City Connects
What Is City Connects?

An evidence-based and school-based practice for school counselors and school social workers that integrates education with existing social services, youth development, health, and mental health resources.

What Does It Do?

01
Creates, for every student in a school, networks of support and opportunity

02
Drives the right resources to the right child at the right time, over time

03
Gets results, including reduced dropout rates
Our Core Practice

- Review of every student with their teacher
- Proposed plan & tier
- Families
- Community partners
- Tailored support plan for every student
- Feedback
- Follow up

Individual student review
City Connects produces positive outcomes for students

Elementary School

- Positive social-emotional outcomes in school
- Higher academic performance
- Higher attendance rates
- Higher statewide test scores
- Increased attendance rates in every grade
- Lower rates of repeating a grade
- Lower high-school dropout rates
- Decreased chronic absenteeism
- More likely to enter/complete post-secondary education

Long-term outcomes

- More opportunities for life
Elementary School

Positive social-emotional outcomes in school

Higher statewide test scores

Higher attendance rates

Lower rates of repeating a grade

Higher academic performance

City Connects students achieve higher statewide test scores

City Connects students are less likely to dropout of high school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drop out rate</th>
<th>City Connects</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Generation, Immigrant, and English Language Learner Students</th>
<th>Black and Latino Students</th>
<th>Students Receiving Special Education Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Improved Student Achievement</td>
<td>• Reduced dropout rates</td>
<td>• Reduction in Overall Special Education Placement Rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Narrowed Academic Gaps in Math and English</td>
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<td>• Declines in Black male students being erroneously assigned to special education</td>
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## Positive Impacts on **Teachers and Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers are <strong>significantly more likely to choose to stay</strong> in a school</td>
<td>Evidence Demonstrates that City Connects is associated with a host of</td>
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<td>with integrated support in place, such as City Connects</td>
<td>positive impacts on schools, including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Increased work satisfaction</td>
<td>- Overall increased <strong>positive school climate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Feeling more supported in their jobs</td>
<td>- <strong>Narrowed academic gaps</strong></td>
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<td>- Expanded understanding of students</td>
<td>- Helped schools exit “Turnaround” status more quickly</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Stronger relationships</strong> with students and their families</td>
<td>- Sustains positive effects of early education</td>
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<td>- More responsive curricular choices</td>
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*City Connects Optimized Student Support*
Positive Impacts for Taxpayers

The Center for Benefit Cost Studies of Education at The University of Pennsylvania has analyzed the return on investment of the City Connects system of integrated student support by comparing benefits to costs.

- When accounting for both the cost of implementation and the cost of comprehensive services to which children and families get connected, City Connects produces **$3 in benefits for every $1 invested**

- If effective integrated student support were widely implemented, existing investments in children and families could produce **triple the benefits**

In a City Connects school, compared to a typical school, on average $5,400 per student worth of services from community partners are leveraged in support of student wellbeing and readiness to learn, driving outcomes.
Scaling City Connects in Indiana

- City Connects at the Center for Vibrant Schools, Marian University supports local implementation.
- IN uses a combination of state and federal funds to provide grants to schools, districts, and support local implementation capacity building at Marian.
- The City of Indianapolis is using City Connects data to develop a dashboard to help direct municipal and philanthropic resources more efficiently to meet the needs and interests of children and families.
In the 2022-23 school year

- **65 schools** implemented in 2022-23 school year
- **Over 17,000 students** were served
- **310 community partners** provided services to students
- **Over 79,000 services** were delivered to students

**82 Indiana schools** are implementing City Connects in 2023-24
Preliminary Findings

6th and 8th graders in City Connects schools demonstrated **statistically significant** increases in ELA proficiency when compared to peers in schools without City Connects.
Preliminary Findings

ELL students in City Connects schools had statistically significant improvement in Math proficiency compared to their peers in schools without City Connects.

![Graph showing percentage of ELL students proficient in ILEARN Math, City Connects vs. other Indiana schools.](image)
Feedback from principals in City Connects schools

Indiana principals reported that City Connects impacted their schools in a range of areas.

How helpful has City Connects been at impacting the following in your school?

- School climate: Very Helpful 46%, Somewhat Helpful 42%
- The quality of supports and enrichments provided to students in your school: Very Helpful 49%, Somewhat Helpful 39%
- Student health and well-being: Very Helpful 50%, Somewhat Helpful 37%
- Student classroom behavior: Very Helpful 44%, Somewhat Helpful 42%
- The number of community-based service providers in your school: Very Helpful 39%, Somewhat Helpful 44%
- Student learning/academic achievement (i.e., grades): Very Helpful 30%, Somewhat Helpful 52%
- Teacher ability to support students in the classroom: Very Helpful 44%, Somewhat Helpful 35%
- Teacher ability to focus on instruction: Very Helpful 34%, Somewhat Helpful 45%
- The appropriateness of Special Education referrals: Very Helpful 28%, Somewhat Helpful 47%
Feedback from teachers in Indiana City Connects schools

● “City Connects is an incredible bridge between the student, families, teacher, and school. The support the students get is invaluable. They have a place they truly feel is a safe space and ask to use it when necessary. My coordinator also advocates strongly for every student.”

● “The biggest enhancement has been being able to consider the whole student when I am planning, instructing, and providing feedback. For instance, there is a student who had vision concerns that I did not know about. I was able to adjust seating and provide printed notes for the student. There was also an instance where a family was provided services and it made working with the parent regarding academics much smoother.”

● “This has been a wonderful resource for our school. A complete game changer to have support on site for our students’ wraparound services and needs.”
Key: Quality

States are advancing on three policy trajectories:

1. Advancing frameworks and best practices
2. Incentivizing the implementation of evidence-based models
3. A hybrid approach
Questions
THANK YOU

For any questions, please email
joan.wassergish@bc.edu
rbehning@marian.edu
jlain@marian.edu

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