

Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County

Annual Report



Executive Director's Message

It is so hard to believe that we are at the end of the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. As we reflect on the last year, we are so THANKFUL to be able to work in this community and to continue to serve our youth. CSS is constantly seeking new ways to better serve and to help students experience success- today and in the future! This past year was a “tremendous year” in terms of new challenges and new opportunities! On a very positive note, CSS has recently relocated to 111 S. Center Street. Our new home provides space for after-school activities and expansion of student programs for our youth.

Here are a few highlights from the past school year:

- Youth were served throughout the year in ten schools.
- CSS continues to find volunteers for the “reading buddy” program in 4 elementary schools (Brogden Primary, Carver Elementary, Carver Heights Elementary, and North Drive Elementary)
- A new mentoring program was begun at Dillard middle, and CSS still has a presence at Brogden Middle, Grantham Middle, and Mount Olive Middle providing a variety of support services for our students.
- High school services are provided at Southern Wayne and Spring Creek High. In these schools, the focus is on attendance, career, and high school graduation.
- Two Restorative Justice Programs are provided to our youth (accountability circles and community service).
- We have launched our CSS Cultural “Arts for Youth” program.

Although we know how important data is, we also know that much of the work that we do does not show immediate results. We can quickly see test results that indicate improvement in academics, behavior, and attendance. We easily see the impact of dedicated, caring adults working with our students either as a teacher, a volunteer, or a mentor. What we do NOT see quickly is the impact that this work will have on the future of a student.

CSS provides those “additional layers of support” in an effort to help a student learn, grow, and thrive. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” This quote, by Nelson Mandela, is one of my favorites. If we can teach our youth to value education, then we can help them change their world.

Any achievements that CSS makes is directly related to the continued assistance that we have received through our “family of support. This support includes our dedicated staff, board members, donors, volunteers, businesses, the faith-based community, and individuals who care about the youth in Wayne County. CSS is so proud to work in a community where such great relationships and partnerships are thriving- all to benefit our youth.



Selena J. Bennett

Selena Bennett
Executive Director
CSS of Wayne



Welcome to the Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County Annual Meeting. The purpose of CSS is to provide opportunities for students to stay in school, graduate, and be successful in life. This is accomplished through our programming, intervention programs and resources. 2025 has been a busy year for CSS as we had success coaches at twelve schools, continued our Restorative Justice programs, experienced the largest-ever attendance at our Have a Heart Fundraiser, moved to a new location (be sure to check us out at 111 S. Center Street, Goldsboro) and introduced our new Cultural Arts Program.. My father was an educator for 42 years and served as a role model for me and so many others. He always reminded me that education can make a difference in one's life.

Because of his influence, I have followed in his footsteps and am DILL-Lighted to serve as the Communities Supporting Schools Chairperson. CSS partners with many local organizations to provide resources and community support. Thank you for your continued support of Communities Supporting Schools, and together, we make a difference.

Julie Beck
Julie Beck
 CSS Board Chair



About Us

Our Mission

The mission of Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County is to provide opportunities for students to stay in school, graduate and be successful in life.

Our History

In 1992 a task force was organized to create a Communities in Schools agency in Wayne County. The agency first opened their doors in the spring of 1993 when they hired their first executive director and were granted 501-(c)3 non-profit status. The name eventually changed to Communities Supporting Schools but the mission has stayed the same; serve youth in Wayne County.

How We Do It

CSS of Wayne provides “wrap around and support” for students in Wayne County. By keeping our eyes on the vision and the mission of our work, strategic partnerships and relationships have been established through the years. The impact of this work is not accomplished by a few people, but by a community of support. Serving our youth requires donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff and board members. The goal is to equip our youth to be successful!

CSS Receives County Wide Support from...



- ★ CSS Staff
- ★ CSS Board of Directors
- ★ Wayne County Public Schools
- ★ Law Enforcement
- ★ Private Businesses
- ★ United Way
- ★ Civic Organizations
- ★ Faith-based Organizations
- ★ Individual Donors
- ★ University of Mt. Olive
- ★ Wayne Community College



**“ Intelligence plus character -
that is the goal of true
education.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ”**

Success Coaches

Success Coaches serve at selected elementary, middle and high schools focusing on drop out prevention. The Success Coaches will help to identify students in need of additional support and at risk of dropping out.

