

CIS achieves national accreditation

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Communities In Schools (CIS) of South Central Texas, a local dropout prevention organization serving Comal and Guadalupe counties, has achieved national accreditation by demonstrating compliance with all Communities In Schools Total Quality System (TQS) standards.

CIS of South Central Texas is among the first to receive its national accreditation among the nearly 200 local affiliates that comprise the CIS network in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

The TQS standards define expectations for effective non-profit business practices and for implementing the CIS model of integrated student support services at school sites.

The site standards are based on a five-year, longitudinal national evaluation conducted by an independent, outside evaluator that documented the impact of the CIS model.

The evaluation revealed that schools implementing the CIS model with high fidelity had higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates, and performed better than comparison schools in increasing the percentage of students meeting or exceeding math and reading proficiency in 4th and 8th grades, a crucial predictor of high school graduation.

CIS developed the TQS to establish clear operational guidelines that ensure uniform quality and improved outcomes for all students being served by CIS affiliates.

The TQS system is part of an organization wide commitment to evidence-based practice and the highest standards of accountability.

“We are proud to have achieved our accreditation as it underlies the value of falling in compliance with the high set of standards put in place by Communities In Schools programs across the country,” said Chris Douglas, CIS executive director.

For information, go to www.cissouthcentral.texas.org.