

2023-24 

Quarter 4 Report

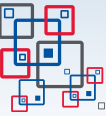
April-July 2024



Communities
In Schools®

Memphis





Teshanda Middleton

As we conclude the 2023-24 academic year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all we have accomplished together. This year has been marked by significant growth, impact, and meaningful change across the communities we serve. Most notably, we grew our Integrated Student Support (ISS) services across 20 school communities, up from 10 a year ago.

These efforts were due in large part to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our partners across the community. However, our success is also the direct result of "seeing the whole board," a chess-inspired approach that prepared us to anticipate community needs, secure vital partnerships, and strategically allocate resources to maximize our impact.

Celebrating Our Successes

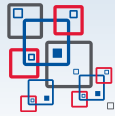
Quarter 4 was highlighted by CISM's signature event, which is always one of our most inspiring occasions of the year. [The fourth annual Pathways to Success Celebration honored the achievements of 126 graduating seniors.](#) The event not only celebrated their academic milestones but also the collective efforts of our staff, partners, and community members to ensure their successful journey to this special moment. Thanks to incredible support from our community partners and donors, we equipped each student with essential supplies for their chosen post-secondary pathways.



Many of these graduates were also part of CISM's Work Experience Program (WEX), which wrapped up one of its most productive years. Following their quarter 4 activities, [WEX students totaled over \\$360,000 in wages](#) while gaining invaluable workforce skills. This initiative is a game-changer for students, and it reflects our commitment to ensuring all students have access to tools and supports to pursue success.

Our work in 2023-24 was bolstered by the [\\$18 million Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) state grant, secured through the CIS TN Alliance.](#) This funding, along with continued support from The Ballmer Group, extends our student support services across Tennessee into 63 new Title I schools in partnership with leaders in Nashville and Appalachian Highlands, increasing our total reach to 50,000 students in 121 schools and bringing access to the comprehensive support they need to thrive.

Strengthening Our Organization



Organizational culture is a key ingredient to our impact, and we made significant strides in strengthening our internal operations in quarter 4. We welcomed two new chiefs, Kelsey Kenniel as Chief Operations and Finance Officer and Jessica Pontoo as Chief of Staff and Strategy. Formerly our Director of Operations, Kelsey's expertise in financial oversight and operational efficiency ensures we have the resources and infrastructure to sustain and enhance our programs. Jessica, who previously served as the Senior Director of Strategy and Impact, is integral in shaping and implementing our strategic initiatives, including our DEIB strategy, which promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within the organization, and aligning our long-term goals with daily operations.

Their leadership, combined with the addition of two new alumni staff members, Kai Green and Rachel Bonner, has brought fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our team. Having navigated our programs as students, Kai and Rachel can offer authentic connections with those we serve and be trusted role models, illustrating the effectiveness of our support systems in fostering growth and success.



Our annual Summer Institute also took place in July, providing a unique and energizing opportunity for everyone to learn and grow together, reflect on our collective impact, and have strategic conversations about tackling challenges and seizing opportunities to deepen our impact in the new year. Overall, the Summer Institute not only reinforced our commitment to educational equity but also laid the groundwork for a successful year ahead.

Looking Ahead

Overall, this year has been characterized by growth, achievement, and a greater sense of community. We are committed to maintaining the momentum we've gained in 2024-25 by prioritizing the expansion of our ISS services and Care Coordination efforts, further developing our alumni network, and strengthening our governing board.

We are also focused on enhancing our partnerships and securing diverse funding sources to sustain and grow our impact. These efforts will continue to play a crucial role in advocating for the resources and changes needed to support our community.

Together, we will continue to create a brighter future for the students and families we serve. So, as we ready ourselves to embark on a new chapter filled with growth, collaboration, and impact in the fall, we invite you to join us in dreaming of all the possibilities.

