



# CENTER FOR SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

*Every school...safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring.*

## OUR MISSION AND SCOPE

Founded in 1979, the mission of the Center for Supportive Schools (formerly known as the Princeton Center for Leadership Training) is to develop, disseminate, and promote peer leadership, advisory, and other evidence-based K-12 solutions that enable and inspire schools to more fully engage students in learning, better connect students to their schools, motivate and equip students to make decisions responsibly, and accelerate academic achievement. Our work touches tens of thousands of students, educators, and parents annually. The Center for Supportive Schools (CSS) has served nearly 300 schools in thirteen states as well as in Asia and South America.

## OUR STRATEGY AND SOLUTIONS

Our solutions enable and inspire students to become more engaged learners; develop positive social, emotional, and health behaviors; navigate pivotal transitions; and address the overwhelming stresses of youth. CSS's solutions take root within schools and make a lasting, sustainable impact that persists long after our involvement. We accomplish this by investing significant time into developing a strong stakeholder group within the school and then by working with school faculty and staff using an intensive train-the-trainer strategy, user-friendly curricula, and technical assistance. CSS offers a wide variety of student leadership, teacher leadership, family leadership, and other customized solutions, such as:

- *Peer Group Connection (PGC)*: an evidence-based and school-based program that supports and eases students' successful transitions into middle and high school by tapping into the power of older students to create a nurturing environment for incoming students.
- *Teen Prevention Education Program (Teen PEP)*: an evidence-based, school-based program that utilizes peer-to-peer education to increase responsible decision-making among students around issues of sexual health. The program was originally developed in 1995 through a collaboration with HiTOPS, Inc. and the New Jersey Department of Health.
- *Student & Family Advisory (SFA)*: a research-based school-wide practice that provides all students in middle and high school with the support they need to feel attached to school, to succeed in school, and to graduate ready for the rigors of college and high quality careers. Through SFA, students and their parents/caregivers come to know and be known well by at least one adult in the school who stays connected with them the entire time they are enrolled in the school.
- *Achievement Mentoring (AM)*: a school-based prevention and intervention program, developed by Dr. Brenna Bry, that pairs adult school staff with students in one-to-one mentor-mentee relationships and has been proven to reduce problem behaviors, improve academics, and reduce school dropout among at-risk students.
- *Campaign Connect (CC)*: a comprehensive, research-based approach, grounded in the principles of collective impact, that supports schools in becoming safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring. Schools and districts use *Campaign Connect* tools and resources to implement a data-driven and relationship-based approach to engaging the school community in coordinated initiatives designed to improve student outcomes.

CSS also creates customized solutions in response to the specific needs of schools. We have designed custom solutions for over 150 public and private schools throughout the United States.

## OUR RESULTS

CSS's work has been rigorously evaluated by research organizations, universities, and independent evaluators. Results consistently demonstrate that we improve students' academic, social, and emotional skills, resulting in: significantly lower dropout rates; improved grades; fewer discipline referrals; and avoidance of high-risk behaviors. A recently released, four-year longitudinal, randomized-control study conducted by Rutgers University and funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services found that CSS improves the graduation rates of its student participants by ten percentage points and cuts by half the number of male students who would otherwise dropout.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Center for Supportive Schools, please contact Dr. Margo Ross at [mross@supportiveschools.org](mailto:mross@supportiveschools.org). You can also visit our website at [www.supportiveschools.org](http://www.supportiveschools.org).