

Securing Their Future

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



Empowering Students
Strengthening Communities

The CISE Mission

Catholic Inner-city Schools Education

CISE empowers students and strengthens their families and communities by providing access to a values-based Catholic education at inner-city elementary schools and high schools. Through strong partnerships and vital support services, we create safe, nurturing environments where children gain the foundational values they need for lifelong success.

Our Vision

At CISE, we believe every child deserves access to a life-changing education that helps them realize their God-given potential. They should have the chance to dream big, be seen, and thrive. Through the generous support of our donors and partners, we provide access to a high-quality, values-based Catholic education and create pathways to brighter futures, one deserving student at a time. Together, we are lifting hearts, building dreams, and transforming our community by nurturing knowledge, character, and faith.



Greetings,

This past year marked a period of incredible momentum for CISE, and your generosity made it all possible. Together, we supported nearly 500 CISE grade school graduates attending Catholic high schools and welcomed our twelfth CISE-supported elementary school, St. Teresa of Avila. We expanded career and technical education efforts, invested in our talented principals and teachers, and launched a new Parent Academy in partnership with Mount St. Joseph University.



Our annual campaign reached a record high of \$4.98 million, reflecting your shared belief in our mission and our students. The true impact of your support is found in the stories throughout this report, students who are thriving, educators who inspire, and community partners who help us address the needs of the whole child.

From mental health programs provided by Beech Acres, to career-readiness experiences made possible by Fifth Third Bank and Junior Achievement, we are deeply grateful to the many organizations and individuals who walk alongside us to ensure students are safe, supported, and equipped for success.

As we look forward, the needs of our students and schools continue to grow, and so does our commitment to meeting them. This report highlights four key areas where we're deepening our investment to help every child reach their full potential. You'll be hearing more soon about how we plan to build on this momentum.

Finally, as we embrace the future, you'll notice a refreshed look and a new tagline: Empowering Students. Strengthening Communities. These updates reflect the strength and heart of our mission, one that remains rooted in faith, equity, and opportunity.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip R. McHugh".

Philip R. McHugh
President & Executive Director

CISE By The Numbers



12 Catholic Elementary Schools

Corryville Catholic
Romero at Resurrection
St. Francis de Sales
St. Teresa of Avila

Holy Family
St. Boniface
St. Francis Seraph
St. William

Romero at Annunciation
St. Cecilia
St. Lawrence
Xavier Jesuit Academy

This fall, nearly 2,500 students will attend CISE-supported elementary schools located in the heart of Cincinnati. We are proud to welcome St. Teresa of Avila to our family of schools. Most of our grade schools offer preschool programs, all of which are Gold star-rated. 



14 Catholic High Schools

Badin
La Salle
Moeller
Roger Bacon
St. Ursula Academy

DePaul Cristo Rey
McNicholas
Mount Notre Dame
Seton
St. Xavier

Elder
Mercy McAuley
Purcell Marian
Summit Country Day

CISE students benefit from our strong partnerships with 14 Catholic high schools. Over 490 students received a high-quality, faith-based education at local Catholic high schools this past year with support from CISE.

Over 70%
of CISE Students
Attend Catholic
High School

Impacting Students And Families



Fernanda St. Lawrence | Seton High School

Fernanda has attended St. Lawrence School since preschool. She is known as a focused, kind, and dependable student who always has a smile on her face. Her younger brother, Eduardo, also attends St. Lawrence. As the daughter of Spanish-speaking parents, Fernanda often serves as a translator at home and at school, helping families communicate with teachers.

"I don't think I could have gotten into Seton without the help of CISE."

Fernanda excels academically and is respected by her peers and teachers. She gives back by tutoring younger students in math. With the support of a CISE scholarship, she will join the honors program at Seton High School this fall. She looks forward to joining the drumline at Seton, where she has already earned a spot. Fernanda hopes to one day combine her love of science with her desire to help children by becoming a pediatrician.



Naomi St. Boniface | Purcell Marian

Naomi is a proud St. Boniface graduate and CISE high school scholarship recipient who has thrived at Purcell Marian. She's been a volleyball player all four years of high school, a student ambassador, Kairos leader, podcasting club co-founder, and an International Baccalaureate student with a 3.8 GPA.

"I'm so thankful to the CISE donors who made this all possible for me and my sisters."

After tragically losing her mother during her junior year, Naomi showed amazing strength by remaining committed to her family, her faith, and her education. "Although my mother may not be here physically," Naomi shares, "she's shining her light through me."

Naomi has earned a full-ride Presidential Scholarship to the University of Cincinnati. Her youngest sister - one of five - will attend Purcell next year, continuing the family's legacy of strength and perseverance.

