

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CISPAC Expands Post-Pandemic Reengagement Services

PITTSBURGH (October 6, 2021) –

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh-Allegheny County (CISPAC) is expanding our reengagement services to help students who have fallen behind due to COVID-19 pandemic. As part of Communities in School’s national efforts to address learning loss from the pandemic, CISPAC has hired five new Reengagement Specialists to serve in Sto-Rox, East Allegheny, and Jeanette City school districts for the 2021-22 school year.

Commented [LB1]: Maybe be clearer that these are not only new hires but a new position altogether

Recent studies estimate that since pandemic disruptions and remote learning began in March 2020, students nationwide have fallen at least four to eight months behind where they should be in school. **Across the county, 3 million students disappeared entirely, never logging into online learning at all.** Our most vulnerable populations were hit hardest –black and brown communities, children of essential workers, and those who face economic insecurity or trauma at home. Even as schools reopen, students are still missing, and classrooms are filled with students who lost months of learning last year.

Commented [LB2]: From education (don’t want people to think we’re saying they are truly missing children)

CISPAC’s reengagement program will support students left behind by this pandemic and help break down barriers to catching up on learning. Our reengagement team is in schools and the community identify and find students still missing from school and bringing them back to the business of learning. Once back in school, the reengagement specialists will work with students and teachers to create personalized support programs to help these students catch up on learning.

Academic success depends on much more than what happens within school walls, so CISPAC strives to break down barriers beyond the classroom. Working with community partners, we provide food, vaccine clinics, workforce development, trauma support and other services so that students can excel in school and succeed in life.

Commented [GM3]: Needs a lead in or transition.

CISPAC is thrilled to be strengthened by these new staff who are dedicated to helping fulfill our mission to students and schools. We look forward to increasing our impact and breaking down more barriers for students in our community.

Commented [LB4R3]: I actually think it’s okay but you could say “In addition to bringing students back to learning, CISPAC addresses other pressing needs by providing food, vaccine clinics, workforce...”

If you have questions about CISPAC’s new staff or the expansion of our re-engagement initiatives to new schools in the region or would like to bring CISPAC to your school district, contact executive director Bridget Clement at bclement@cispac.org.

Commented [GM5]: Maybe do this as a quote from Bridget? Maybe CIS National if they’d like.

Commented [LB6R5]: Yes, I think a quote would round this out nicely.

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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 more than 2,900 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.

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh - Allegheny County (CISPAC) is a Sanctuary®-certified institution committed to deepening its understanding of trauma's impact on individuals, schools, and communities. CISPAC works actively to promote trauma sensitivity within our internal operation as well as in our work throughout the Greater Pittsburgh region.

To learn more about CISPAC, visit cispac.org.