The Coaches work closely with students to achieve academic success and stay on track to graduate with their peers. Success Coaches use a variety of strategies, intervention programs and resources to promote student success and ensure graduation.

Our Schools

- Carver Heights Elementary
- Carver Elementary School
- Brogden Primary
- North Drive Elementary
- Brogden Middle
- Mt. Olive Middle
- Grantham Middle
- Dillard Middle
- Spring Creek High School
- Southern Wayne High School



Reading Buddies

Volunteers from the community volunteer at select schools as Reading Buddies. Reading Buddies engage with students by reading stories aloud. This supports the students learning while building strong connections in the community.

325

students served through
reading programs

My little buddy was Maria. She was very shy and her teacher told me the only words she knew were “hello” and “bathroom”... my insides plummeted to the floor. But I decided that she and I would muddle through somehow. I found a book called “Twelve Monsters” that suited us perfectly. It was in English but we could point to the number of monsters and say the words. I said the numbers in Spanish and told her the numbers in English then she repeated. We went through the book five times and by the time our “session” was over, she was counting from one to twelve perfectly in English on her own. It was wonderful. With the little bit of Spanish I did know, I could sometimes understand her when she said something to me. Each time she realized that I could understand what she was trying to tell me, her face just lit up. I was teaching her and she was teaching me. She is precious! My meeting with little Maria did me the WORLD of good!

Sharon Price
Reading Buddy Volunteer

Volunteers



Communities Supporting Schools is so proud and thankful to ALL of our volunteers across each of our programs. We would not be able to provide these services to students without their valuable contributions.

This year, we were thrilled to celebrate Reading Buddy Madison Burwell, who was recognized as a recipient of the 2025 Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding contributions to our community.

200+ Volunteers + **9,260** Hours of Service = **\$314,840** Donated Value
\$34 an hour



“

Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.

-Heather French Henry

”

Reading Buddies Needed

Looking for Reading Buddies to volunteer at select elementary schools in Wayne County.

Our Schools

Carver Heights Elementary

411 Bunche Dr, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Point of Contact: Robin DeVeaux | rdeveaux@waynecss.org or

Nikki Jackson | njackson@waynecss.org

Carver Elementary

400 Old Seven Springs Rd, Mt Olive, NC 28365

Point of Contact: Wendy Hooks | whooks@waynecss.org

Brogden Primary

2253 Old Mount Olive Hwy Dudley, NC 28333

Point of Contact: Becky Dixon | bdixon@waynecss.org

North Drive Elementary

1108 North Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27534

Point of Contact: Velma Hartsfield | vhartsfield@waynecss.org



Volunteers Needed

Become a Teen Court Volunteer and make a difference in YOUR community!

Adults and teens are invited to volunteer!
Visit www.waynecss.org/teen-court or call (919) 735-1432 for more information!

New Staff

Dr. Earl Moore, *Mentoring Coordinator*



Dr. Earl W. Moore, Jr. is a retired WCPS principal. Dr. Moore began working with CSS in December of 2024 as the Mentoring Coordinator at Dillard Middle School, securing and supervising mentors from the local community and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. These mentors work one-on-one with students to build skills such as career goals, academics, behaviors, motivation, and making positive choices. Dr. Moore also brings in guest speakers to help inspire, motivate, and educate the students.

Velma Hartsfield, *Success Coach*



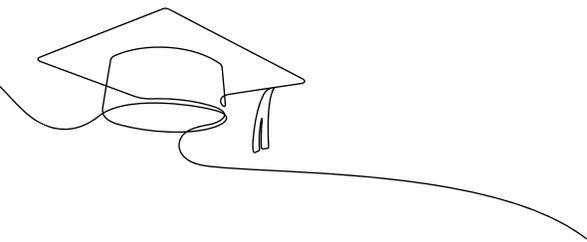
Velma Hartsfield is a retired WCPS educator, having retired from North Drive Elementary as a teacher. Mrs. Hartsfield is back at North Drive Elementary as a success coach with CSS, leading the reading buddy program there. Mrs. Hartsfield began with CSS in August 2025, recruiting, training, and leading volunteers to help students achieve academic success and improve literacy objectives.