*With gratitude and excitement,
- Teshanda*

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISES



ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

- CEO Teshanda Middleton was invited to share her expertise and voice as a local leader for a **guest Op-ed article in the Daily Memphian** on chronic absenteeism and truancy. In the article, she urged the community to unite in addressing this critical issue, emphasizing that a challenge of this magnitude requires a collective impact approach.
- The CISM leadership team leveraged **insights from the Security to Wellbeing Community of Practice** to equip our staff with the skills and support needed to advance educational equity in their respective roles across the organization. Whitney Harris of Whitney Harris Consulting guided the team through a deep dive into our organization's mission, vision, and theory of change, connecting these broader values to their day-to-day work. After lunch, the room was divided into cohorts—elementary, young adults, and families—to begin developing social change priorities and aligned initiatives to address the root causes of challenges that our families face.
- Teshanda will represent CISM while embarking on a **new journey in the Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Service Program at Lipscomb University**. Over the next year, using Nashville as the primary laboratory, she'll be exploring strategies for influencing and driving positive community change from policy Analysis and ethical leadership to strategic communications and effective cross-sector collaboration. Congratulations, Teshanda!



PREPARE MORE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE

- **Integrated Student Support (ISS): Summer Events that Inspire & Engage Families!**
 - Specialists Mishala Holmes and Kayla Bolden hosted a **movie day for families at Millington Intermediate and Middle/High**. Many attendees, who hadn't been to the movies in years, were thrilled to participate and enjoyed the cozy setup and popcorn. The entire theater was reserved just for families to enjoy the movie Garfield. Afterward, the group went for ice cream and discussed their favorite characters and lessons learned, making the day a memorable and heartwarming success.
 - Specialist Ebony Campbell hosted a **family lunch and literacy event at Westside Middle School**. Attendees participated in a literacy learning session that featured a meet-and-greet with author and CISM team member Jessica Pontoo, followed by a poetry analysis of Langston Hughes' "Harlem" led by 7th-grade ELA teacher Mr. Grant Wells. The day also included a book raffle and goodie bags for the youth.



DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISES



PREPARE MORE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE (Cont.)

- Specialist Shannon Walton hosted a **literacy scavenger hunt in the Parkway Village library** for families of **Belle Forest Elementary** and the greater community. Librarians helped make the event a big success. Attendees received free books, and copies were even saved for families who couldn't attend. One of the students told Shannon this was the best summer event ever! She's eager to collaborate with the library in the coming year on more fun events to benefit the school and community.
- Specialist Ceara Dorsey organized a **family literacy event at Millington Primary School**, which included food and a variety of resources, including student reading books, school prep books, writing journals, and word game books for both students and parents. The event was designed to promote literacy for all ages with materials to help students continue building their literacy skills over the summer and an introduction to various career opportunities in film and writing, which have a strong foundation in literacy.
- A group of five students and eight CISM staff participated in a **tour of the 164th Airlift Wing** in Memphis. They were able to visit different areas of the base, view and interact with the Aircrew Flight Equipment, see inside of a C17 jet, and get an up-close look at the fire services and vehicle maintenance divisions. In each area, they heard from different Air National Guard members about career and education opportunities and learned about basic training and the steps to joining the Air National Guard. CISM staff enjoyed getting to see the students enjoy first-time experiences and be inspired about new possibilities. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience for all!
- A group of 30 **Sheffield High School** students were selected for an educational field trip as a reward for **improving their attendance rate**. Their attendance rate, which included all grade levels, went from poor to almost perfect during the final attendance period of the year. The students visited Edge Motor Museum and had lunch at Rock 'n Dough Pizza. The experience was very rewarding because the students learned how the history of cars can tell us something about our past and present, and as the world changes, we as individuals have to be open to change.



• College & Career Readiness (CCR):

- **Fayette-Ware Comprehensive High School** held its **annual Senior Class Day** on April 3rd to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduating class. Seniors were honored for their academic accomplishments, extracurricular involvement, and leadership roles throughout their high school journey. CCR specialist Kqura Bowden supported the event and celebrated her case-managed students with gift bags filled with CISM-branded items and alumni shirts. The students also received recognition for participating in the CCR Program and work-based learning internships.
- CISM was honored to host 28 seniors and their families for the **2024 "What's Next?" event** in May. The annual event offers graduating seniors the opportunity to explore and discuss multiple post-graduation pathways, including higher education, military service, and career options. The participating students told us they feel more confident, prepared, and empowered to take the next steps to achieving their goals!

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISES



PREPARE MORE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE (Cont.)

