



Communities
In Schools

Greater Wichita Falls Area

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS
TO STAY IN SCHOOL
AND ACHIEVE IN LIFE

Orientation Outline

DISCUSSION POINTS

About CISGWFA

Where We Serve

Why It Matters

Our Model + Services

Code of Conduct

Volunteer Tips



Bill Milliken

FOUNDER, CIS

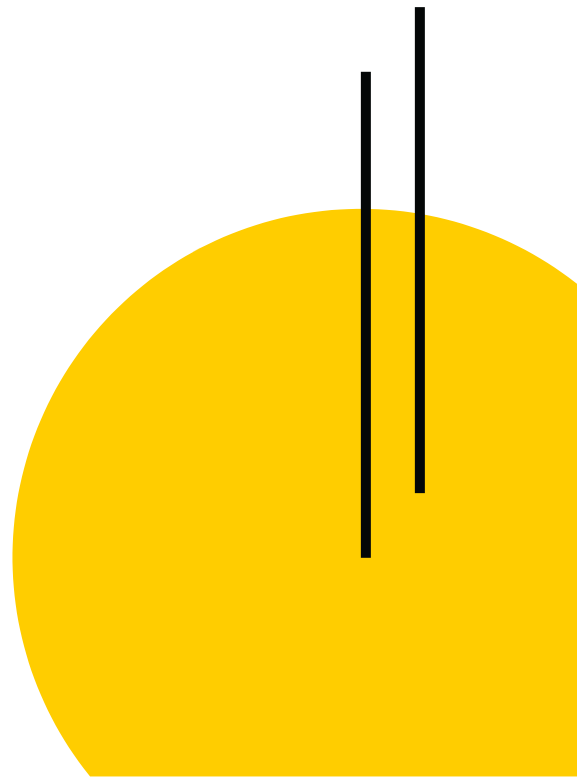
"PROGRAMS DON'T
CHANGE CHILDREN –
RELATIONSHIPS DO."





QUICK HISTORY OF CIS

HOW WE STARTED

- CIS National was founded in the 70s in NYC
 - Currently 125 Affiliates with 27 in Texas
 - Nationally serving 1.6 million students
 - CISGWFA was founded in 2006
 - CISGWFA currently serving 9 Campuses across 4 Districts
- 



WHERE WE SERVE

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

WFISD

Barwise & Kirby Middle Schools

Hirschi, Rider & Wichita Falls High Schools

CITY VIEW ISD

Elementary School

HENRIETTA ISD

Elementary School

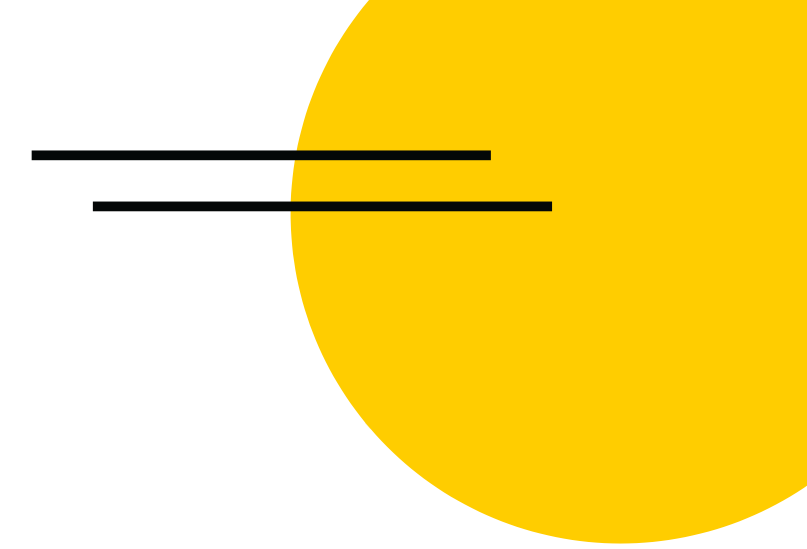
PETROLIA CISD

Elementary + Middle School + High School

WHAT IS "AT RISK"?