Retirements

Nancy Lancaster, *Success Coach*



Nancy Lancaster was hired to begin the “reading buddy” program at Brogden Primary in August of 2021. Nancy is an educator with a heart for helping children succeed. I knew what an asset Nancy would be at Brogden Primary because not only had I taught with her years ago, but she taught one of my own children in both the third and the fifth grades! Nancy’s love for children and her dedication to teaching children to read was contagious. She began building a program, recruiting volunteers, and working tirelessly with the administration and staff at Brogden Primary to build a successful program. While our CSS family was sorry to have Nancy retire in May 2025 (from her second career), we are so happy that Nancy is enjoying some of the things that she is interested in doing in retirement. Many thanks for a “job well done!”



The Restorative Justice Program

Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS 2024-2025

**89% OF YOUTH COMPLETED
COMMUNITY SERVICE**



This was a 10% increase in successful completions compared to last year.

125 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

This year our Restorative Justice Program served 125 youth.



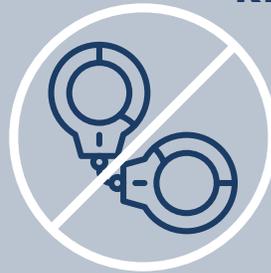
**76% OF YOUTH
COMPLETED
TEEN COURT**

This is a 9% increase in successful completions compared to last year.



REDUCED RECIDIVISM

97% of youth who successfully completed Teen Court had no new offences.



Our Data

5,391

School Service Hours



Individual students case managed at middle and high school: **375**

Students served through group/schoolwide services: **7,000**

Students served through elementary reading programs: **325**

Students served through Restorative Justice programs: **125**

182

Donors



\$116,004

Donations

\$15,000

In-Kind Donations

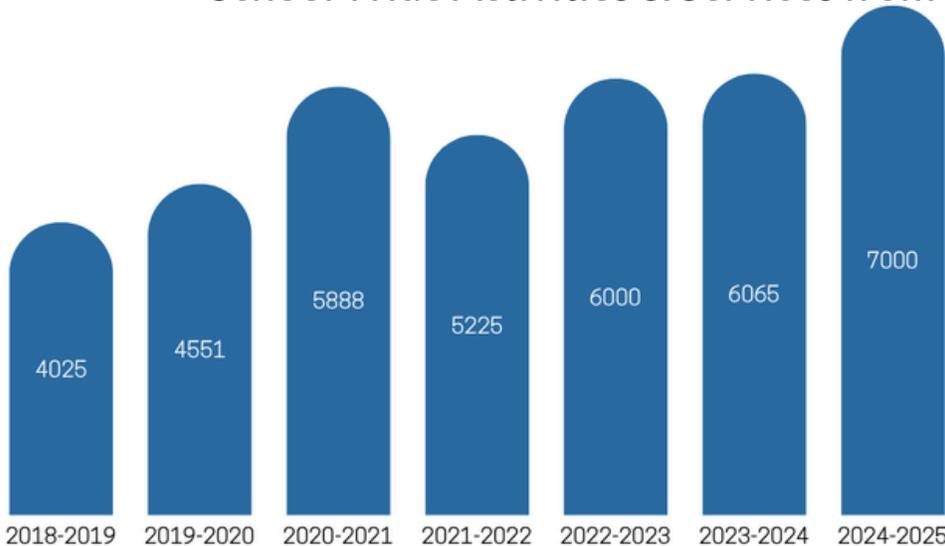
95%

of students served graduated or were promoted to the next grade in WCPS.

The other 5% of students transferred out of district or data could not be found.

Historical Data

School Wide Activities & Services from the Past Seven Years:



