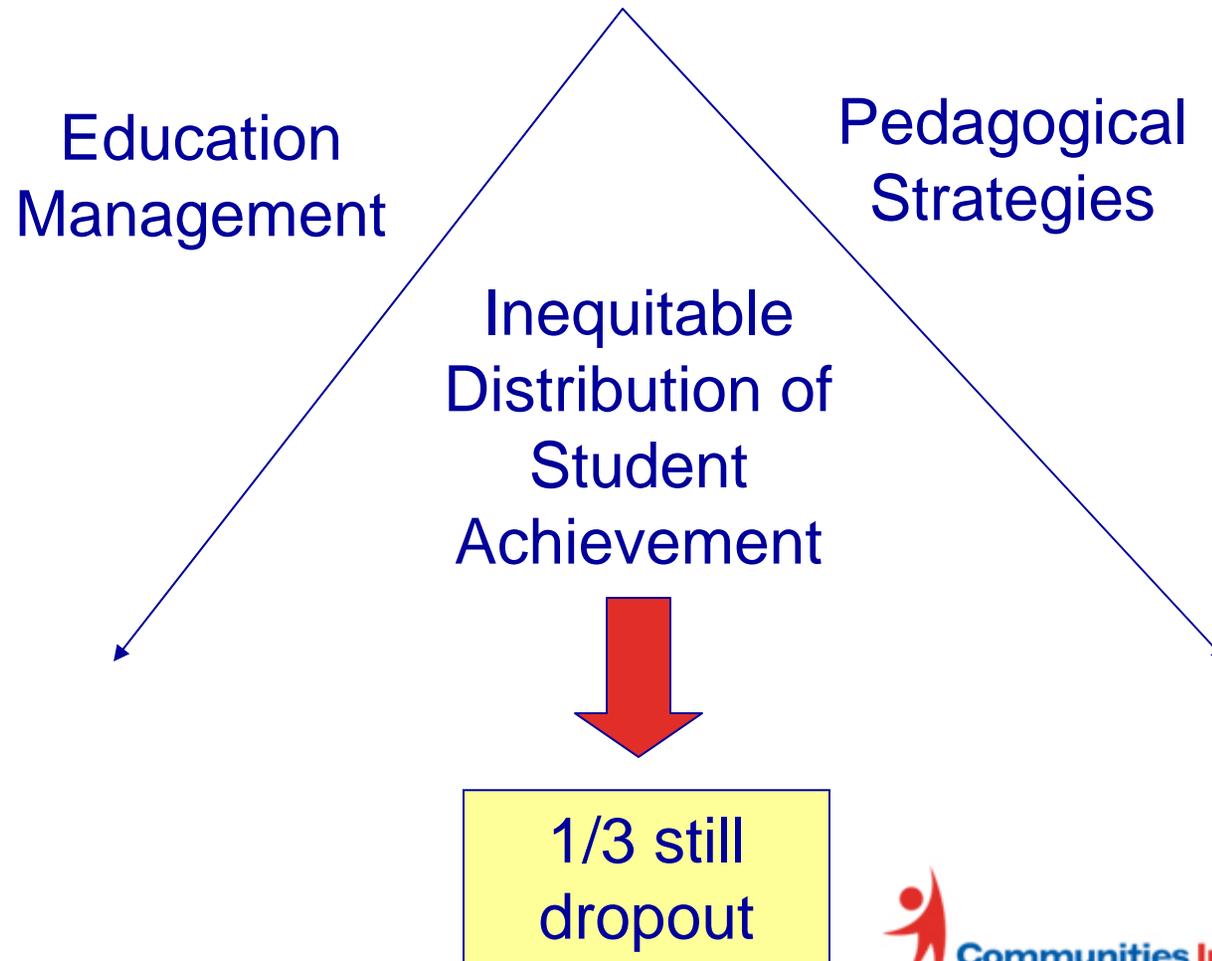


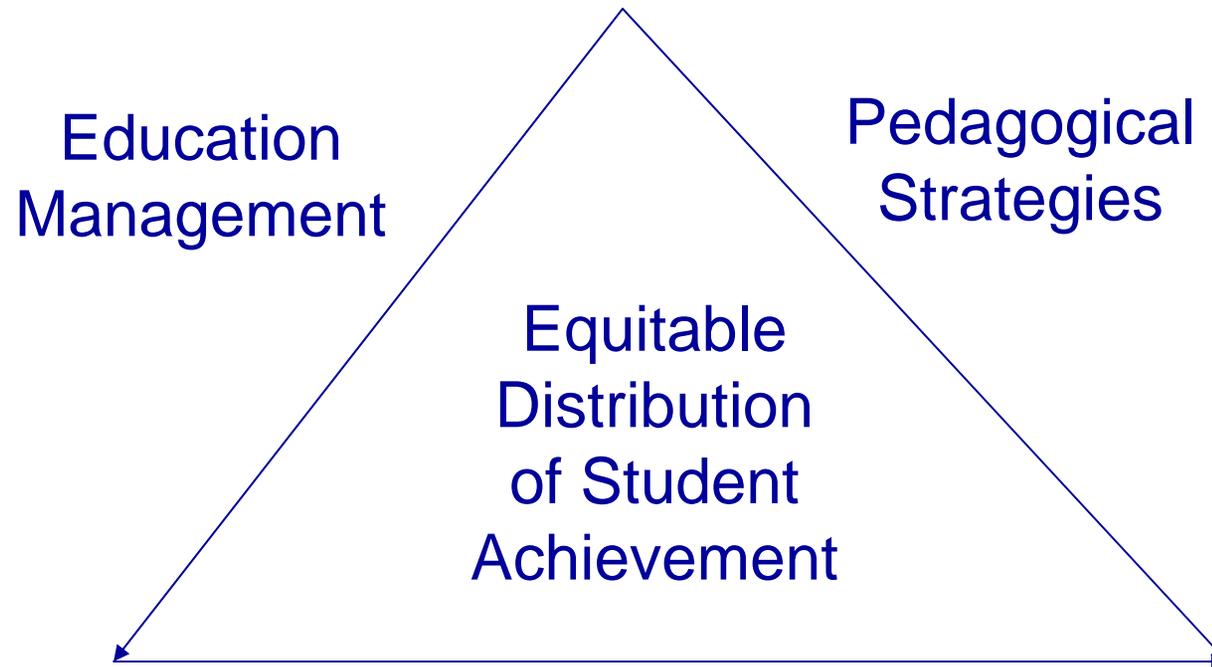
Integrated Student Services: A Strategy for Closing the Achievement Gap

December 14, 2009

Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gap



Integrated student services: a critical element of successful public education



Integrated Student Services



Integrated Student Services

“...are interventions that improve student achievement by connecting community resources with both the academic and social service needs of students. Such interventions focus programmatic energy, resources and time on shared school and student goals. Through the efforts of a single point of contact, individual student needs are assessed, and research-based connections are made between students and targeted community resources.”*



The CIS National Evaluation

- Study conducted by ICF International
- Design meets or exceeds scientifically-based research standards of the U.S. Department of Education
- Five-year, longitudinal evaluation



Does Integrated Student Services
improve student achievement?

Major Findings from the School-Level Studies

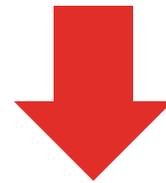
1. Among dropout prevention programs using scientifically-based evidence, Communities In Schools' model is proven to keep students in school and *increase graduation rates*, graduating students on time with a regular diploma.
2. When implemented with high fidelity, the CIS Model results in a higher percentage of students reaching proficiency in fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math.
