



## WHAT WE DO

Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania (CISPA) is part of the national Communities in Schools network, which operates in 25 states and the District of Columbia and serves more than 1.2 million youth annually. Communities in Schools' holistic approach addresses both the academic and non-academic needs of students. Communities in Schools recognizes that if basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter are not met, children are unable to learn. Last year, CISPA helped 18,220 students in 24 schools in 10 school districts by providing the resources they needed to be successful. Whether a child needs extra academic help, a mentor, a health check-up, additional food supplies, or

even employment training, CISPA is there to make sure each child gets exactly what they need. A coordinated, individualized approach; it's what makes us effective and makes our students successful!

CISPA surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Every child needs and deserves:

A one-on-one  
relationship  
with a caring  
adult

A safe place to  
learn and grow

A healthy start  
and a healthy  
future

A marketable  
skill to use  
upon  
graduation

A chance to  
give back to  
peers and  
community

## OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS



- Cambria County Child Development Corporation
- Central Cambria School District
- Central Dauphin School District
- Columbia Borough School District
- Cornwall-Lebanon School District
- Greater Johnstown School District
- Lebanon School District
- School District of the City of York
- Somerset Area School District
- Susquehanna Township School District

## EITC FUNDING WILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

### “DIG IT” GARDENING PROGRAM

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This program will occur at Maple Ridge Elementary School in the Somerset Area School District. Meetings for the Garden Club will occur daily during the school year during their science classes, and weekly during the Summer.

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade will participate in this program, and lessons will be suited specifically to each age group. In this programming, students will learn how to test soil, learn the life cycle of plants, as well as learn how to harvest the vegetables when they are ready. Families will be able to come to the school to get the vegetables after they have been harvested, fulfilling a need in that community. The Garden Club will also partner with the Somerset Junior-Senior High School’s Agriculture Class and Ag-Club.



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### ART NOOK

Through a partnership with the Art Nook, CISPA will provide after-school art programming from a qualified art instructor to elementary school students. These programs can be customized to fit the school’s specific needs, with an emphasis on Cultural Art and Art History. Each project includes instruction focused on the historical background of the art or artist that is being studied. A variety of mediums will be used to create each project, including paint, clay, plaster, metal, ink, and wire. Diversity pillars are a part of this work, with projects reflecting the school’s community. For example, in Susquehanna Township there is a large population of Nepali students; lessons will touch on Nepali history, art, and culture. This is a 4 to 6-week program, with four

cohorts each academic year. An art show will also be held at the end of each program to display the students’ projects. Each student receives their own Art Nook Box that contains all the art supplies, which they get to keep at the completion of the program. This program has both a parent engagement and DEI perspective, tying in nicely with CISPA’s work in this school.

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### NEXT STEPS: COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION

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CISPA will offer Next Steps: College & Career Exploration programming at 5 high school sites in Central Dauphin, Susquehanna Township, Somerset, Greater Johnstown, and York City School Districts, serving students in ninth through twelfth grade. The Next Step program will support students in determining their next steps in life, whether that be pursuing further education or entering the workforce. Specifically, programming will focus on workforce development, career exploration, and college prep. CISPA will facilitate job shadowing opportunities, guest lectures from local business owners and professionals, college visits, SAT preparation courses, and discussions about college applications and financial aid. This programming will tie nicely in with the tiered programming offered by CISPA. These programs will be held quarterly, filling a large need in the communities we serve.