



Communities
In Schools

New Mexico

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOL STAFF SURVEY

SPRING 2019

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About this Survey

This survey measures school staff's perception of CIS's work and impact.

Background

This survey was conducted April-May 2019 via online Google Form. The CIS Program Director sent the survey link directly to each CIS school principal to inform them about the survey and asking for their assistance in encouraging their school staff to fill it out. An introductory email and the survey link was then sent by each CIS site coordinator to all staff at their respective schools. As an incentive, upon submission of the completed survey each respondent who provided an email address was automatically entered into a drawing for a \$150 gift card to Target.

"In order to reach a child's mind, you must be concerned for the whole child."

This question was included in the survey to assess the overall attitude of respondents toward whole-child/ wraparound services in school. A low score overall or at a particular school might have indicated bias against the type of work that CIS does and therefore have colored the reading of the results. However, 98% of survey respondents responded "True" to this statement, indicating a general openness to the type of work that CIS conducts. Therefore, negative or critical feedback in the survey can be read as actually representing a perception of the quality or delivery of CIS's work (as opposed to being dismissed as coming from someone who doesn't believe in the strategy of wraparound supports per se).

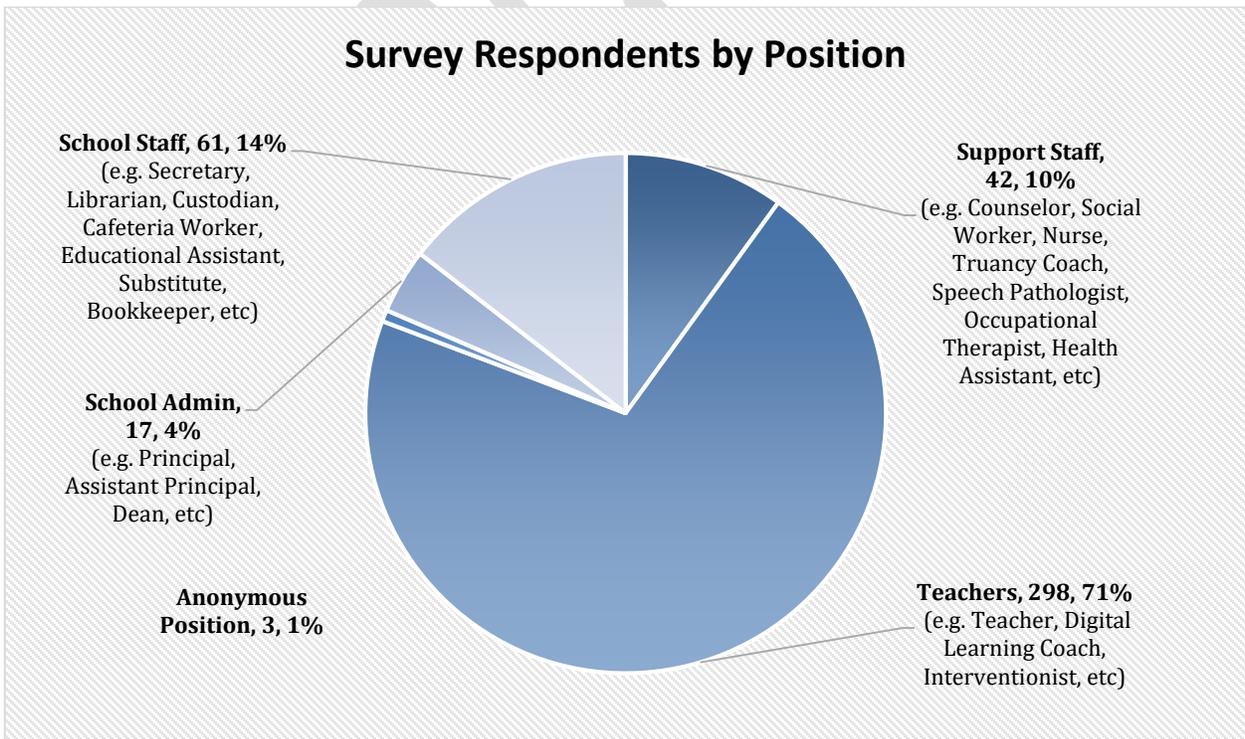
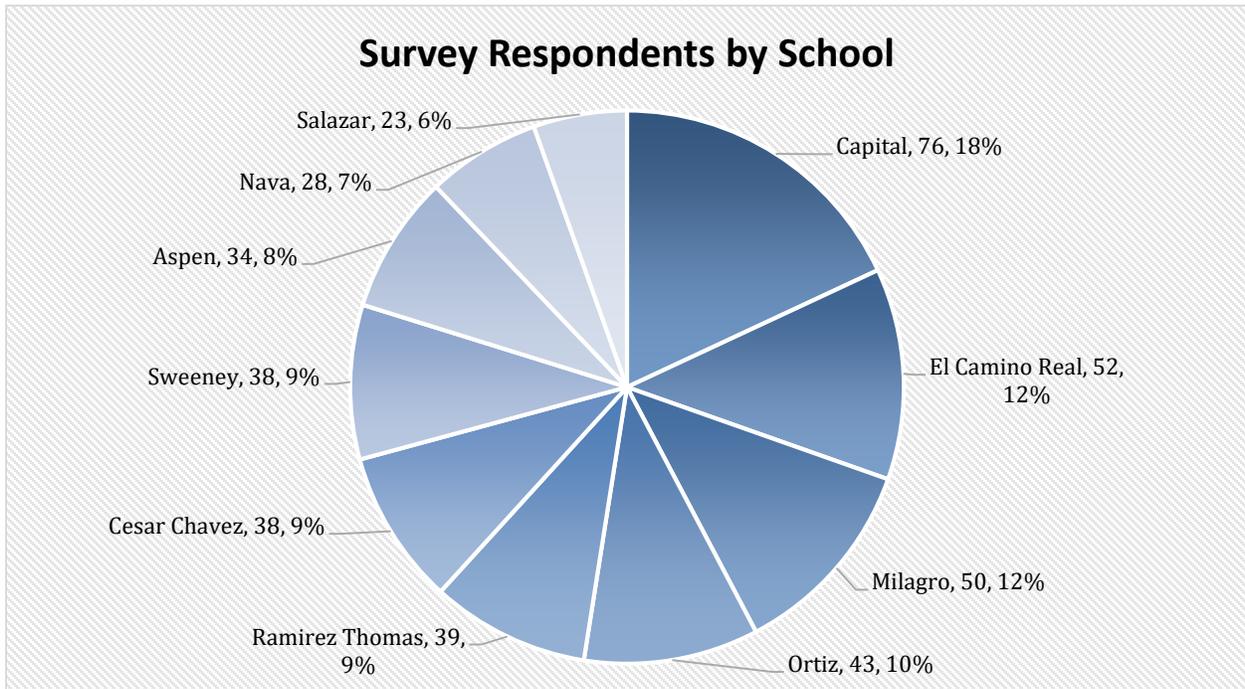
Schools Surveyed, with Site Coordinators

- **Salazar Elementary School**
Andel Trujillo
- **Aspen Community School**
Stephanie Walther
- **Capital High School**
Heather Sellers
Ivan Cornejo
Sinte Torrez
- **Cesar Chavez Elementary School**
Hilda Perez
- **Ortiz Middle School**
Luis Burrola
- **El Camino Real Academy**
Justin Salazar
Mary Louise Romero (Sem. 1)
Berta Gutierrez (Sem. 2)
- **Nava Elementary School**
Rosario Roybal
- **Milagro Middle School**
Alice Keyes
- **Ramirez Thomas Elementary School**
Rachel Clinger
- **Sweeney Elementary School**
Angelica Suarez

Nina Otero Community School was mistakenly included in the survey distribution; however, since CIS had been in operation for less than one semester at the time of the survey and school staff had not yet received any introduction to CIS, that school's responses have been excluded from this report.