AT-RISK STUDENT CRITERIA (PER TEA):

- 1 RETAINED GRADE LEVEL
- 2 FAILED CORE SUBJECTS (GRADES 7TH-12TH)
- 3 FAILED STAAR TEST (3RD GRADE AND UP)
- 4 FAILED READINESS TESTS (PRE-K - 2ND)
- 5 PREGNANT OR IS A PARENT
- 6 PLACED IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM
- 7 EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL
- 8 ON PAROLE, PROBATION, DEFERRED PROSECUTION, OR OTHER CONDITIONAL RELEASE
- 9 PREVIOUS DROPOUT
- 10 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STUDENT
- 11 DEPT OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES FAMILY INVOLVEMENT
- 12 HOMELESS
- 13 PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY



WHY IT MATTERS

DROP-OUT PREVENTION

- Dropping out is not just a school problem, it is a community problem
- Dropping out of school is a process, not an event
- Studies show that the drop out process begins as early as kindergarten
- Our Site Coordinators are housed full-time at the campuses they serve and provide services to 80-150 of the schools most at-risk students, helping to remove barriers to education

THE FIVE BASICS

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS + DESERVES:

A PERSONAL
ONE-ON-ONE
RELATIONSHIP
WITH A
CARING ADULT

A SAFE PLACE
TO LEARN
AND GROW

A HEALTHY
START AND
FUTURE

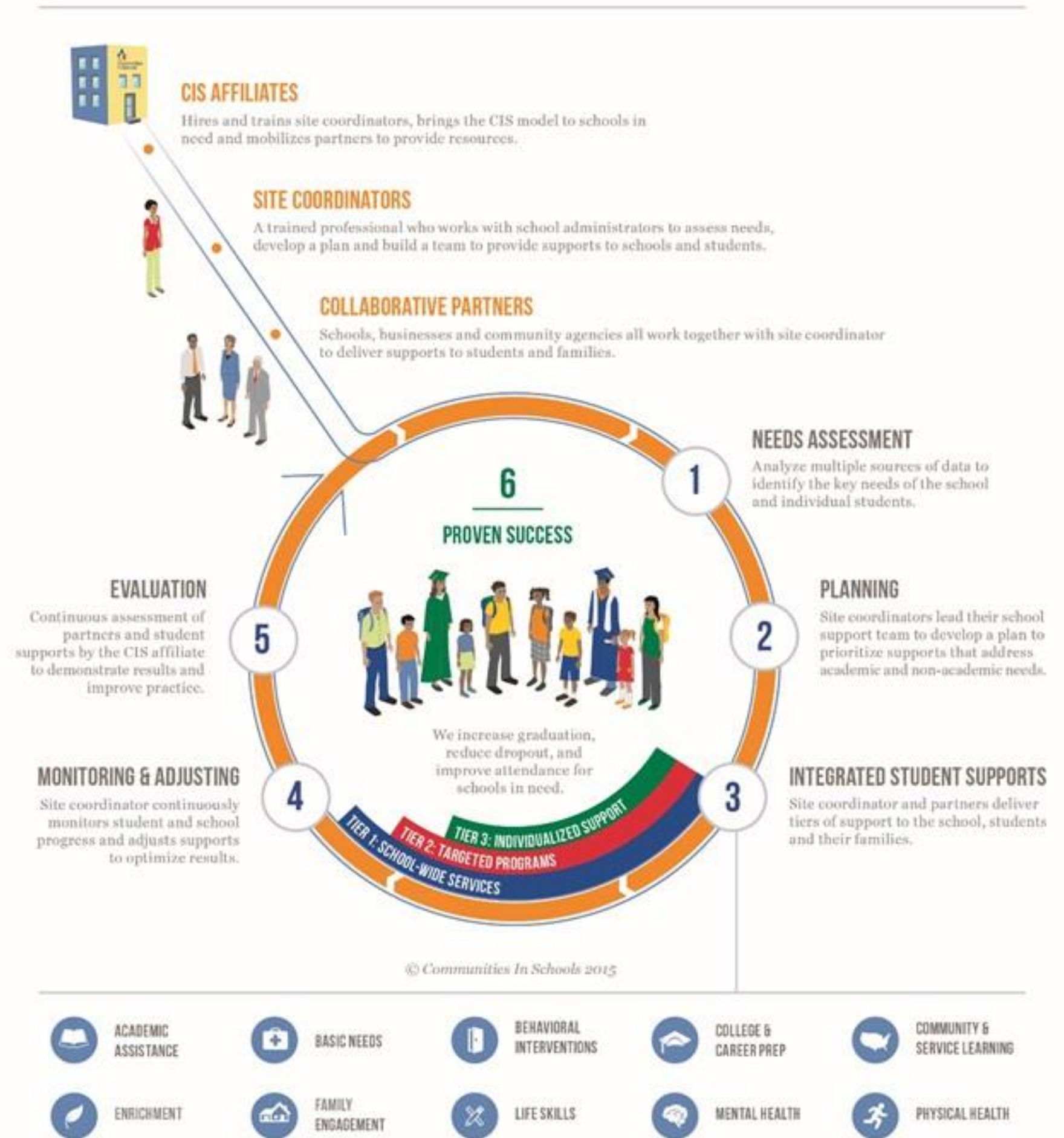
A MARKETABLE
SKILL TO USE
AFTER
GRADUATION

A CHANCE TO
GIVE BACK TO
PEERS AND
THE
COMMUNITY

Our Site Coordinators work with volunteers, partners, and the local community to provide students with the supports they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

We provide these supports in three different tiers. By differentiating our supports, we are able to serve most students in a school and also focus attention on targeted students that have significant needs.

- TIER I**
School-wide services
- TIER II**
Targeted programs