Educators Who Inspire



Meet Mr. Zinkan

Brian Zinkan teaches 5th - 8th grade science at St. Francis de Sales School, where he's known for making learning hands-on and meaningful. He's also a sixth-grade homeroom teacher and leads the after-school Robotics Club.

A passionate conservationist, Brian is earning his master's through Miami University's Project Dragonfly. He brings those lessons into the classroom by planting a pollinator garden with students and even riding an e-bike to school to model sustainability.

"What's most rewarding is seeing students solve real-world problems and bring ideas to life."

Brian is beloved by the students and staff alike. He is part of the school's science leadership team and always steps up to support his colleagues. Whether in the classroom or camping with his family, Mr. Zinkan brings energy, curiosity, and care to everything he does.

How We Are Securing Their Future

Recruiting and Retaining Educators

At the heart of every CISE-supported school are dedicated teachers and principals who create safe, nurturing environments where students can thrive. CISE invests in professional development, leadership coaching, teacher retention strategies, and merit-based bonuses, ensuring each school is led by caring, qualified educators who are empowered to stay and grow.



"I want to thank CISE for their commitment to teacher retention! This is the first school year in three years that we will be fully staffed. That means so much to our students' success.

I truly believe part of the reason we are retaining teachers is because of CISE's financial commitment to keeping them!"

Jen Long, Principal St. Lawrence

Keeping Schools Safe and Secure

The foundation of every thriving school is a safe and secure learning environment. To help meet this need, CISE partners with schools and parishes to help fund essential building improvements - from structural repairs and security upgrades to classroom renovations and learning space enhancements. These investments create inspiring environments where students feel safe, supported and ready to learn.



"The new windows provide more air movement, making our classrooms healthier spaces, and they offer egress in an emergency.

The windows add to the beauty of our building and make our school a safer place for our students."

Jack Corey, Principal St. William

The examples above reflect some of the key ways we support our students. They also guide where we are heading in the future.

CISE Empowers Students

Funding High School Scholarships

Our goal is to ensure every student has the opportunity to continue their education at a Catholic high school. Through scholarships and advocacy programs, we provide vital support to help students succeed in high school. As demand continues to grow, CISE is expanding scholarships and high school advocates to support more than 500 students each year.



"Thank you, CISE, for providing me and my siblings the opportunity to attend Catholic high school, relieving the financial burden from our family of eight. The impact of this scholarship has been incredible!

My family is forever grateful."

CISE Scholarship Recipient

Expanding Career and Technical Education

We believe every student deserves a path to success, whether that leads to college, career, or both. Through growing Career and Technical Education programs, CISE helps students explore in-demand fields, earn certifications, and build skills that strengthen both their futures and our community. We provide funding and operational support to expand CTE opportunities in elementary and high school settings, opening doors to life-changing careers.



"Today's high school students will soon be tomorrow's talent pool, and their ability to make sound educational and career decisions will be critical to Ohio's continued success."

Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

As needs continue to grow, CISE is deepening its impact in these areas to help students thrive in school and beyond.



Lighting The Way

Beech Acres Supporting Youth Mental Health

At night, even the smallest beam of light can help you find your way. For many CISE-supported students and families, Beech Acres becomes that light - a powerful searchlight offering clarity, support, and hope.

Since 2019, CISE has partnered with Beech Acres' Beyond the Classroom™ program to support the emotional and behavioral wellness of students. This preventative, family-centered model helps create the stability students need to learn and thrive.

Key features include:

- One trusted point of contact for each family
- Year-round support for students, caregivers, and staff
- Connections to vital services such as housing, food, healthcare, academics

With the help of partners like St. Vincent de Paul, Su Casa, and Hubbard's Cupboards, Beech Acres ensures families receive the care and resources they need and deserve.

Protecting youth mental health is essential to student success. Thanks to donor generosity, CISE can invest in partnerships like Beech Acres that help students shine more brightly and step into a stronger future.

The Whole-Child Approach

CISE is committed to educating the whole child - addressing both academic achievement and the broader needs that shape a student's success. Through strong partnerships, we help provide access to critical support services and enriching opportunities that create safe, stable, and nurturing environments where students can thrive.

This impact begins in preschool and continues through eighth grade and beyond. CISE helps prepare students for each stage of their journey from early learning to high school admissions, entrance exams, financial aid, and academic transition. CISE-supported schools offer on-site behavioral and mental health services, summer learning, extracurricular enrichment, and the consistent presence of dedicated school nurses.



Teaching Values For Life

Our schools are rooted in the belief that education is about more than academics - it's about forming the whole person. In addition to core subjects, students are guided by a foundation of faith-based values that shape character, build confidence, and foster lifelong skills.