Respondents

421 school staff members at CIS schools responded to the survey.
62% of staff working at CIS schools responded to the survey.



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Standout Results

"CIS helps make sure student needs are met: academically, physically, socially, and emotionally every day at school." -Teacher, Milagro Middle School

Questions receiving an average of >85% responses of "True" to T/F questions, or "Very Impactful" and "Somewhat Impactful" to impact questions.

- 95% CIS is impactful in providing access to basic needs to students.
- 92% CIS addresses critical needs of the school community.
- 91% CIS feels like "part" of the school.
- 90% CIS site coordinator at the school develops caring, consistent relationships with students that make a positive difference in their lives.
- 89% CIS is impactful in improving the school's climate.
- 89% CIS improves students' sense of belonging at school.
- 86% CIS brings a good blend of community partners into the school to surround students with support.

Academics

"I have been able to get multiple community volunteers into my classroom to help our students year after year because of CIS. It is an absolutely vital part of our school and without our students would not be successful." -Teacher, Aspen Community School

The **academic areas** where survey respondents perceive the greatest impact are:

- 81% Growth Mindset (a student's attitude toward learning; the belief that hard work and effort lead to better skills and abilities)
- 81% Academic Motivation
- 78% Academic Self-Efficacy (a student's belief in their ability to meet challenges and succeed in their coursework)
- 70% Academic Competence (as measured by grades or test scores)

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Behavior

"The impact of the CIS program in the Milagro School community is huge. Students regularly utilize the services offered to supplement their increasingly complex lives. The program fills an important niche that Counselors/Therapists/Social Workers cannot." -School Counselor, Milagro Middle School

- Between 77% and 89% of respondents rated CIS as being positively impactful in the following SEL areas for students: perspective taking, empathy for others, self-worth/confidence, emotion regulation, sense of accountability for one's own actions, sense of belonging at school, relationship with teachers, and level of support students feel they have among peers and friends.
- 81% of respondents said CIS is impactful in improving students' behavior at school.

Attendance

"I have several students who would not come to school at all if it were not for CIS." –Teacher, Capital High School

- 77% of respondents said that CIS is impactful in improving attendance rates for students. Only 5% responded "not impactful" and 21% indicated "Unknown".
- In the open-ended responses, teachers commented on the effectiveness of CIS attendance programs at Capital, Ramirez Thomas, Sweeny, Nava, and Aspen.

Basic Needs

"The presence of CIS in our schools... gives teachers peace of mind knowing that someone is taking care of a student's most immediate concerns. The result of this wonderful program is that teachers can focus on teaching knowing that children's most valuable needs are being dealt care for and, therefore, make learning an enjoyable experience." – Teacher, Salazar Elementary

