



School Supplies help fight Chronic Absenteeism

Join CIS Cape Fear's 26th Annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive

WILMINGTON, NC (August 4, 2026) – Communities In Schools of Cape Fear invites the community to support local students during the 26th Annual Stuff the Bus school supply drive on Thursday, August 13. Donations will help students in New Hanover and Pender counties start the school year with the supplies they need to succeed.

Access to basic school supplies can remove barriers that contribute to chronic absenteeism by helping students feel prepared, confident and ready to attend class.

"When students return to school with the supplies they need, they're more confident, more engaged and ready to learn," said CIS Cape Fear Communications Manager Kendall Englehart. "Something as simple as a backpack or notebook can reduce stress for families and help remove barriers to attendance. Stuff the Bus is our community's way of making sure every student starts the year prepared."

On Thursday, August 13, from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m., school buses will be stationed at Office Depot Hanover Center and Staples on College Road to accept donations of new school supplies. Once the school buses leave the lot, all items will be sorted by volunteers and distributed to students in need across Pender and New Hanover counties.

Can't make it to a CIS Bus Stop? No problem. Donation barrels are available now at dozens of participating businesses and community organizations across the region. An interactive map of all drop off locations is available [here on the CIS website.](#)

EASY WAYS TO HELP:

- 1. Visit Office Depot Hanover Center or Staples on College Road on August 13 and load your donations into our school bus from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- 2. Drop off your donations now [at a nearby Stuff the Bus barrel across the region](#)**
- 3. Support students without leaving home by shopping the [CIS Amazon Wish List](#)**

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Communities In Schools of Cape Fear places staff directly inside 35 targeted, high-need public K-12 schools across New Hanover and Pender counties. Student Support Specialists link students and their families to caring adults and community resources that help them see, confront, and overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future.

Kendall McGee Englehart, Communities In Schools of Cape Fear Communications Manager