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Communities In Schools of Central Texas Announces Continued Improvement in Austin 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

As kids around the country are graduating, Communities In Schools of Central Texas – 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. [\(Click to download the full report and infographics\)](#)

“Our students are successful because we are matching the supports they need to the struggles they have – not putting them through a cookie cutter curriculum or one-size-fits-all program,” said Suki Steinhauser, CEO of Communities In Schools of Central Texas, in the new report, entitled *Changing the Picture of Education in Central Texas*. “

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. To change the picture in Central Texas, Communities In Schools is serving approximately 41,000 students on 60 of

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 Central Texas achieved the following during the 2012-13 school year:

- 23 elementary schools, 18 middle schools, and 15 high schools were served
- Approximately 45,155 students were served by Communities In Schools of Central Texas and 5,877 of those students received intensive, targeted or sustained interventions
- 99% of students served intensively stayed in school, 94% were promoted to the next grade level or graduated, and 87% improved their classroom grades, attendance, or behavior

The report also features interviews with:

- Gilbert Hicks, Associate Superintendent, Austin ISD
- JP Rodriguez, Community Volunteer
- Erica Gallardo, Communities In Schools Program Manager

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 ciscentraltexas.org/about-cis/videos/.

Communities In Schools of Central Texas 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 Central Texas at ciscentraltexas.org.

Changing the Picture of Education in Central Texas 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 Central Texas*, or to arrange interviews with local spokespersons, please contact: Debra Joiner, Director of Communications, djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org or (512) 464-9783. B-Roll is also available upon request.