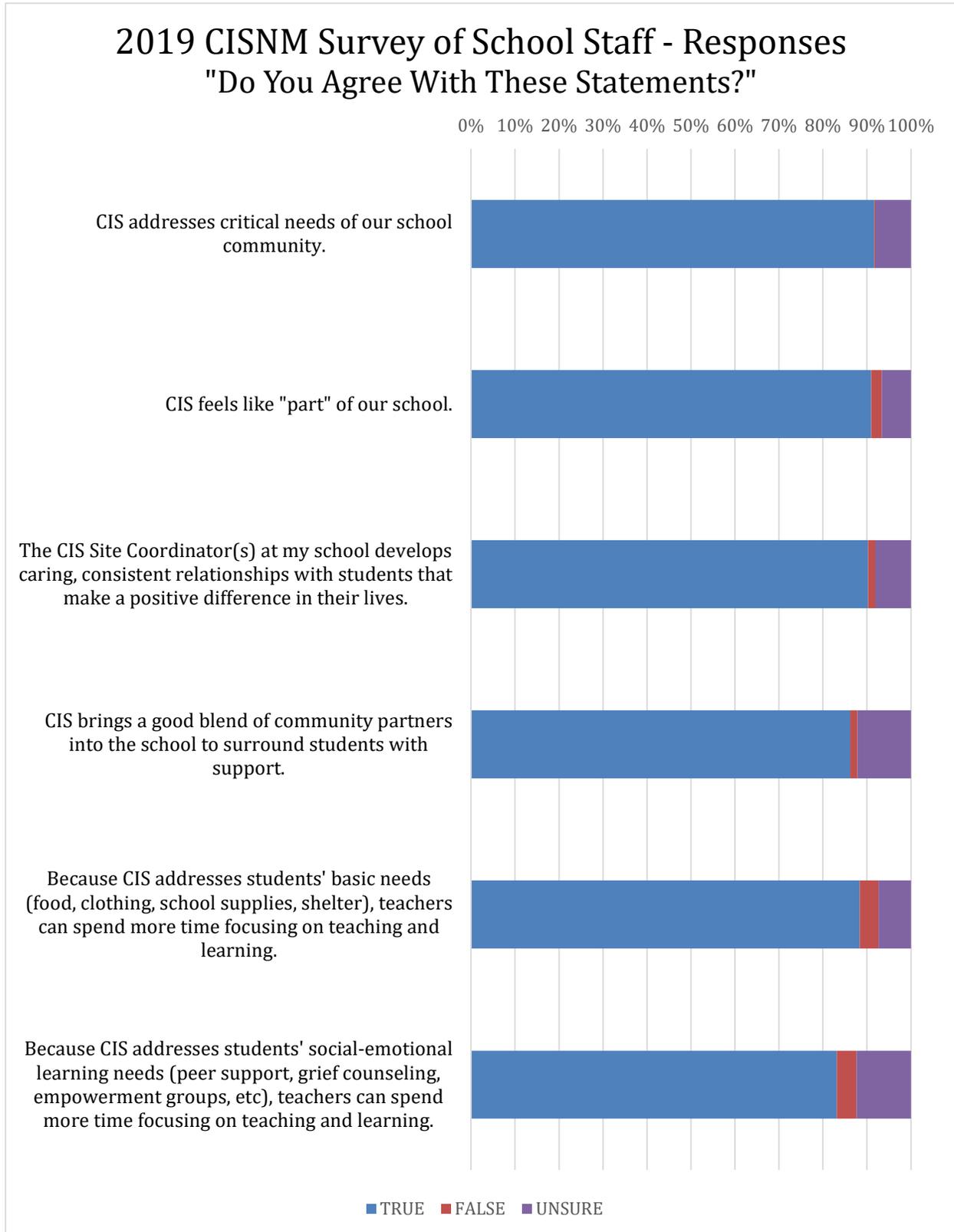
- 95% of respondents rated CIS as being positively impactful in improving students' access to basic needs.
- 88% respondents agreed that because CIS addresses students' basic needs, teachers can spend more time focusing on teaching and learning.

