



June 30, 2015

Dear Friends,

Central to the work of CSS is helping schools become safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring in the service of student success. In many of my past messages, I have shared with you examples of how our student leadership programs have impacted schools across the country. Today I am pleased to share a brief overview of how we are working with schools in New York, New Jersey, and Baltimore to support and bolster the efforts for overall school improvement in these regions.

CSS partners with eight Community Schools in NYC. In June 2014, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced his [signature education initiative](#) to launch the development of innovative Community Schools that will help "fundamentally transform our education system in a way that lifts up every child." CSS is thrilled to be serving as the lead community-based organization for eight middle and high schools in New York City to support their development as Community Schools: (1) Flushing High School, (2) Foreign Language Academy for Global Studies, (3) JHS 145 Arturo Toscanini, (4) Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies, (5) MS 596 Peace Academy, (6) New Millennium Business Academy, (7) Urban Science Academy, and (8) Frederick Douglass Academy IV. In all schools, CSS will be implementing our core solutions to: build the social and emotional learning capacity of staff, students, and families; improve attendance; and improve parent and family engagement. CSS will also partner with other organizations to provide comprehensive mental health and other services to support the needs of students and families.

School spotlight: Melvin H. Kreps Middle School. Melvin H. Kreps Middle School in East Windsor, NJ has since 2013 been part of Campaign Connect, a data-informed and relationship-driven approach to enlisting whole school communities in coordinated efforts to improve student outcomes and to make schools safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring. Principal Lori Emmerson shares, "Moving through the Campaign Connect cycle has helped our school examine data, look at root causes, own the issues uncovered through the process, and think about ways to make things better for our students. The tools and resources allow multiple voices to be heard and foster honest conversation. We now have the direction we need to understand what the data really says about our school and where we need to

"What I love most is that everyone's voice is included."

-Kimberly Herrand, 7th grader at Melvin H. Kreps Middle School on her experience in Campaign Connect

focus our attention. We see the difference! Discipline referrals declined, including a decline in the number of students committing more serious offenses. Since being involved with Campaign Connect, the way we think about things has changed and you can see it in the building."

Partner spotlight: Princeton Area Community Foundation. The [Princeton Area Community Foundation](#) was the catalytic funder for Campaign Connect in New Jersey in 2012, and has committed to supporting the initiative through June 2017 for a total of five consecutive years of support. "The Princeton Area Community Foundation is a proud partner of CSS and Campaign Connect," says Michelle Cash, Vice President, Grants & Programs. "This project extends



Hightstown High School's culture team works together during a Campaign Connect event.

beyond connecting students to their schools - it builds community at the county, district, and school level and fosters lasting change. The CSS staff is great at tackling long-term, complex problems and using what they learn to inform their work. We have learned so much through working with them." CSS is so grateful to the Foundation for its ongoing support and enthusiasm for this work.

Open Society Institute-Baltimore supports CSS to improve school culture in the city. Since 2012, CSS has partnered with Baltimore City's largest high school, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School (MerVo), to implement Peer Group Connection. When Principal Craig Rivers asked us to expand our work in support of his broader vision for how MerVo can continue to evolve as a safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring school, we were eager to dive in. We greatly appreciate the [Open Society Institute-Baltimore](#) (OSI-Baltimore) for providing the funding to support our efforts to help school leaders begin to share dialogue, analyze data, and develop a tailored climate and culture strategy.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel".

Daniel F. Oscar
CEO

P.S. As always, if you'd like additional information about anything you've read, simply hit reply and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!

[Learn more about our solutions](#)