- On June 6th, 126 graduating seniors were honored for all they've overcome and accomplished in school and life during the **fourth annual Pathways to Success Celebration**. Most of these students have been involved in CISM programming for several years, working with dedicated support specialists in their schools who have amplified their potential by connecting them to caring adults and personalized community resources to overcome obstacles in life and stay in school. Thanks to incredible support from our community partners and individual CISM donors, we were able to provide each student with a kit filled with much-needed supplies for their chosen post-secondary pathway, such as laptops, linens, and dorm supplies for our college-bound students, professional accessories, and office supplies for those entering a career field, and personal items for comfort and safety for students committed to the armed forces. We're so proud of our grads and so grateful to everyone who supported the event!



• Care Coordination:

- In our ongoing commitment to staff development and excellence in service, the Care Coordination team engaged in a series of **targeted training sessions during Q4 focusing on critical skills**, such as recruitment, time management, and effective communication and presentation techniques. The training equipped our team to effectively present programming information to diverse audiences, which has helped enhance outreach efforts and significantly increase enrollments from 1-2 per month to 5-8 per month.
- We successfully expanded our reach by **collaborating with other United Way hubs** to attend our training sessions. This partnership has been instrumental in building valuable relationships with facilitators, paving the way for future opportunities such as joint parent workshops that can further empower parents and strengthen their knowledge and skills to achieve self-sufficiency.



BUILD A VIBRANT CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY

• Collective Impact:

- Deontae Walker and several CISM high school seniors from the ISS and CCR programs were recently featured in a **national marketing campaign hosted by CIS National**. Deontae, along with one of his families, traveled to Dallas, while the CIS National team visited Memphis to capture our students in their graduation regalia. We are excited to see these familiar faces representing our work across the country and showcasing the impact of our programs.
- We have begun planning our **10-year celebration**, which will commence in July, in partnership with Novateur Brand Architecture (NBA). In addition to supporting our Pathways to Success event, NBA has provided valuable training to our entire team on the fundamentals of fundraising. As a result, CISM now boasts a dedicated fundraising team comprised of staff from across the organization. This team is focused on enhancing our efforts to secure support and better serve students and families throughout the region.
- Our **Board of Directors approved the operating budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year** during its recent retreat. The budget includes the addition of 10 more charter schools to our portfolio and the anticipated expansion of our College & Career Readiness program.
- **Four new Board members** were also announced during the retreat: Diane Heyman, President – DNH Consulting LLC; Gay Landaiche, Director – Erika Center at Bodine School; Sharen Rooks, Senior Creative Director – Power Media Solutions; and Steve Swain, Senior VP/Community Lending Manager – Pinnacle Financial Partners. Additionally, new Board Officers were voted on: Chas Harris, Chair; Lauren Holland, Vice-Chair; Ray Dahmer, Secretary; and Gia Stokes, Treasurer.
- On June 26-27, CISM held its **annual Summer Institute, themed "Deepening Our Impact."** The event aimed to celebrate past achievements, foster shared learning, and cultivate a vibrant culture of inclusivity.
 - **96%** of participants reported a sense of safety, joy, and belonging.
 - **83%** felt more prepared for the upcoming school year.
 - **91%** felt closer to team members from other departments.
 - **95%** believe CISM cares about them as individuals.
 - **96%** reported a sense of purpose and pride in CISM's work
 - **89%** have a better understanding of how their work connects to CISM's goals.
- With more partnering schools joining the CISM network in 2024-25, a **summer hiring fair** was held on July 8th to recruit candidates for the game-changing Student Support Specialist position. The Integrated Student Support (ISS) team was able to conduct interviews and assessments on-site, accelerating the timeframe for hiring new specialists. A total of 26 diverse candidates of various ages, races, and experiences participated, and 17 successfully advanced to the second round of the interview process. The hiring fair also helped build a pipeline for future positions, while increasing awareness about the work of CISM and creating new networking opportunities.





BUILD A VIBRANT CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY (Cont.)

• Operations:

- In response to recent engagement survey data regarding team perceptions of fairness and equitable decision-making, our leadership team undertook **significant efforts to enhance our evaluation processes**, including new bonus tiers. These bonuses were distributed to team members during our annual Summer Institute. As a result, over 95% of our staff reported a sense of fairness in decision-making, and 100% expressed confidence in the leadership's ability to follow through and deliver on its promises.
- As part of our commitment to supporting staff, the Board approved a **100% paid employee benefits plan**, which enhances the overall compensation package and reflects our dedication to employee well-being.

