



## **Notice of Intent to Apply**

The North Carolina Innovative School District (ISD) is seeking proven and credible charter management/education management organizations (CMO/EMO) to partner with our district and local communities to ensure strong outcomes for students in some of the state's lowest performing schools. All prospective operators for the North Carolina ISD must submit this Notice of Intent by 5 pm EST on August 11, 2017.

This information will help the ISD team in the planning process, while also ensuring that we are focused on identifying partner operators with a strong commitment to the local communities we will be serving. If you have any questions regarding the process or timeline for applying, please email [eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov) or call 919-807-3435.

***Submissions must be made via email to the address provided.***

### **Draft Timeline**

August 11, 2017	Notice of Intent Due
September 7, 2017	Public Release of Qualifying ISD Schools (for start-up in 2018/2019)
September 15, 2017	Application for Qualified Operators Opens
November 17, 2017	CMO/EMO Applications Due
December 7, 2017	Final State Board of Education Approval of ISD Schools
December/January	Presentations by CMO/EMO to Local School Boards and Communities Identified for Partnership with the ISD
February 2018	Final State Board of Education Approval of Contracts for CMO/EMO Partners

\*Proven - "CMO/EMO has a record of results in improving performance of persistently low-performing schools." NC Statue 115C-75.8

\*\* Credible - "CMO/EMO has a credible and specific plan for dramatically improving student achievement in a low performing school." NC Statue 115C-75.8



<b>Contact Information</b>	
Name of Applicant (Organization)	CIS of Robeson County
Applicant Point of Contact (Individual)	Dencie Lambdin
Address (Street, City, State, Zip)	2006 North Pine St, Lumberton NC 28358
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)	910-738-1734
Email	Dencie.lambdin@robesoncis.org
Website	www.cisrobeson.org
<b>Organizational Information</b>	
Please provide the mission and vision of your organization.	The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
Are there any geographic limitations for your organization in operating and/or partnering with a school in the state?  <i>(Please list areas of the state that would be difficult for your organization to serve and why.)</i>	Would be interested in serving schools only in Robeson County if one was chosen for ISD
List the current portfolio of schools operated by your organization or within your existing network.  <i>(Please include the location of each school.)</i>	CIS Academy Charter School  818 Third Street, Pembroke, NC



<b>Board Information</b>	
What is the status of your organization's Board of Directors?	<input type="checkbox"/> No members yet <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 Members <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 or More Members <input type="checkbox"/> CMO/EMO Board would develop local advisory members
At this time, how many of your board members are based in North Carolina?	All board members are based in Robeson County
Please provide a list of your current Board Members and Officers.	See attachment

**Additional Information**

**Part I:** Provide a brief overview of your organization's "theory of action" for improving outcomes in low performing schools. (500 words or less)

**Communities In Schools of Robeson County  
2017/2018 Board of Directors**

<b>Jan Blue</b>	<b>217 Charmant Road Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>neverbeenBlue@gmail.com</u> Retired Educator</b>	<b>(h) 738-7560</b>
<b>Lori Dove- Chair</b>	<b>Southeastern Health 813 Barker Ten Mile Rd Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>dove01@srmc.org</u> Vice President</b>	<b>(w) 671-5477 (c) 674-9526</b>
<b>Jeanette Evans</b>	<b>Samuel G. Evans, DDS 1508 Alexander St. Fairmont, NC 28340 <u>sgevansfmt@gmail.com</u></b>	<b>(H) (910)628-8901 (W) (910-628-7166 (F) 910-628-7167</b>
<b>Carolyn Floyd-Robinson Secretary</b>	<b>400 Grande Oaks Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>clr004c@aol.com</u> Business Owner/Operator</b>	<b>(c) 374-6051</b>
<b>Amanda Hunt</b>	<b>Lumbee Guaranty Bank 2077 Preston Rd Maxton, NC 28364 <u>amandahunt@lumbeeguarantybank.com</u></b>	<b>(h) 733-6424 (w) 521-4210 (f) 521-4171</b>
<b>Cammie Hunt Vice Chair</b>	<b>676 Amberdale West Circle Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>clynnhunt@yahoo.com</u></b>	<b>(c) 258-3984</b>
<b>Herbert, Lowry, Jr.</b>	<b>Pastor 302 West 32 Street Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>hlowry@nccumc.org</u></b>	<b>(H) 910-739-3304 (W) 910-729-2794</b>
<b>Herman Locklear</b>	<b>Public Schools Rob. Co. PO Box 2909 Lumberton, NC 28359 <u>herman.locklear@robeson.k12.nc.us</u></b>	<b>(w) 735-2302</b>
<b>Oryan Lowry</b>	<b>409 S Jones Street Pembroke, NC 28372 <u>odlowry@gmail.com</u></b>	<b>(m) 910-734-9317</b>
<b>Abe Marshall Treasurer</b>	<b>204 Londonderry Drive Lumberton, NC 28358 <u>abemarshall@gmail.com</u> Retired Business Man</b>	<b>(c) 474-6915</b>

