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Eat out June 18 to help at-risk kids

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Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg will hold its 14th annual Dine Out For Kids on June 18.

Dine Out For Kids is a communitywide event that offers local restaurants and patrons an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to helping at-risk children stay in school and achieve in life.

Participating restaurants donate a portion of the day's sales June 18 to Communities In Schools. More than 75 restaurants are participating.

Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the local affiliate of the nation's leading dropout-prevention organization, serving more than 6,500 students annually in 45 high-poverty Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

The mission is to surround students with a community of support that will help them stay in school. The CIS program helps students at risk of dropping out by providing case management services and connecting students and their families to community resources and support services, as well as nurturing relationships with caring adults.

"We work with children beginning in kindergarten all the way through high school," said May Johnston, community relations director for Charlotte's CIS. "It is critical that our kids have the support they need, whether it is a good breakfast and snacks so they are ready to learn or having the appropriate school supplies and resources; we are there to provide that critical support."

According to CIS, the investment in local youth is paying big dividends. Last school year, 99 percent of Communities In Schools students stayed in school; 91 percent were promoted to the next grade; and 653 CIS seniors graduated with a high school diploma.

This year, about 750 Communities In Schools seniors in 13 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools high schools are on track to graduate in June.

- Want to go?

Showing support for Communities In Schools and its programming is as easy as going out for lunch or dinner June 18 at a participating restaurant. For a list of participating restaurants and information, visit www.cischarlotte.org.

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