• Alumni:

- Congratulations to our newest Alumni Network cohort! Nearly 60 alumni from the classes of 2020-2024 were inducted on April 8th at CISM's **inaugural Alumni Induction Ceremony**. The Alumni Network provides a continued connection between students and families served by CISM, offering a community of support as alumni work toward achieving in life. We're excited for this new tradition to grow in size and impact in years to come!
- In alignment with the **CISM Alumni Pillar of Personal Wellness**, Dr. Lauren Madlock led a virtual session with alumni to address common stressors faced by young adults and provided effective tools for managing them. She also introduced the practice of mindfulness. When asked how they would use the information, attendees shared feedback such as, "Reminding myself that I am a sunset!" and "To be more self-aware and in the moment when I'm feeling scattered." This topic was highly requested by many alumni, and we look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.



CISM BY THE NUMBERS

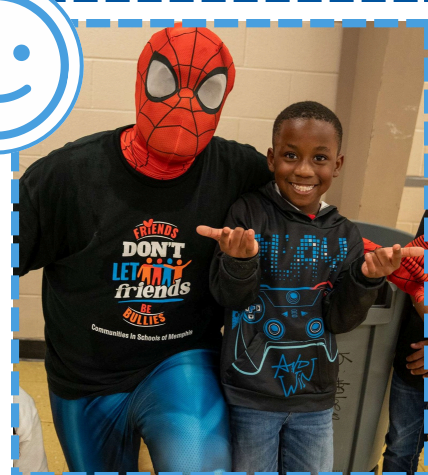
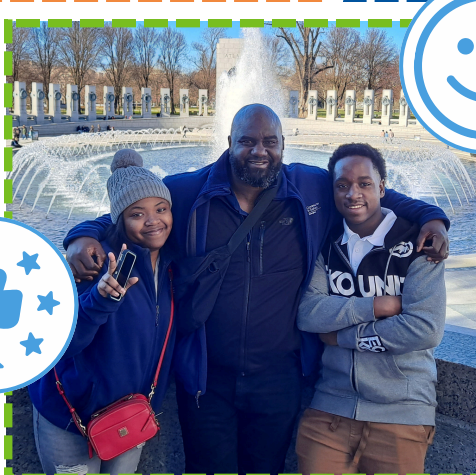


Student *Satisfaction* Pilot



Relationships and personalized support are core components of CISM's approach. At the end of the 2023-24 school year, the Integrated Student Supports (ISS) program piloted a satisfaction survey to hear directly from our students about how they view the supports we provide.

- 99%** would recommend our program to friends if they had a similar need.
- 97%** would return to our program if they needed help.
- 89%** felt the program met their needs.
- 94%** said the supports helped them deal more effectively with their issues.
- 94%** were satisfied overall with the supports they received.



PROGRESS SNAPSHOT — Quarter 4



Integrated School Supports (ISS)

>> Student Goals

- Academic – 70% of case-managed students making progress
- Attendance – 67% of case-managed students making progress
- Career Readiness – 98% of case-managed students making progress
- College Readiness – 94% of case-managed students making progress
- Behavior – 72% of case-managed students making progress
- Social-Emotional – 68% of case-managed students making progress

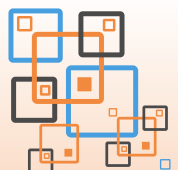
College & Career Readiness Goals

- \$360,000+ – Student Wages Earned (Q1-Q4)
- \$143,000+ - Student Services & Incentives
 - Transportation - 142 students
 - College Tours - 48 students
 - Workshops - 39 students
 - Rent Assistance/Utilities - 12 students
 - Books/Applications - 8 students
 - Obtaining ID(s) - 2 students
 - Tools/Work Supplies - 2 students
 - Uniforms - 3 students
 - Certification/Exams - 1 student



Alumni Network

- 25 – Actively Engaged in Alumni Network Programming
- 77 Hours - Building an Alumni Leadership Community
- 6 Hours - Personal Wellness
- 2 Hours - Career & Professional Development





Homeless to Hopeful

Success Story

By Teresa McClatchey, CISM Homeless Youth Systems Navigator

In partnership with Memphis Rox, Communities In Schools of Memphis (CISM) held our first "Homeless to Hopeful: Health and Wellness Day," an event dedicated to empowering homeless youth and those at risk of homelessness. As the event coordinator and Homeless Youth Systems Navigator, I am thrilled to share the success and impact of this special day, which attracted over 150 attendees from across the community.