Parent and Family Engagement

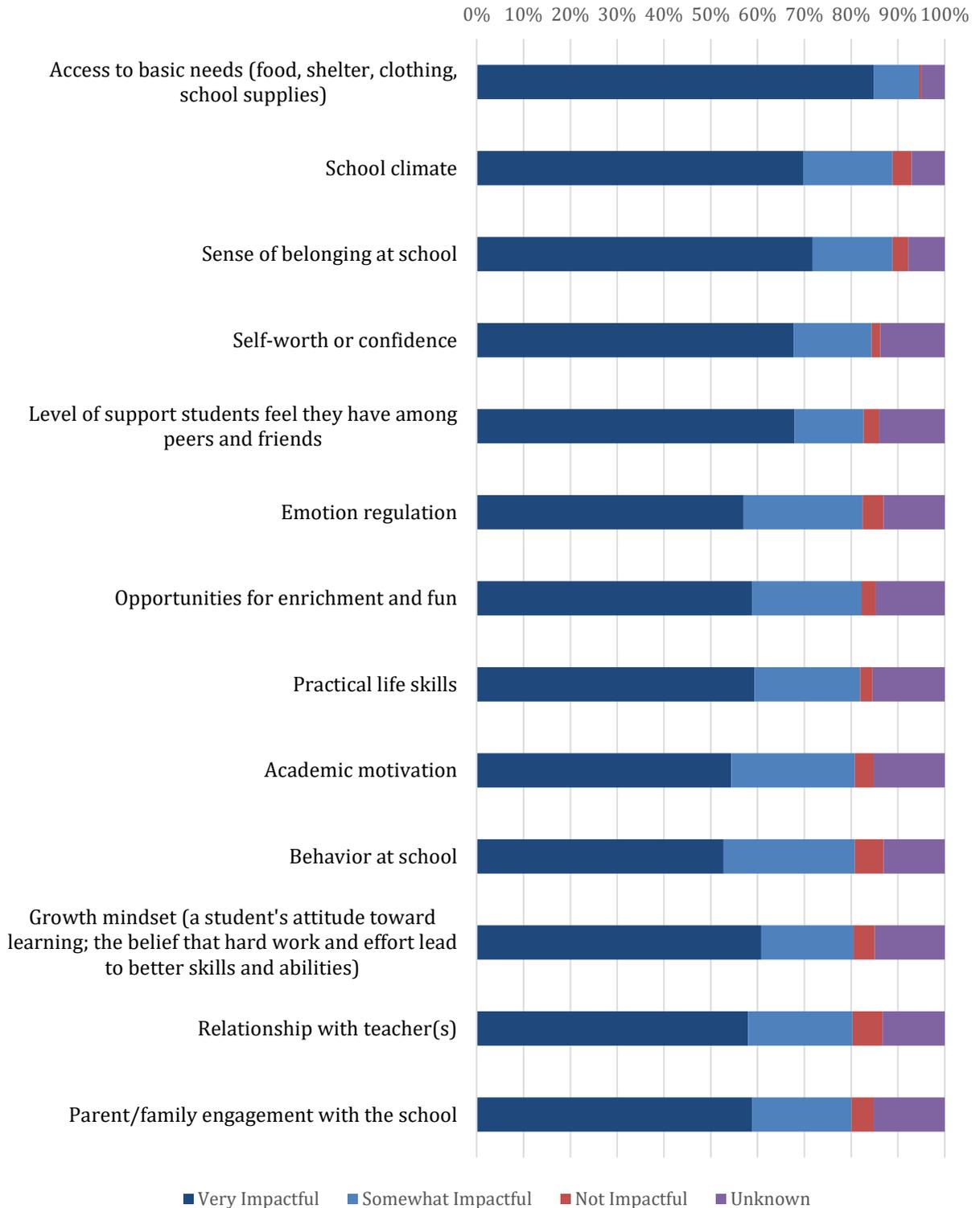
"CIS is an integral part of the school community, without them the bridge between the educational facility and the families would not be as strong." -Teacher, Cesar Chavez Elementary School

The greatest variation in answers among schools was related to parent engagement. Note that rather than "False", at most schools staff selected "Unsure". This could be because school staff are not aware whether CIS is engaging parents in their school, or it could be due to a lack of measurable outcomes when it comes to parent engagement.

Charts Displaying Full Survey Responses



2019 CISNM Survey of School Staff - Responses "How Impactful is CIS in improving the following areas for your students?"



Selected Quotes about CIS

As part of this survey, school staff answered a number of open-ended questions regarding CIS's impact. The following are a sample of their responses, the majority of which were overwhelmingly positive.

General

Communities in Schools should be called Your Second Family in Schools. Everyone is treated like family and help is so generously and without question given. Communities in Schools offers assistance without judgement and with an open heart.

Secretary, Aspen Community School

CIS rounds out the array of services, programming and care necessary to truly teach and reach the whole child and their families.