- TIER III**
Individualized support





CIS follows a holistic approach to at-risk students
and their families involving the key services:

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT

(ACADEMIC COACHING, TUTORING, + ACADEMIC SUPPORT)

SUPPORTIVE GUIDANCE

(MENTORS, BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS

HEALTH + HUMAN SERVICES

(BASIC NEEDS, MENTAL HEALTH)

ENRICHMENT



"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."

Rita Pierson, Lifelong Educator + Public Speaker



Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our mission calls on us to embrace the rich backgrounds, experiences, talents, cultures, and contributions that our students, families, and staff bring to the work of transforming schools and communities. Diversity is a vital resource and integral part of who we are as an organization.

Our relational approach drives us to ensure a sense of safety and belonging for all. We cultivate a flourishing professional community where staff of every background and experience can thrive; where we treat each other with care, dignity, and respect for differences, and; where all members are valued, heard, and respected.

Our passion for social justice calls on us to be honest, transparent, and equitable in all that we do. The transformation we seek to create in schools and communities requires profound, radical, and sustainable ongoing growth. We strive to explicitly embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in our policies, systems, and strategy; to operate with a sense of urgency and accountability grounded in compassionate leadership and equity-minded practice; and to build a culture that inspires constant learning and continuous improvement.

WHERE YOU FIT IN

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are assigned to one campus and report to the Site Coordinator