The primary goal of the event was to provide these young people, ages 18-24, with access to critical health and wellness resources while raising awareness about the vital role of the homeless youth navigator and the many organizations in our city dedicated to supporting this vulnerable population. The turnout exceeded our expectations, with participants taking full advantage of the wide range of services offered by our community partners.

Throughout the day, attendees engaged with vendors offering a variety of health and wellness services. From health screenings and HIV testing to yoga sessions and raw juice samples, our participants were introduced to resources that promote both physical and mental well-being. The impact was tangible: 78 participants received HIV tests; 66 were screened for glucose, diabetes, and high blood pressure; and 96 youth visited the Community Alliance for the Homeless (CAFTH) table, expressing interest in ongoing navigation services. These numbers underscore the importance of making such services accessible to those who need them most.

In addition to the health-focused offerings, the event provided a lively atmosphere with outdoor games, face painting, a DJ, and carnival-style food. This combination of fun and education allowed attendees to relax and enjoy themselves while learning about essential health and wellness resources. We distributed 187 food tickets, ensuring that everyone who attended could enjoy a meal, and 20 families received buckets of household supplies.

The collaboration with our partners, including the Community Alliance for the Homeless, Cordova Nutrition, A Step Ahead Foundation, and many others, was instrumental in making this day a success. Together, we increased access to supportive services in Shelby County, promoted free health screenings, and enhanced community engagement. Notably, 11 participants signed up for Care Coordination and 6 for life insurance.

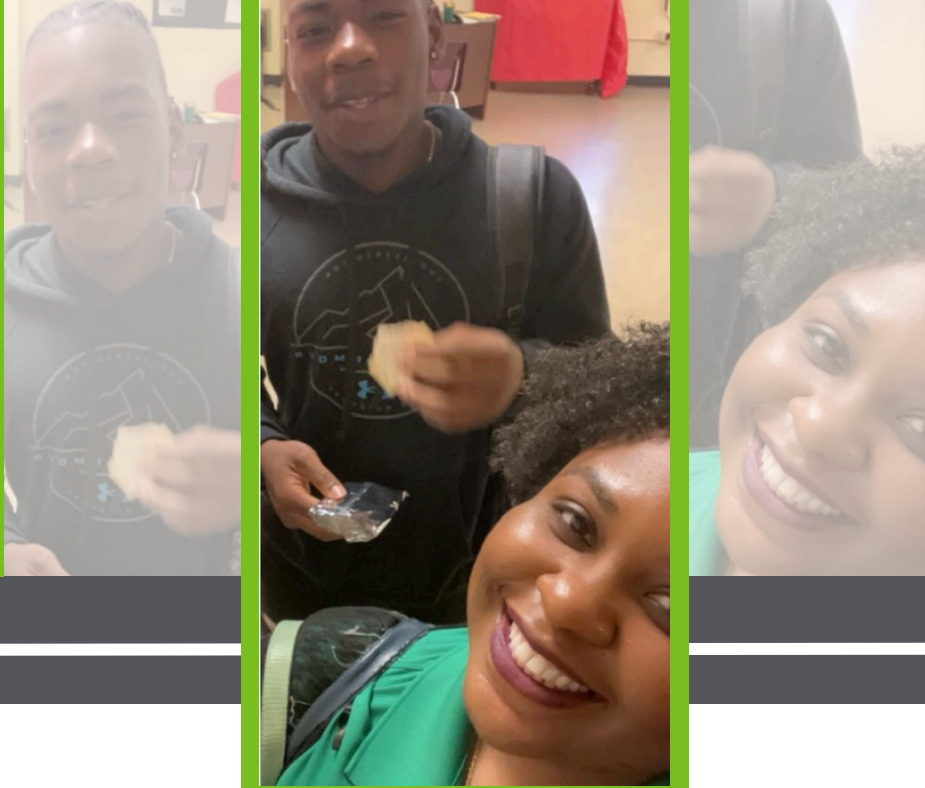
"Homeless to Hopeful: Health and Wellness Day" was more than just an event; it was a beacon of hope for young people facing significant challenges. By coming together, we were able to create an environment where homeless youth and those at risk of homelessness could feel supported, valued, and connected to a community that cares about their well-being. The event's success is a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact that CISM is making in the lives of these young people. We look forward to continuing to serve our community with the dedication and compassion it deserves.

