



Corporate Social Responsibility

Citizen Schools

Citizen Schools addresses the U.S. dropout crisis by offering expanded educational opportunities to under-served students.



The issue

In the United States, 2.2 million students attend high schools that qualify as “dropout factories,” where half fail to graduate with their class.



Citizen Schools' Expanded Learning Time model and volunteers—called “Citizen Teachers”—help under-served students boost academic readiness for high school and inspiration for a range of future career options.

If we wait until high school to intervene with underserved students, we will be too late. Smart study habits and an interest in college and career need to be established even earlier, which is why Citizen Schools partners with low-performing middle schools to add a “second shift” of educators to the typical school day, including professional teaching staff and Citizen Teachers. Since 2009, with Cisco’s support of US\$1.27 million in cash and products, and with the volunteerism of 125+ employees as Citizen Teachers, Citizen Schools is reaching more students in more schools, enhancing their learning opportunities, and preparing them for success in high school, college, and the 21st century workforce.



Networks

Human Networks:

Teachers, students, school administrators, “Citizen Teacher” volunteers, and Cisco employees and leadership

Technology Networks:

Voice and CME gateways (routers), unified workspace licenses and servers, LAN switches, phones and CUVA cameras, wireless infrastructure UCS server, ASA firewalls



66%

of Boston Citizen Schools alumni now of college age have enrolled in a two- or four-year college



90%

of Citizen Schools alumni realized proficiency gains in English and math



71%

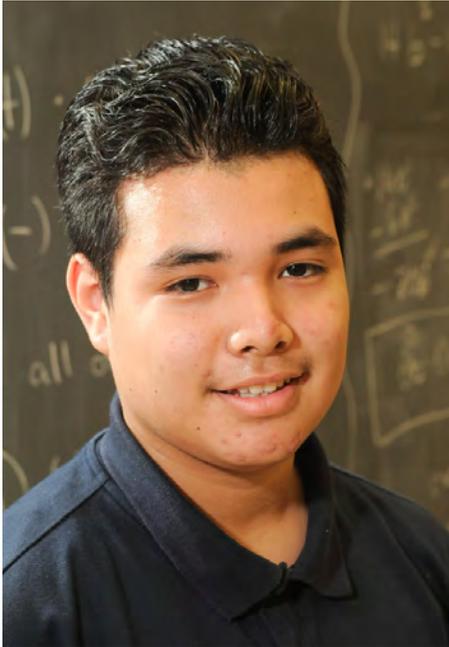
of Citizen Schools students graduate on time, versus 59% for non-participants



125

Cisco employees have served as Citizen Teachers since 2009, leading 65 apprenticeships

you + networks = impact^x



The Issue

In the United States, high school graduation rates are low in under-served communities, and only 4 out of 10 students will go to college. To reverse the trend, researchers know that students need to be engaged and inspired as early as middle school, where success is measured in terms of grades and behavior. Johns Hopkins University researchers have found that sixth grade students who fell behind in math or English had only a 10 to 20 percent chance of graduating on time. If schools are unable to engage students while they are still in middle school, a vital opportunity to help them develop key academic readiness skills and "college knowledge" is lost. Additionally, under-educated citizens face a future entrenched in poverty, cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars, and affect the nation's competitiveness in a global economy.

Human Networks

With Cisco's support as a National Partnership Leader, Citizen Schools and its Citizen Teachers are inspiring middle school students to succeed in school, dream of college and careers, and reach their full potential. Through Citizen Schools' Expanded Learning Time (ELT) model, educational experts emphasize academic readiness and 21st century skills, provide homework and class project guidance, and help build study skills. Additionally, Citizen Teacher-led apprenticeships—particularly math and science-based apprenticeships—are helping students envision potential careers and fostering a future workforce of people skilled in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

"Kids who have been in Citizen Schools not only enroll in college-track high schools at a higher rate, they do better in high school, they finish high school at a higher rate and go on to college at a higher rate. It gets them motivated and thinking about 'what are my goals and what do I want to do after college and what do I do now to put me on a path to those goals.'"

– Macy Parker, Director of Professional Development and former Campus Director at Elmhurst Community Prep, Citizen Schools

Technology Networks

With a donation of Cisco's ICT products, Citizen Schools has connected its staff, academic fellows, program directors, and school partners across the seven states and 31 sites it serves. Efficiencies and donations have helped the organization save approximately \$125,000 in equipment costs, increase productivity, and cut down on travel time and expenses. Cisco is also supporting US2020, a national initiative (incubated at Citizen Schools) to bring more STEM expert volunteers into the classroom to create even more learning opportunities and role models for underserved students.

Impact^x

With Cisco support since 2009, Citizen Schools has been able to expand its ELT program from 10 schools in five states to 31 sites in seven states serving 4900 students with 4000 volunteers in the 2013-14 academic year. Cisco employees are among the largest group of Citizen Teachers, with more than 44 volunteers offering 23 apprenticeships in 2012 alone, on such topics as robotics, web design and networking, customer service, mergers and acquisitions, branding and marketing, and documentary filmmaking.

More Information

To contact Cisco about its partnership with Citizen Schools, please visit:

csr.cisco.com

csr.cisco.com



Cisco Corporate Social Responsibility

We believe that businesses have a responsibility to operate in ways that respect and ultimately benefit people, communities, and the planet we live on; we call this Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Our core CSR philosophy is that impact multiplies whenever human and technology networks combine to solve a problem.

This is why we approach CSR the same way we approach business—by applying our technology, employee expertise, and partnerships. We are focused on four primary goals: improving the well-being of people and communities around the world, reducing our environmental impact and helping our customers do the same, conducting our business ethically, and creating a workplace where our employees thrive.