

*The Last Dropout: Stop the Epidemic* is a non-fiction book by Bill Milliken, founder and vice chairman of Communities In Schools (CIS). It addresses one of the biggest social issues of our time, the American dropout crisis. One out of three students in the United States does not graduate from high school – creating an epidemic that will have a lasting impact on the future of our country. *The Last Dropout* explains how the entire community can and must play a role in education reform, reversing this startling trend. Milliken believes that together, the business, non-profit, public policy and education sectors can fix this issue and have students graduate school prepared for life.

The book, published by Hay House, also offers nine key principles that CIS has tested over three decades. Interwoven are the dramatic life stories of CIS founder Bill Milliken and his colleagues, during a journey that began in the turbulent 1960s as youth workers with a spiritual mission struggled to turn around the lives of dropouts and addicts. It traces the evolution of the CIS movement from a handful of groundbreaking “street academies” to a national network of hundreds of local affiliates. *The Last Dropout* also features stories about how CIS leaders have adopted these principles in their own communities with stunning results.

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- Praised by luminaries including, Patty Stonesifer, CEO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Joel Klein, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education; and Russell Simmons, Founder, Def Jam Music and Phat Fashions, *The Last Dropout* offers a practical, proven strategy that has successfully been implemented by CIS.
- *The Last Dropout: Stop the Epidemic* will be released on September 18, 2007. It is now available for pre-order at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) and [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com) for \$14.95.
- All author proceeds are being donated to CIS, the nation’s largest dropout prevention organization.
- Author Bill Milliken has been a tireless advocate for disenfranchised youth and one of the foremost pioneers in the movement to connect schools with community resources. He has written two other books: *So Long, Sweet Jesus* and *Tough Love*.

**About “The Last Dropout:  
Stop the Epidemic” by Bill Milliken**





**Communities In Schools**  
HELPING KIDS STAY IN SCHOOL AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

## About Communities In Schools

### ***Who We Are and What We Do***

Communities In Schools (CIS) is the largest dropout prevention organization in the United States. For 30 years, CIS has remained focused on helping kids stay in school and prepare for life by identifying and addressing the unmet needs of children and families – needs that, when left unanswered, contribute to the dropout rate. Whether it's eyeglasses, tutoring, or just a safe place to be, when these basic needs are met students can concentrate on what's really important – learning.

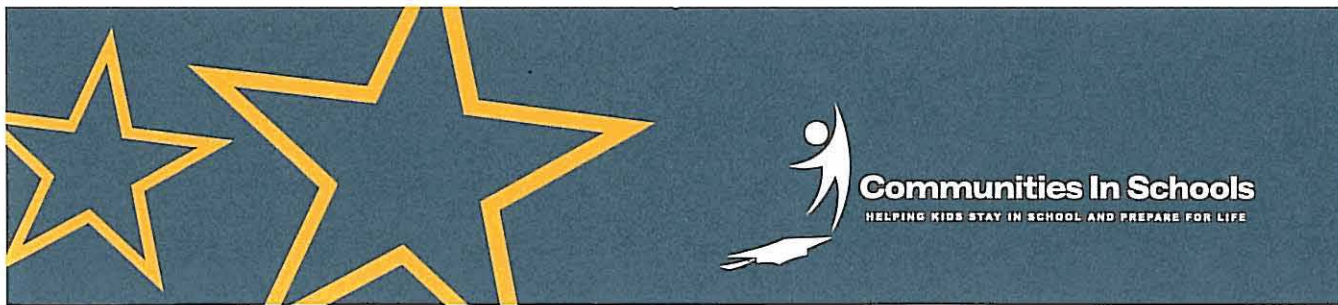
### ***Why Communities In Schools?***

Dropping out of school spells economic disaster for young people. In today's workplace, only 43 percent of adults who dropped out of high school are employed, compared to 60 percent of adults who completed high school and 76 percent who completed a bachelor's degree. CIS provides a comprehensive solution to the issues that place young people in jeopardy of dropping out. Rather than duplicating services or competing with other youth-serving organizations or agencies, CIS identifies and mobilizes existing community resources and fosters cooperative partnerships for the benefit of students and families. Today, CIS is the national leader on school-based, integrated student support services.

### ***Our Philosophy***

Communities In Schools believes that caring, one-on-one relationships between adults and young people make the crucial difference. Programs don't change kids – *relationships* do. CIS creates comprehensive, locally controlled and owned support systems around schools. In partnership with the local school system, CIS identifies the most critical needs of students and families – needs that are preventing children from succeeding in school, and in life. CIS then locates and coordinates community resources, dedicated volunteers and agencies to serve in partnership with the public schools, both during the day and after school, thereby making the work of our educators much more effective. Thus, *coordination of effort* and *accountability for results* are essential aspects of the service CIS provides – because, too often, well-meaning programs are not focused on overall school objectives. CIS ensures that the work of these outside agencies and volunteers is interconnected and integrated to provide the support schools need the most.





Bill Milliken, founder and vice chairman of Communities In Schools, Inc., is one of the nation's foremost pioneers in the movement to give young people the help they need to graduate from high school and go on to rewarding lives.

The year 2000 marked the 40th anniversary of Milliken's commitment to children, and saw him receive two major national awards. The Edward A. Smith Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership honors one executive each year who exemplifies "extraordinary leadership" over a lifetime of service. The "Champion for Children" award from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) honors a nationally known non-educator whose contributions have significantly and positively influenced the lives of children.

Communities In Schools is the nation's leading community-based organization helping kids stay in school and prepare for life. Currently, CIS directly serves more than 1.4 million students and their families each year in more than 3,400 schools in 27 states and the District of Columbia. Its grass-roots, personalized approach embodies Milliken's long-held philosophy, "Programs don't change children – relationships do."

Milliken's activism began in 1960 when he joined Young Life, an ecumenical youth organization. He helped initiate "street academies" for young people who had dropped out of school and wanted a chance to resume their education, as well as live-in programs for substance abusers and youth in need of shelter and support. Milliken's experiences led him to search for a comprehensive approach to helping young people. This search culminated in the 1970s with the development of a model program that repositioned existing community resources into schools — the Communities In Schools network, which Milliken led as president until May 2004.

Milliken has served three U.S. presidents. During the Carter Administration, he was the White House Advisor on Youth Issues. In 1989, Milliken advised President Bush for the Education Summit with the nation's governors. Most recently, Milliken was involved in the planning of The Presidents' Summit for America's Future. In 1994, Milliken received the National Caring Award as one of the "10 most caring people in America." In 1992, he received the Temple Award for Creative Altruism, given by the Institute of Noetic Sciences, which honors individuals "whose lives and work demonstrate the transformative power of caring coupled with imagination and enterprise."

Milliken serves on the board of Leadership Foundations of America. He is the author of three books, *So Long, Sweet Jesus, Tough Love* and *The Last Dropout: Stop the Epidemic*.

## William E. Milliken: A 45-Year Commitment to Children