MENTOR

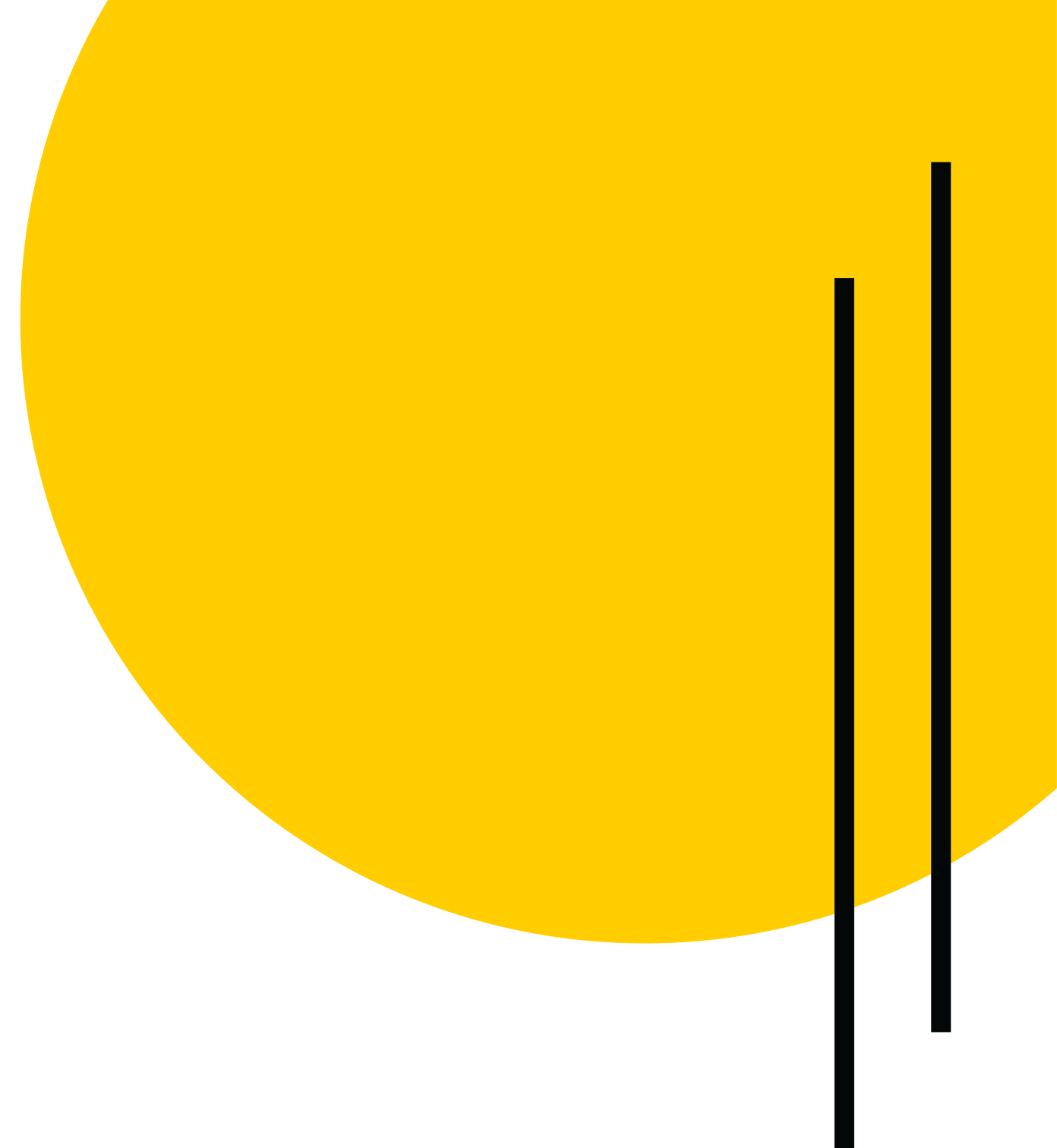
Provide support by walking alongside student throughout school year

TUTOR

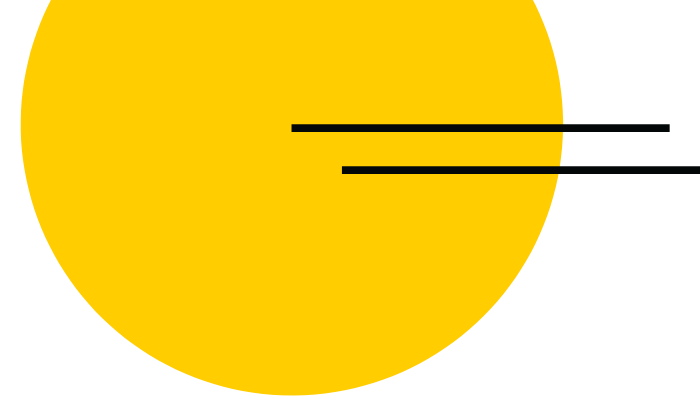
Academic homework help; one-on-one or small group

INTERNSHIP

Option available for those needing hours to complete degree. Interns will be able to travel between different campuses



