustained interventions (and for whom data were available) graduated
- 57% percent of the students in grades K-12 who received targeted and sustained interventions (and for whom data were available) were promoted to the next grade

To raise awareness about Communities In Schools, a public awareness campaign is running nationwide, featuring short videos by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Errol Morris and photos by renowned photographer David Harriman. These videos and images are online at [communitiesinschools.org](http://communitiesinschools.org).

Communities In Schools of Philadelphia is part of the national Communities In Schools network, which operates in more than 2,200 schools in the most challenged communities of 26 states and the District of Columbia. Working closely with school districts and partner organizations, Communities In Schools serves 1.3 million young people and their families each year. Based directly inside schools throughout the country, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to basic and critical educational and community-based resources, tailored to each student's specific needs. Learn more about Communities In Schools of Philadelphia at [www.cisphl.org](http://www.cisphl.org).

*Changing the Picture of Education in Philadelphia* is one of more than two dozen Communities In Schools reports being released around the country today in time for graduations.

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**ATTENTION JOURNALISTS:** For a full copy of the Communities In Schools Spring 2014 Report: *Changing the Picture of Education in Philadelphia, PA*, or to arrange interviews with local spokespersons, please contact: Alanna T. Mitchell, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at 267-386-4606. B-Roll is also available upon request.