Finding Strength in a Safe Space

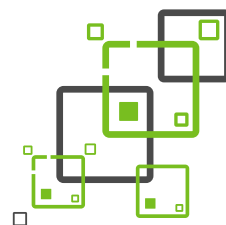


Success Story

By Julius S., CISM Student



I first met Ms. McNeill in December 2023 during my English class. She was explaining her role at the school, and I had heard some buzz about her program – especially the part about snacks. I was intrigued and decided to find out more. From the moment we started talking, I realized that I was opening up to her more than I ever had with any other adult in the school. She wasn't just hearing me, she was really listening. I could tell she was someone I could talk to easily and someone who could make me laugh.



The thing that really set her apart became clear when I started experiencing losses I had never faced before. I remember risking getting into trouble by wandering the halls just so I could stop by her room and let her know what was going on in my life. In the midst of feeling completely lost, Ms. McNeill assured me that it was okay not to have the right words to describe how I felt. My first loss was a grandparent, and it was a completely new experience for me. I wasn't pressured to talk about it; instead, I was given a safe space where I could feel whatever I needed to feel. Sometimes, that meant just sitting quietly, and she was there with me, giving me the space to do that. I could be emotional without feeling exposed, even while at school.

Then, I faced another loss, which made everything even harder to process. I found it easier to ask Ms. McNeill to check on other students rather than focusing on me. I didn't want her to know just how close I was to the situation. But her connection with so many students meant that others secretly pulled her aside and told her what I hadn't. Although I was initially against her taking on more kids once I was on her caseload, she always reminded me that she had a job to do. I respected that, and I knew it would get back to her. But just like before, she provided me with a safe space—to be quiet, to feel, to retreat into my own world, and to know that my emotions were valid and that it was okay to be vulnerable.

Ms. McNeill made sure I understood that losing close friends or family members is a part of life, but what matters is how we choose to move forward after the unthinkable happens. My junior year was filled with ups and downs that I won't even get into, but I can say that I stopped a lot of negative behaviors out of respect for her. She has a way of getting the truth out of you just by listening and giving you a certain look, all while letting you know that it's okay whether you succeed or fail because you have to learn from both, as she always told me.

Having a safe space within a school is rare, but with Ms. McNeill, I know that anything I share will be guarded and addressed in a way that helps me find my own answers and make sense of the confusion. This safe space has become something more valuable than I ever imagined. I'm incredibly grateful to Ms. McNeill for being there, for her smiles, her snacks, her laughter, and for giving not just me, but many others, a safe space in her room.

Jakara's Journey

of Resilience & Support



Success Story

By Alexis Wofford, Student Support Specialist

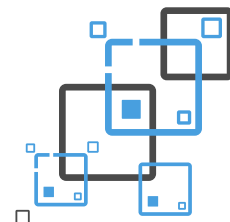
During Jakara's senior year of high school, I had the privilege of walking alongside her as she faced some of the most challenging times of her life. Living with her sister and lacking many basic necessities, Jakara managed to juggle school, assignments, and a job just to make ends meet. Despite these hardships, her determination never wavered. There were moments when she contemplated dropping out, feeling the overwhelming weight of her circumstances. But every time she reached that breaking point, I, along with her teachers, was there to provide the support she needed.