Through daily instruction and example, students learn leadership, teamwork, self-control, discipline, and resilience - qualities that serve them well in the classroom and throughout life. Values are consistently taught and modeled, helping students navigate challenges with confidence and preparing them to lead with compassion, purpose, and integrity.

From emotional wellness to academic growth and moral formation, CISE surrounds students with the tools and support they need to thrive.



A Legacy Of Giving

For Monica and Brian Hurley, giving back through Catholic education is part of their family DNA. Both were raised in Cleveland by parents who not only prioritized Catholic education for them but also established funds to support children in need. At his father's wake, Brian recalls young men thanking his mother for the scholarships that made their Catholic education possible.

When the Hurleys moved to Cincinnati, they brought that same spirit of giving with them. In 2011, they began supporting CISE through their parish and later became High School Scholarship donors.

They also passed this value on to their children. Their son Tom, unaware of his parents' involvement, began volunteering with the CISE Young Professionals Board. Today, he and his wife Emily are Spring Party sponsors and High School Scholarship donors. Tom also serves on the School Improvement and Development Committees and recently joined the CISE Board of Trustees.

“CISE has a way of drawing people in because of the impact it has in Cincinnati,” Tom says. “The discovery that my parents and Emily and I independently decided to support CISE is proof that our principles of providing a Catholic education to everyone - regardless of circumstances - are part of our family legacy.”

The Hurley Family

Real Impact

CISE was pleased to partner with Fifth Third Bank to bring Junior Achievement (JA) to students at St. Boniface. Over five weeks in March and April, 20 incredible Fifth Third volunteers delivered JA lessons to students in grades K-8, offering valuable insights into work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.



As the program wrapped up, students received a visit from Buddy LaRosa, who celebrated their hard work, shared words of wisdom, and challenged them to always do their best, followed by free LaRosa's pizza for lunch!

CISE is always looking for ways to help students build brighter futures in college, careers, or both. We're proud to bring research-based programs into our schools that develop both academic and real-world skills - and deeply grateful to our partners for making moments like this possible.

CISE Board of Trustees

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Three Ways To Support Our Mission

CISE consists of three separate legal entities.

All work together to advance the CISE mission.

CISE

Provides tuition assistance, scholarships, and essential services that help students and schools thrive.

CISE Foundation

Manages restricted funds that generate annual distributions for CISE.

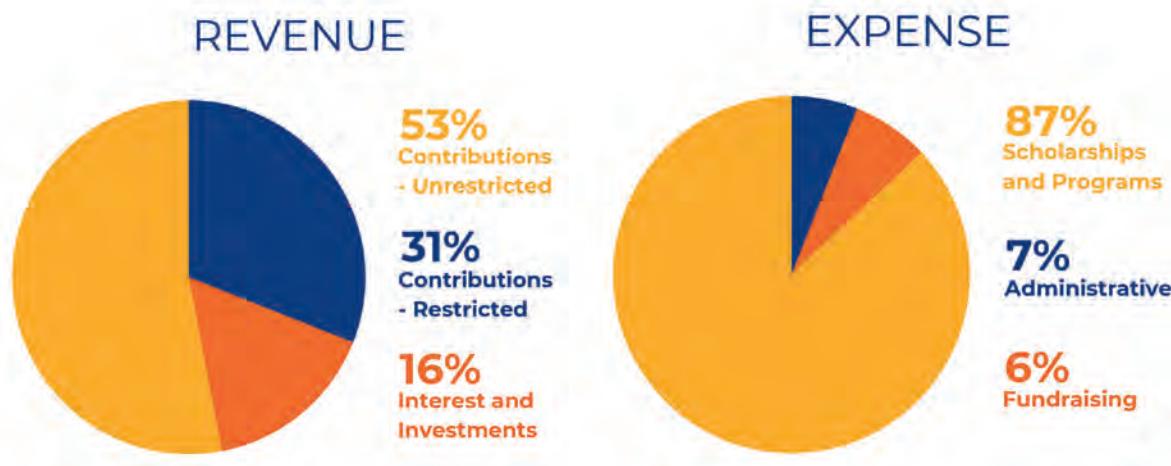
CISE-SGO

A Scholarship Granting Organization that awards scholarships to students. Donors may be eligible for an Ohio income tax credit for their contributions.



Our Financials

**87% of Every Dollar Donated to CISE
Directly Supports Students and Schools**



From audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
Full financial statements are available on our website.

New Look. New Website. Same Mission.

You may have noticed, we are unveiling a refreshed CISE brand and a new website. These updates are subtle yet intentional, reflecting the strength, clarity, and heart of the CISE mission. Our logo has been refined and our website reimagined, but our purpose remains the same: to open doors to life-changing opportunities through a values-based Catholic education.



**Empowering Students
Strengthening Communities**

Visit our new website at www.CISEKids.org.





Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Securing Their Future

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