



## **CIS Cape Fear seeks federal grant support to sustain Pender County afterschool programming**

BURGAW – Communities In Schools of Cape Fear is applying for funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant for the 2024-2027 school years. The three-year grant cements the future for existing CIS afterschool programming at six school sites across Pender County.

The purpose of Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Program is to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours providing academic support, quality enrichment experiences and family engagement opportunities.

CIS Cape Fear's six Pender County afterschool programs incorporate targeted tutoring, homework help, and engaging activities daily, with transportation provided thanks to a partnership with Pender County Schools. Students enjoy field trips, college tours, robotics teams, and visits from community partners ranging from animal encounters with the I Am Herd Mustang Sanctuary to hands on demonstrations with UNCW's Marine Science Department. If awarded, the grant will allow CIS to continue to provide these free opportunities at Burgaw Middle School, Cape Fear Middle School, West Pender Middle School, Penderlea School, Heide Trask High School, and Pender High School.

For nearly 20 years, CIS Cape Fear has worked to ensure students have what they need to be successful in the classroom and in life. In addition to community programs like afterschool, summer camps, and young parent support, CIS places trained staff directly inside 30 targeted, high-need public schools to work with vulnerable students and those with the greatest risk of dropping out of school. CIS staff link students and their families with resources including mental health counseling, tutoring, attendance monitoring, mentoring and enrichment activities. Last year, CIS Cape Fear provided services to more than 22,000 families across Pender and New Hanover counties.

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