2018-2019: 4,025 students served

2019-2020: 4,551 students served

2020-2021: 5,888 students served

2021-2022: 5,255 students served

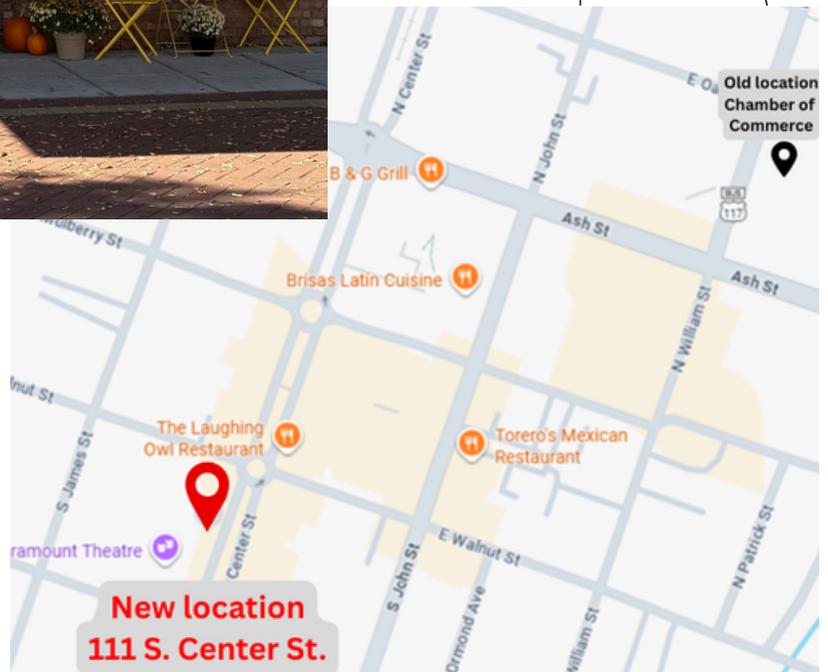
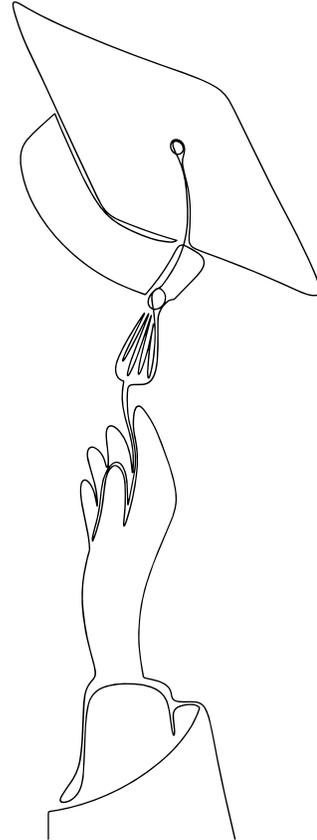
2022-2023: 6,000 students served

2023-2024: 6,065 students served

2024-2025: 7,000 students served

New Location

After a long upfit campaign and interior renovation - CSS has finally MOVED to our new office space in Downtown Goldsboro. We are now located in the historic Acme Theater Building at 111 S. Center St.





Have a Heart for Kids

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

MAY

THUR

7

6-9PM

2026

Goldsboro Event Center
1501 S. Slocumb St.

\$100 per couple

Ticket Includes: Entry for two, one reverse
raffle ticket and silent auction

Tickets can be purchased at waynecss.org, through
a CSS board member, or through our office

Office: 919-735-1432

Have a Heart for Kids

and consider being a sponsor

PRESENTING

\$5,000

- Sponsorship recognition
- 10 Reverse Raffle Tickets

DIAMOND

\$2,500

- Sponsorship recognition
- 8 Reverse Raffle Tickets

PLATINUM

\$1,500

- Sponsorship recognition
- 7 Reverse Raffle Tickets

GOLD

\$1,000

- Sponsorship recognition
- 6 Reverse Raffle Tickets

SILVER

\$500

- Sponsorship recognition
- 5 Reverse Raffle Tickets

BRONZE

\$250

- Sponsorship recognition
- 3 Reverse Raffle Tickets

DONOR

\$100

- Dinner for 2
- 1 Reverse Raffle Ticket

FRIENDS

\$50-99

- 1 VIP Event Attendance Ticket
- Access to Silent & Live Auction

NEW

Checks may be made payable to Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County, PO Box 11557 Goldsboro, NC 27532. Thank you in advance for your support

Tax ID Number: 58-2069233



**We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to
Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County**



Communities Supporting Schools
Of Wayne County, Inc.



Wendy Hooks
Associate Director



Selena Bennett
Executive Director



Cassey Curran
Restorative Justice
Program Director



Angie Rains
Success Coach



Nancy Lancaster
Success Coach
Retired Summer '25



Dr. Earl Moore
Mentoring
Coordinator



Greg Batts
Success Coach



Mary Kay James
Success Coach



Velma Hartsfield
Success Coach



Robin DeVeaux
Success Coach



Sharon Patterson
Success Coach



Terri McKay
Success Coach



Veda McNair
Success Coach



Nikki Jackson
Success Coach



Dawn Amory
Data Management



Becky Dixon
Success Coach



STAY IN TOUCH

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@cssofwayne 
@cssofwayne 

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Justin Minshew



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