CODE OF CONDUCT



- VOLUNTEERS MAY NOT BRING OTHERS WITH THEM WHILE VOLUNTEERING.
- ALL BOUNDARIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SEXUAL MUST BE MAINTAINED.
- VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PHYSICALLY OR VERBALLY DISCIPLINE A CHILD.
- VOLUNTEERS WILL NOT BRING OR BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY SUBSTANCE (LEGAL OR ILLEGAL).
- VOLUNTEERS WILL NOT COMMUNICATE WITH CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF VOLUNTEER TIME. THIS ALSO INCLUDES ANY ENGAGEMENT ONLINE COMMUNICATION (SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL, ETC.) AND TEXT MESSAGING.
- VOLUNTEERS ARE TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE JOB. CASUAL CLOTHING IS FINE, BUT WE ASK THAT YOUR ATTIRE BE NEAT AND CONSERVATIVE.
- VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM LOCATIONS. VOLUNTEER MAY NOT TRANSPORT STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE.
- VOLUNTEERS MAY NOT USE THEIR CELL PHONE WHILE VOLUNTEERING.

MANDATORY REPORTER POLICY

ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS. ALL INCIDENTS OR THE SUSPICION OF INCIDENTS OF SAFETY CONCERNS, ABUSE HARASSMENT, NEGLECT OR ANY OTHER VIOLATION(S) OF A CHILD'S RIGHTS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE SITE COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY. IF THE SITE COORDINATOR IS UNAVAILABLE, THE REPORT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL.

CONFIDENTIALITY WITH STUDENTS

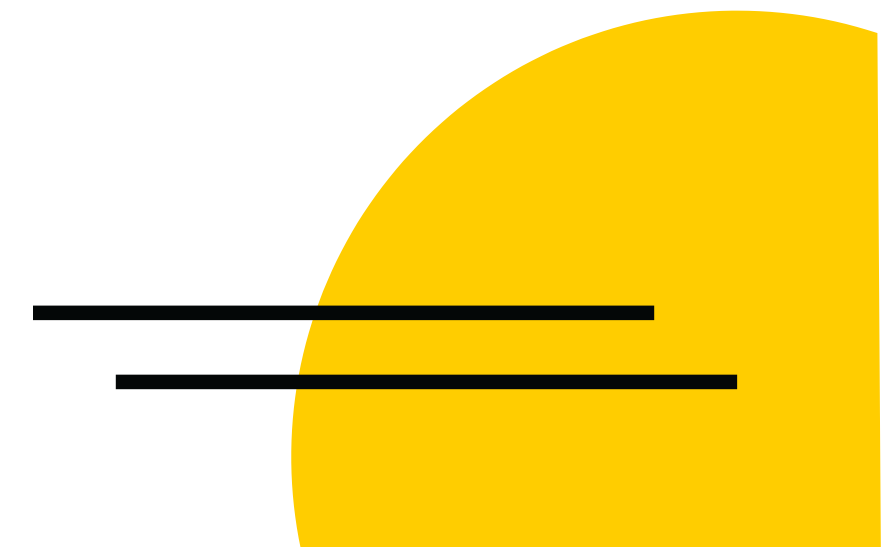
SINCE ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS, IT APPROPRIATE TO OFFER LIMITED CONFIDENTIALITY TO STUDENTS. THE GENERAL RULE IS THAT VOLUNTEERS MAKE CLEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO CONFIDENTIALITY. THESE LIMITS RELATE TO ENSURING CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND WELL-BEING. IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT A CERTAIN SITUATION, SPEAK WITH THE CIS SITE COORDINATOR.

INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR VOLUNTEERS TO UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ADHERE TO THIS POLICY, WHICH STATES THAT ALL STUDENT INFORMATION, INCLUDING GRADE REPORTS, ATTENDANCE REPORTS, TEST SCORES, SERVICE LOG NOTES, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE SCHOOL OR OUTSIDE AGENCY, IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. ANY INFORMATION THAT IS SHARED REGARDING THE STUDENTS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF ABUSE/NEGLECT OR IF SOMEONE REPORTS THE INTENT TO HARM SELF OR OTHERS.

