



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Communities In Schools Partners with Walmart for Back to School Drive

Atlanta — In preparation for the upcoming school year, Communities In Schools is partnering with Walmart for a Back to School Drive, July 15 through August 18. The drive will provide school supplies to underprivileged students, which will help start the new school year off on the right track.

Designated bins are located in the front of the store within select Walmart locations throughout Georgia to collect donated school supplies. All school supplies are needed, but recommended items include: backpacks, pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, markers, loose leaf paper, glue, binders, calculators, rulers and scissors.

The supply drive also features an opportunity to win backpacks filled with school supplies courtesy of Walmart. Winners will be selected at random from Twitter and Facebook users who use the #CISGABackpack hashtag. To be eligible for the drawing, participants simply use the hashtag in reference to the back to school drive.

For more information, including a listing of participating Walmart locations, please visit www.cisga.org.

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Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation's leading dropout prevention organization. CIS partners with local school districts and community organizations to connect resources and services to kids at-risk of dropping out and their families. ICF International conducted a five-year evaluation and compared results to over 1,600 studies screened by the Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse. **The evaluation shows that the CIS model is one of a very few organizations proven to keep students in school and the only one to document that it both increases graduation rates and decreases dropout rates.** In Georgia, 39 CIS local affiliates provide services through the CIS model to more than 124,000 students in hundreds of school and community-based sites. Key initiatives include mentoring, tutoring, parent engagement, literacy, after-school programs, youth leadership, and Performance Learning Centers®. PLCs provide another learning option for high school students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. Communities with CIS programs have seen an increase in their high school graduation rates, a decrease in violence and disruptions, and an increase in attendance and academic achievement. For more information, visit www.cisga.org or call 404-835-8907.