<b>James Mitchell</b>	<b>RCC – Educational Coordinator 5160 Fayetteville Rd. Lumberton, NC 28360 <u><a href="mailto:jmitchell@robeson.edu">jmitchell@robeson.edu</a></u></b>	<b>(w) 910-272-3608 (c) 910-574-0922</b>
<b>Denise Fann</b>	<b>Robeson County DSS 120 Glenn Cowan Road Lumberton, NC 28360 <u><a href="mailto:Denise.fann@dss.co.Robeson.nc.us">Denise.fann@dss.co.Robeson.nc.us</a></u> RC Department of Social Services</b>	<b>(w) 671-3716</b>
<b>Eva Patterson-Heath</b>	<b>408 McGoogan Street Red Springs, NC 28377 <u><a href="mailto:evapattersonheath@yahoo.com">evapattersonheath@yahoo.com</a></u> Retired Educator/Coach</b>	<b>(H) 843-4372 (C) 910-904-376</b>
<b>Bill Smith</b>	<b>Robeson County Health Dept. 460 Country Club Road Lumberton, NC 28358 <u><a href="mailto:William.Smith@robeson.nc.gov">William.Smith@robeson.nc.gov</a></u> Executive Director</b>	<b>(w) 671-3404 (h) 738-8476 (f) 671-3484</b>
<b>Angela Sumner</b>	<b>Lumberton Visitor's Bureau 102 Berkshire Place Lumberton, NC 28358 <u><a href="mailto:asumner@lumberton-nc.com">asumner@lumberton-nc.com</a></u> Director</b>	<b>(h) 910-618-9453 (w) 910-739-9999</b>
<b>Dr. Desiree Walker</b>	<b>Lumber River Dental 3718 Hillcrest Dr. Lumberton, NC 28358 <u><a href="mailto:drwalker@lumbertondental.com">drwalker@lumbertondental.com</a></u></b>	<b>(H) 910-260-0723 (W) 910-474-2587</b>
<b>Kim Woods</b>	<b>M-W Electric, Inc. 5533 Hwy 710 North Pembroke, NC 28372 <u><a href="mailto:Kwoods@mwec.biz">Kwoods@mwec.biz</a></u> Business Owner/Operator</b>	<b>(w) 843-9811 (c) 734-5211 (h) 843-9849</b>

Revised 8/2/2017



The purpose of CIS Academy Charter School's program is (a) to use innovative teaching methods and materials to expand learning opportunities for students identified as "at risk" of school failure, (b) use individualized and structured education plans for each student(c) provide an alternative choice for parents and students in the type of educational opportunity available within the Public Schools of Robeson County (PSRC) attendance zone, (d) provide a core curriculum whose success may be measured by the accountability process, and (e) provide support services that encourage mastery of the coping skills needed in today's public education system. On average, students enrolled are 2-3 grade levels below their actual grade placement evidenced by benchmark tests and prior EOG data.

In an effort to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school, and achieve in life, we use a variety of teaching methods appealing to all learning styles, we model skills to drive positive choices, and we incorporate community agencies for needed services to remove barriers to educational success. Interventions and strategies include adding literacy coaches to work with individuals and small groups of students, providing certified subject area tutors, weekly meetings of subject area teachers to team plan lessons that include strategies to address student weaknesses and learning styles. Pre and post testing drives student-centered decision making for curriculum and reading interventions. Nine week benchmark testing determines skills mastered and weaknesses to be addressed. We address academic work by implementing the evidence-based CIS model of integrated student supports. This includes ensuring that priority needs of the school and community are assessed and school-wide supports are directly tied to needs. An on-site coordinator designs widely available services to foster positive school climate, facilitates small groups of students with common need toward achievement of shared goals and develops individualized services and support for one-on-one delivery to those at greatest risk. By viewing needs through the CISNC ABC+P framework, school attendance increases, behaviors improve, coursework outcomes are enhanced and parents and families are equipped with the information and resources necessary to support student achievement in non-school hours. Teachers/staff communicate with parents bi-weekly and student plans are adjusted regularly to ensure the right plan is in place for successful progress toward student goals. CIS also evaluates results. Outcomes are annually validated by RTI International to confirm our efforts are achieving the desired results for students.

Growing students to proficiency is our main goal. Effective instruction, which allows students to understand concepts taught from the curriculum, coupled with integrated students support services, continues to be instrumental in helping at risk- students come to school every day, set goals, and learn skills to deal with everyday challenges.