Nurse, Cesar Chavez Elementary School

CIS expands the safety net for our students.

Teacher, El Camino Real Academy

If it weren't for CIS so many more students in need would fall through the cracks.

Teacher, Capital High School

CIS has given our students so many opportunities to succeed. Giving out supplies to students, providing them with tutoring, and caring for each individual student are just a few ways that CIS makes an incredible impact in our school.

Teacher, Ortiz Middle School

Our CIS support is integral to our school and the lives of our families.

Teacher, Ortiz Middle School

CIS is critical to the health of our community. Without CIS, and their wealth of resources, we could be floundering as a school community, but I see CIS being an uplifting support we are fortunate to have working alongside us.

Teacher, Salazar Elementary School

CIS has taught and enabled students to have leadership skills.

Administrator, Ortiz Middle School

School Climate and Supporting School Staff

I have been able to get multiple community volunteers into my classroom to help our students year after year because of CIS. It is an absolutely vital part of our school and without our students would not be successful.

Teacher, Aspen Community School

CIS has been an important contributor to the positive atmosphere established and maintained here at Capital.

Teacher, Capital High School

We could not do our jobs effectively without the CIS staff. We are lucky to have them on our team for support. It takes a village!

Counselor, Capital High School

CIS helps allow teachers to teach, by helping to support students emotionally and at home.

Teacher, El Camino Real Academy

CIS gives the school a sense of flexibility and accomplishment in helping students.

Teacher, Milagro Middle School

As educators we wear many hats, it's nice to have a person who is knowledgeable of resources and can do the work of connecting families in need. This takes some pressure off the classroom teacher.

Teacher, Ramirez Thomas Elementary School

With the presence of CIS in our schools, students and teachers have the support from on site professionals to assist in students' personal and home life situations that may arise. This in turn, gives teachers peace of mind knowing that someone is taking care of a student's most immediate concerns. The result of this wonderful program is that teachers can focus on teaching knowing that children's most valuable needs are being dealt care for and, therefore, make learning an enjoyable experience.

Teacher, Salazar Elementary School

CIS is a vital service for our students. I have seen so many struggling students helped by the program. They are an amazing support for teachers and school staff. We need one or more permanent CIS staff that are as dedicated as [our site coordinator] in all school sites.

Teacher, Salazar Elementary School

CIS plays a critical role at our school by providing another link between students, teachers/ administrators, and students' families. It is a role that our administration and counselor perform well, but they are always short-handed on. CIS has certainly filled that gap.

Teacher, Sweeney Elementary School

Positive Relationships and Belonging

I have several students who would not come to school at all if it were not for CIS.

Teacher, Capital High School

The CIS room seems to be universally viewed as a safe space for students to access.

Teacher, Milagro Middle School

The impact of the CIS program in the Milagro School community is huge. Students regularly utilize the services offered to supplement their increasingly complex lives. The program fills an important niche that Counselors/Therapists/Social Workers cannot.

School Counselor, Milagro Middle School

CIS helps students feel cared for and supported. It makes school a less stressful and more welcoming place to be for students.

Teacher, Milagro Middle School

Communities In Schools is building relationships that make us stronger!

Teacher, Nava Elementary School

Graduation and Success Beyond High School

Our CIS team is so much more than providing basic needs, they mentor and model how to gain control of environment; how to say 'no' to the peers who do not have the best intention in mind; how to see beyond the high school years.

Teacher, Capital High School

CIS helps students see their value and worth in the Capital High School community. These are students that might not otherwise feel that they belong or that they can achieve greatness after life in high school.

Teacher, Capital High School

Students involved with CIS almost always show a distinct improvement in my class.

Teacher, Capital High School

Parent Engagement

CIS is an integral part of the school community, without them the bridge between the educational facility and the families would not be as strong.

Teacher, Cesar Chavez Elementary School

I feel that our site coordinators have been fabulous, they truly care about our students and really establish wonderful rapport with parents.

Teacher, El Camino Real Academy

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