



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: AmeriCorps Success Mentoring Members for Community Schools

Every school . . . safe, supportive, engaging, and inspiring.

About Community Schools

Community Schools support the social, emotional, physical, and academic needs of students by offering a coordinated approach to increasing opportunities for young people and improving the academic performance of students through partnerships among principals, parents, teachers and community-based organizations (CBOs). Schools enter into a partnership with a local CBO to offer a “whole child, whole community” approach, looking holistically at students, families and communities to ascertain their most pressing needs and decide which services will best address those needs.

The Center for Supportive Schools will be the CBO for the schools listed below and will be coordinating the effort to find *AmeriCorps Success Mentoring Members* for each of these schools:

- Flushing High School (2 full-time, 1700-hours positions available).
- Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School (4 part-time, 900-hours positions available).
- PS 111 Jacob Blackwell School, (2 full-time, 1700-hours positions and 2 part-time, 900-hours positions available).

About Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)

The Center for Supportive Schools (CSS, formerly Princeton Center for Leadership Training) advances the efforts of schools across the country to develop all students into leaders who help make their schools *safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring*. CSS is driven by the vision that one day, all students will thrive in schools that graduate them prepared for the rigors of college and lives filled with meaningful work, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment. Our work directly addresses *disengagement from school*, a root cause of students dropping out of school and other high-risk behaviors for students in urban, suburban, rural, economically disadvantaged, or more affluent communities.

Since 1979, CSS has partnered with 500 schools and our impact can be seen in the experiences of 425,000 students. CSS partners with schools to help overcome disengagement by *engaging all members of the school community in the relationships and meaningful dialogue necessary to effect substantial and sustainable change in all students' school experiences*. We accomplish this through a thoughtful and collaborative planning, teambuilding, and training process with school leadership and other stakeholders; an intensive train-the-trainer strategy; user-friendly, rigorous, and relevant curricula; on-site technical assistance; fidelity monitoring; and program evaluation. CSS offers a wide variety of solutions, such as:

- *Peer Group Connection (PGC)*: an evidence-based, school-based program that supports and eases students' successful transitions into middle and high school by tapping into the power of older students to create a nurturing environment for incoming students.
- *Teen Prevention Education Program (Teen PEP)*: an evidence-based, school-based program that utilizes peer-to-peer education to increase responsible decision-making among students around issues of sexual health.
- *Achievement Mentoring (AM)*: a school-based prevention and intervention program, developed by Dr. Brenna Bry, that pairs adult school staff with students in one-to-one mentoring relationships proven to reduce problem behaviors, improve academics, and reduce school dropout among at-risk students.

- **Campaign Connect/Community Schools:** a comprehensive, data-driven and relationship-based approach to engaging the school community in coordinated initiatives designed to improve student outcomes.
- **Customized solutions:** CSS also creates customized solutions in response to specific needs of schools. We have designed custom solutions for over 150 public and private schools throughout the United States.

CSS is a fast-paced, collegial, and team-oriented environment where each staff member plays a critical role in changing life trajectories for students and transforming school cultures.

For more information about CSS, visit: www.supportiveschools.org.

Position Description

Title: *AmeriCorps Member for Community Schools*

General Position Description: The *AmeriCorps Member for Community Schools* will contribute to the transformation of NYC schools in low-income communities into Community Schools by increasing academic engagement and elevating student educational outcomes in the highest need schools (see above for list of schools for which CSS is the CBO). The *AmeriCorps Member for Community Schools* will serve with and be supported by Community School Directors, VISTA members, a NCCC team, community volunteers, as well as NYCDOE staff.

Position Responsibilities: The *AmeriCorps Member for Community Schools* will serve as a Student Success Mentor, to contribute to the transformation of our partner NYC Community Schools:

Success Mentor

- Work closely with Community School Directors and school principals to identify students who are chronically absent
- Recruit and train volunteer mentors, and oversee mentor-mentee engagement
- Mentor a caseload of approximately 20 chronically absent students by serving as a 'coach' and engaging families
- Participate in weekly attendance meetings with school leaders
- Attend monthly half-day trainings and quarterly Success Mentor Summits
- Meet mentees every morning to welcome them to school
- Make calls home to absent mentees
- Create connections with families to support student and family needs
- Celebrate attendance/academic benchmarks
- Meet with mentees regularly to check-in
- Work with CSD and school to identify appropriate interventions
- Work with CSD and school to identify family supports
- Monitor data regarding attendance trends, interventions and progress
- Attend school attendance team meetings
- Identify resources to use as attendance incentives

Candidate Qualifications

Education: A bachelor's degree is required.

Professional Experiences and Personal Qualities/Skills:

- Be interested in serving as a Success Mentor and a passion to improve school attendance in chronically absent students

- Be U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident
- Have earned a Bachelor's degree by August 2018
- Be subject to and pass criminal history checks
- Serve a minimum of 1700 service hours (FT) or 900 service hours (PT) during the 10-month term of service.
- Be able to serve full-time (40-45 hours/week) or part-time (20-25 hours/ week)
- Passion for working in high-needs communities, and experience working with children or in a school-setting preferred
- Commitment to community, school and students
- Understanding of community needs and resources
- Ability to work in fast-paced environment, flexible, organized and can-do attitude
- Strong communication skills
- Bilingual (Spanish) a plus
- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel) and Google Docs

Supervisor: Community School Director

Location: Each AmeriCorps Success Mentor Member will be based at one of the following schools:

- Flushing High School
- Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School
- PS 111 Jacob Blackwell School

Schedule: The AmeriCorps Member will begin service after attending a 3-day orientation (late August-early September: exact dates TBD). Upon successful completion of orientation, members will serve from late August 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Benefits:

- Biweekly living allowance of \$705 (FT) or \$410 (PT)
- 30-day unlimited MetroCard each month for duration of 10-month term of service
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,920 (FT) or \$2,960 (PT) upon successful completion of the term of service
- Limited health care benefits (FT members only)
- Child care subsidy (Eligible FT members only)
- Loan forbearance for eligible student loans
- Monthly educational seminars and professional development
- Interest accrual repayment upon successful completion of service

To Apply

Deadline to apply is July 15, 2018. Interested applicants are requested to *apply immediately* by emailing a cover letter and CV/résumé to resumes@supportiveschools.org. Please include (1) the title of the position in the subject line of your email and (2) where you found the position posting in your cover letter. If possible, please email all documents in PDF format. People of color are strongly encouraged to apply. NYC Department of Education fingerprinting and background clearances will be required.

Center for Supportive Schools is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive hiring and dedicated to diversity in its work and staff. CSS's Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action related policies are available upon request.