**Part II:** Provide an overview describing how your organization would plan to engage with parents/families, the community and the local school district. Examples of this in your existing or past work would be helpful in this description. (500 words or less)



Most often a low performing school has students with risk factors that impact learning. Collaboration is the best way to address and eliminate risk factors for students. CIS Academy engages parents specifically as they are the long-term insurance policy for their students. Parent educational opportunities on topics such as family engagement, bullying, and puberty ensure parents are able to advocate for their students at key points in their educational development. The CIS needs assessment process brings together the voices of teachers, students and parents to comprehensively identify developmental assets, risk factors and overarching needs of students. When considering our ABC+P framework, parents are also engaged and activated around student attendance and behavior. Speaking more specifically, attendance is monitored daily. Home room teachers connect with parents immediately upon a student absence. Parent conferences are held when three unexcused absences are recorded. Behavior is also monitored weekly and parent conferences are held to create positive behavioral plans before it leads to significant consequences. Every effort is made eliminate school suspension as an option except in cases that put students and staff at risk. This way students maintain their presence in class so that learning can continue. When staff identify parent support as a key concern, one-on-one student supports are put into place including providing transportation for a doctor's visit, clothes through our school closet, food for the weekend, and on-site counseling services for students and parents. Teachers may conduct home visits when there is a need. The caring, welcoming environment at our school has encouraged a 60 plus percent parent involvement as evidenced by events rosters and a consistent annual student attendance rate of ninety-five percent.

Coordinating and delivering community resources plays a vital role in the success of students. A long list of key community partners includes friends like University of North Carolina at Pembroke professors and students who provide tutoring, mentoring, curriculum and leadership skill building. CIS also takes advantage of the many opportunities the university offers to expose students to cultural and fine arts events to expand their horizons and refine social skills. CIS partners with Robeson Community College, Robeson County Health Department, Southeastern Health and Robeson Health Care Corp. to provide curriculum related to prevention and life skills. Area businesses are also critical partners in the development of our students as they provide key resources, supports and volunteerism to ensure we are developing the next ready workforce for our community.

The Public Schools of Robeson County (PSRC) has long been a partner providing staff development and lunches through the Child Nutrition program. Without our close partnerships our school would not achieve the success it experiences. Our eighth grade students are provided on-site assistance with registration for high school from PSRC counselors who visit our campus. PSRC shares additional resources depending on need and opportunities. All of our teachers are certified in their subject matter and use the Common Core Curriculum.

**Part III:** Briefly describe which research or evidence-based strategies your organization has engaged in producing a record of results. (500 words or less)



In order for schools to achieve the goal of all students succeeding academically, schools must have strong leadership, provide effective instruction, and ensure that barriers to learning are reduced or eliminated. While most schools strive to ensure that strong leadership and effective teaching are in place, many, if not most, do not make a concerted effort to implement integrated student supports, and thus, students may lack the resources/support necessary to achieve academically. Integrated student supports are "a school-based approach to promoting students' academic success by developing or securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement (Child Trends, 2015)." Nation-wide, and across North Carolina and Robeson County, CIS is among the largest and well-known providers of integrated student supports.

In large part, the CIS Model of integrated student support focuses on areas that research has identified as being most critical to students' academic achievement and subsequent on-time graduation: attendance, behavior, course performance, and parent/family engagement. Research has shown that students who are chronically absent, present behavior problems, or are not performing at grade level, behind in credits earned, and/or have a low GPA are more likely to struggle in school, graduate without the necessary skills for a career or college, or drop out (Allensworth and Easton, 2005 & 2007; Balfanz, et al., 2007). By focusing on these indicators, CIS, and integrated student supports in general, have been found to positively impact school attendance, academic achievement, and on-time graduation (ICF, 2010; MDRC, 2017; Child Trends, 2015). In general, CIS has a national track record of delivering local results that lower the dropout rate and improve graduation. In the most recent RTI International data validation process, students enrolled in CIS programs in North Carolina dropout at half the rate of the state.

Through an innovative model that builds on linking strong school leadership, effective teaching and instruction, effective and individualized integrated student supports, and strong community engagement, the CIS Academy out performed Robeson County averages in the 15-16 school-year when it came to the percent of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who scored at grade level proficient or college/career ready on end-of-grade reading and math tests. Considering, upon enrollment, students at the academy were two to three grades behind, their model is showing significant capacity to grow students and drive positive outcomes.

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I certify that I have the authority to submit this *Notice of Intent to Apply* and that all information contained herein is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. The individual named below for this *Notice* is authorized to serve as the primary contact on behalf of the organization.





**NC INNOVATIVE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Superintendent's Office  
Education Building  
6301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6301  
Office: 919-807-3435

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Name of Primary Contact (Printed) DENCIE LAMBDIN

Position of Primary Contact (Printed) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Signature of Primary Contact: Dencie Lambdin Date: 8-10-17

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*This form should be submitted to the NCISD by e-mailing it to [eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov). If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dr. Eric Hall, Superintendent for the North Carolina Innovative School District at 919-807-3435.*