



## The “Five Basics” of Communities In Schools: School Success Profile Report Card for 2001-2002

### The Five Basics and Youth Outcomes

The year 2002 was the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Communities In Schools (CIS); it was also the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the School Success Profile (SSP). For both the CIS Program and the SSP Project Team at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this gave good reason to celebrate. CIS has played a critical role in the development of the SSP. We are very grateful to CIS for their ongoing support and valuable feedback.

We surveyed nearly 13,000 students in the 2001-02 school year. Nearly one-half of the students surveyed were students participating in CIS programs. We took the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIS as an opportunity to use the SSP results to develop a brief report on the “Five Basics” for the 5,950 students who were CIS participants.

Three indicators from the SSP were used to assess each of the “Five Basics” (see Table 1). The percentage to the right of each indicator is the proportion of students who gave an affirmative response. Figure 1 on the next page shows the link between the number of the “Five Basics” and various outcomes for youth.

**Table 1**

<b>Basic #1: Relationships with caring adults</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth feel adults in their neighborhood like young people.	70
Youth feel teachers at their school like young people.	68
Youth feel loved by the adults in their home.	63
<b>Basic #2: Safe places to learn and grow</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth feel safe in their neighborhood.	76
Youth feel safe on the way to and from school.	70
Youth feel safe at school.	70
<b>Basic #3: A healthy start</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth describe their health as either very good or excellent.	56
Youth exercise or play sports regularly.	51
Youth feel positive about themselves.	69
<b>Basic #4: Marketable skills and a sense of direction</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth feel they are getting a good education.	79
Youth feel school is very helpful in preparing them for the future.	42
Youth want to go to college or join the military after high school.	71
<b>Basic # 5: A chance to give back to peers and community</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth are helpful to others at school.	85
Youth do chores around the house.	89
Youth do volunteer work to help others in the community.	32

# The “Five Basics” of Communities In Schools: School Success Profile Report Card for 2001-2002

## The Five Basics and Youth Outcomes

In the second analysis (Figure I below), we counted the number of the “Five Basics” that students had present in their lives. A “Basic” for any given student was counted as present if the student gave an affirmative response to at least two of the three indicators. Using this procedure, we simply counted how many of the “Basics” each student had in place.

Fortunately, all CIS participants had at least one “Basic.” Consequently, each student received a score from 1 to 5 “Basics.” More than one-third of the students (38%) had all five “Basics” in place, 32% had four, 19% had three, 8% had two, and the remaining 3% had one.

When we looked at youth development outcomes by the number of “Basics” that students reported, the story is quite compelling, but not surprising, from a CIS perspective. The greater the number of “Basics,” the greater the proportion of students who reported getting along with others at school, earning C’s or better on their most recent report card, having no warnings sent home in the past 30 days for behavior or academic performance, feeling that somebody cares about them, and engaging in extracurricular activities. Each of these outcomes is either an indicator of school success or is associated with school success. In summary, these findings provide a great deal of support to the power of asset accumulation in the lives of CIS students.

**Figure I**