3. Effective implementation of the CIS Model correlates more strongly with positive school-level outcomes than does the uncoordinated provision of services alone.

Teacher Effectiveness Study

- Surveys collected from over 1,500 teachers from CIS schools throughout the United States
- Purpose of survey was to gauge link between CIS and teacher effectiveness
- Results extremely positive:
 1. Ninety percent of teachers felt CIS improved his/her effectiveness; and
 2. Teachers reported that CIS improved their effectiveness because it increased student preparation for and attitudes toward learning.

Integrated Student Services' impact on closing the Achievement Gap

- Over 77% of CIS students are Latino and African-American
- Over 90% are on free and reduced-prices lunch
- The vast majority of CIS schools are majority minority schools



Integrated Student Services provides an essential component to closing the achievement gap.

Policy recommendation:

Establish integrated student services as a *critical component of public education*:

- Turn around strategy for low performing schools
- Essential element to school reform/re-design efforts
- Essential element to closing the achievement gap

Current federal policy opportunities:

- Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged (PACE) Act
 - Provides \$1.3 billion over 5 years for school-based coordinators and integrated student services
- The Secondary School Innovation Act
 - Provides \$500 million annual grants program for 5 years
 - Integrated student service provision
- The GPA Act Graduation Promise Act (GPA Act) Act
 - Provides \$2.5 billion annually for high school improvement and dropout prevention