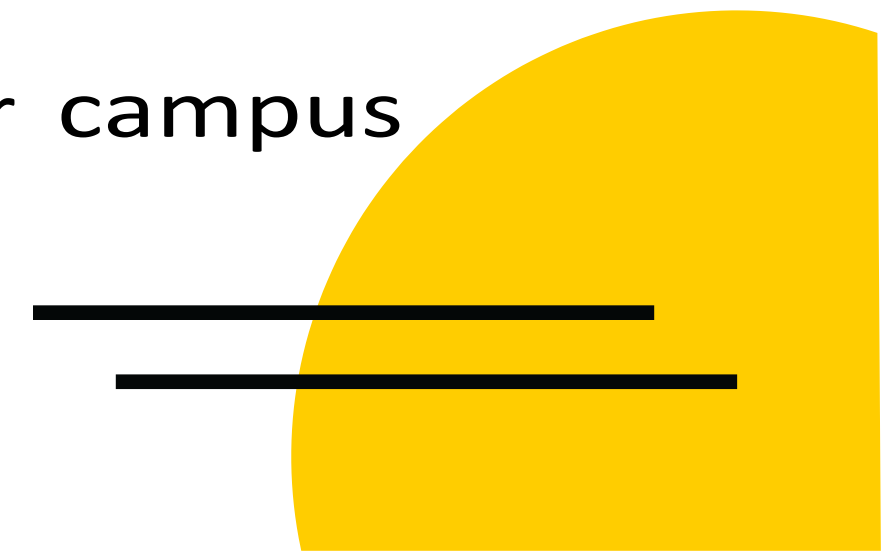
CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD VOLUNTEER

- Having a fun, positive attitude and faith that you will make a difference in a student's life
- Being honest and respectful
- Having patience with students
- Being flexible with student needs and schedules
- Being prompt, dependable, and regular in attendance
- Being friendly and supportive of all school staff, volunteers, administration, teachers, and students
- Being sincere and dedicated



VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITY

- Attend annual volunteer training at CISGWFA home office, online, or with campus Site Coordinator
- Follow the campus protocols and rules
- Be on time
- Keep your volunteer commitment
- Respect individuality and diversity If
- you need help, ask
- Keep CISGWFA staff informed of any concerns expressed by student or that you may have for student
- Stay focused on tasks
- Fill out any volunteer logs or paperwork needed by CISGWFA or campus



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



STAGES OF BUILDING THE VOLUNTEER/STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

STAGE 1: DEVELOP RAPPORT +
BUILDING TRUST

This takes time + consistency is KEY!

STAGE 2: SETTING + MEETING GOALS
Develop a friendship + progress in academic,
social, + emotional areas

STAGE 3: CLOSURE OF RELATIONSHIP
Avoid abrupt leave. Discuss with Site
Coordinator to make closure

TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH STUDENTS

- Meet students in a relaxed, friendly manner.
- You are an adult with skills, interests, and time who wants to share your know-how with students. Your attitude is the most important factor in setting up a positive atmosphere where learning can happen.
- Stay positive! Take time to listen and learn as well as talk and teach. You set the example by being kind, courteous, and respectful. Keep your sense of humor! It reduces tension.
- Get to know the student.
 - Learn to say their name correctly.
 - Be sure they know your name.
 - Show interest in the student as a person.
 - Share your interests with the student. Let them know you are human, too. Take
 - time to catch up on what's happening with the student. Listen to their successes, problems, and events.



TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH STUDENTS

- Listen carefully. Always give the student a chance to communicate what they know.
- Don't patronize, embarrass, or talk down to the students. The Golden Rule.
- Make sure the student succeeds. Provide a "no-fault" learning experience – a question they are sure to answer.
- Ask the Site Coordinator for help when you meet a problem you are not sure you can handle.
- Use positive reinforcement. It does not take much failure to discourage students. Congratulate and encourage in every possible way!
- Be patient. Progress may seem slow at first. Remember, students who are a part of CISGWFA programs are there because they have a barrier to academic success.

Remember, our goal of the program is to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and build a relationship with a caring adult.



THANK YOU!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WORK WITH YOU.



CONTACT US

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