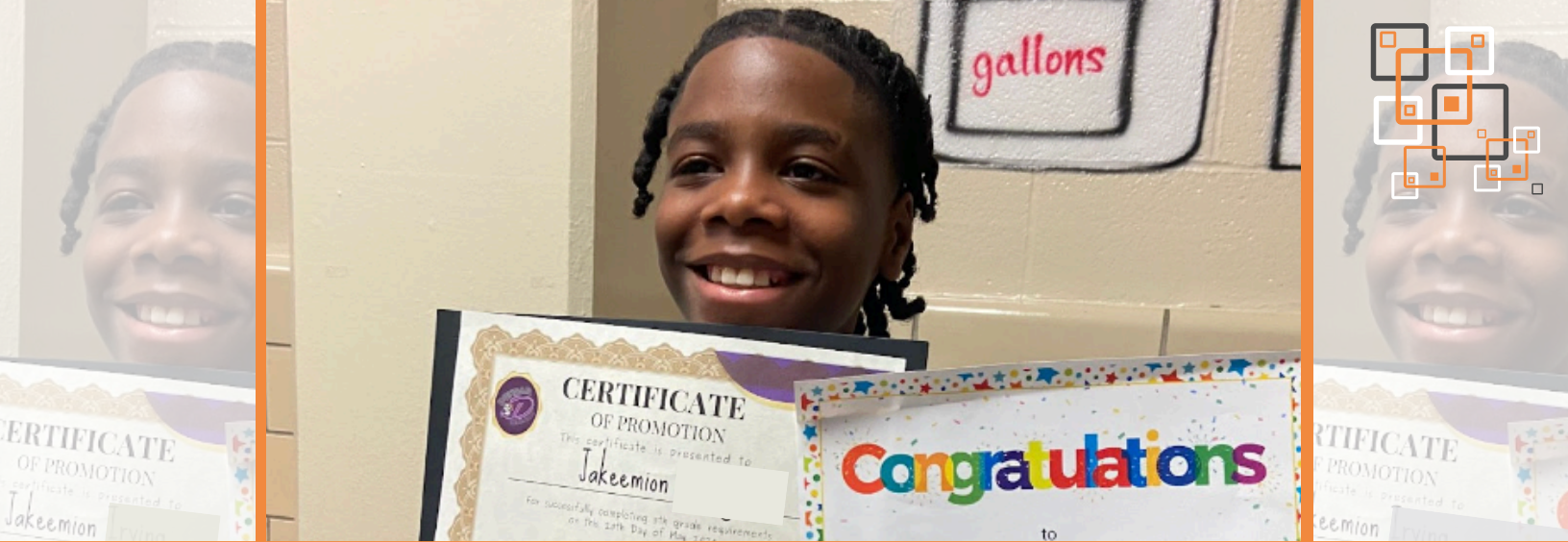
For Jakara, this support was crucial. We worked together not just on academic challenges but also on the emotional and practical hurdles she faced daily. Whether it was finding resources or simply providing a listening ear, I made sure Jakara knew she wasn't alone.

One of the most memorable nights of her senior year was prom night—a moment of pure joy and celebration. However, that joy was abruptly shattered when she returned home to find her house engulfed in flames. Everything she owned was gone, and she was left with nothing but her prom dress. The devastation of losing her home could have been overwhelming, but Jakara's resilience, coupled with the strong community around her, helped her persevere.

The school community, led by CISM, quickly rallied around Jakara. We worked together to find resources, gather donations, and replace the belongings she had lost. This outpouring of support was a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together for a student in need. Even in her darkest moments, Jakara had people who cared deeply about her well-being.

Through all of these trials, Jakara's perseverance never dimmed. She didn't just survive these challenges—she overcame them. Watching her walk across the stage at graduation was a moment of immense pride, a testament to her indomitable spirit and the incredible power of community support. Jakara's journey is a powerful reminder that with determination and help from others, any obstacle can be overcome.





Jakeemion's Transformation

Success Story

By Candice Fondren, Lead Student Support Specialist

Meet Mr. Jakeemion, my rising star! This year was my first at Dunbar, and as I was getting acclimated to the new environment—learning the ropes, meeting students, families, and staff—I encountered Jakeemion in a way I won't soon forget.

One day, I found him storming out of his class, clearly upset. I asked his teacher if I could speak with him, and that conversation marked the beginning of a wonderful relationship. At the time, I was still recruiting students for my caseload, and I hadn't realized that Jakeemion had been on the Communities In Schools of Memphis (CIS) caseload the previous year. To my surprise, I discovered that he was eligible to continue in the program this year as well, given his average daily attendance (ADA) of 77%. When we talked about what had upset him, he immediately opened up to me. By the end of our conversation, he had reset, reflected on how he could have handled the situation differently, and returned to class. That day marked a turning point for him. From that moment on, he didn't have any further behavioral issues and, though he was often late, he began attending school more regularly.

While in the CISM program, I watched as Jakeemion grew more motivated to come to school. He learned how to manage his anger and, over time, started to smile more. He lived with his dad, who would often let him stay home if he didn't want to go to school. But as the year progressed, Jakeemion began missing school only when he was genuinely sick. One memorable instance of his growth happened on his birthday, which coincided with a TCAP testing day. By 8:30 a.m., he wasn't at school, so I reached out to his parent, suspecting he might be out celebrating. It turned out he had just overslept, but he still made it to school in time to take the test! By the end of the year, Jakeemion's ADA had risen to an impressive 93%.

Beyond attendance, his growth was evident in his social-emotional development as well. At the start of the year, he was rated a 41 in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) using the DESSA Evaluation, but by the end of the year, he had improved to a 50. This change reflected the significant strides he made in managing his emotions and handling difficult situations. I could not be more proud of Jakeemion.

Watching him grow and transform his attitude toward school, as well as how he dealt with uncomfortable situations, has been a pleasure. As he moves on to the 6th grade I will truly miss him, but I have no doubt that he will continue to be successful in this next chapter of his life.

Quarter 1 - July - September 2024

>> Integrated Student Support (ISS):

- CISM will welcome 10 new charter schools to our network of support in 2024-25:
 - KIPP Elementary, Middle & High
 - Soulsville Middle & High
 - Journey Coleman K-8
 - Journey East K-5
 - Memphis Delta Prep
 - Circles of Success Learning Academy
 - Granville T. Woods Academy of Innovation

>> Care Coordination:

- The Care Coordination team will host a parent workshop in quarter 1 designed to help parents become self-sufficient. Through interactive activities, participants will identify their unique needs and strengths, set achievable goals, and develop actionable plans to track their progress. This workshop will foster a supportive community where parents can connect, share experiences, and gain practical tools to thrive in their personal and family lives. Together, we'll create a pathway towards greater self-sufficiency and confidence in parenting.

>> College & Career Readiness (CCR):

- Our inaugural FAFSA Fastbreak will run from July 24th to August 31st, underscoring our commitment to fostering educational equity. Beginning in August, we aim to connect at least 100 students and families with FAFSA resources and provide 1:1 support, empowering them to complete and submit their FAFSAs on time for access to crucial funding for college.

>> Alumni Network:

- Alumni will be invited to a free four-part "Cooking with CISM" series this fall in alignment with our Life Skills Pillar. The series will be held in partnership with the UT Extension Office and is aimed at providing alumni with resources to prepare simple, high-quality, healthy meals on a budget.
- Other alumni events being planned include a Virtual Voter's Rights Education with Darrah Hall (Social Justice & Civic Engagement Pillar) and Rock Climbing at High Point (Building an Alumni Leadership Community Pillar).

>> Collective Impact:

- In partnership with Tennessee College of Applied Technology, CISM will host its first-ever Voters Rights and Awareness panel. Rev. Earle J. Fisher, Ph.D. of Up the Vote 901 will moderate a panel of experts who will explore crucial topics, such as voting rights, the challenges faced by marginalized communities, and how to empower yourself and advocate for others to help create a more inclusive democracy for all.
- CISM leaders will meet for a two-day retreat focused on team building and norming, organizational and team vision and goal setting, collaborative work time, and aligning priorities. The intended outcome is a more efficient, mission-driven, and data-informed team, poised to make a significant impact this year and beyond.
- The annual convening of national CIS leaders will take place September 18-20, with this year's theme being Strengthening Our Presence to Fuel Future Success. Both Teshanda Middleton and Jessica Pontoo will be breakout presenters during the event. We anticipate a wealth of learning and networking opportunities that will benefit our affiliate.

>> Operations:

- Cohort 2 of the Scaling for Success funding initiative will be launched as we prepare to expand into 10 new charter schools.
- The 2022-23 audit and 990 will be approved by the Board.

