



A BETTER CHANCE

## Community Schools Program

The Community Schools Program, or CSPs, are organizations dedicated to providing outstanding education to our A Better Chance Scholars through public schooling. Our CSP Scholars share a home in communities with high performing public high schools. There are 20 CSPs in six states (NY, MA, CT, MN, PA, and WI) and many have operated for 30 or more years. Most programs are single-gender, and they typically host between 5 and 10 Scholars supervised by 2 or 3 adults. Two programs support separate boys' and girls' houses, and two houses are co-ed. Our CSPs provide a supportive family-like atmosphere where Scholars are academically challenged and learn independence and self-reliance in a safe and structured environment.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: Why would I leave home to attend a public school?**

A: The public high schools our Scholars attend are among the best in their state and even the country. They offer several Advanced Placement classes that allow students to earn college credit while in high school. In addition to excellent academics, many of these schools are among the best in their state in sports, theater, music, and art. Our Scholars participate in these and other extra-curricular activities.

**Q: How will I be able to compete academically in this environment?**

A: The CSPs provide a high level of academic support. Each house has mandatory study time five days per week. Scholars support each other, and academic tutors help the Scholars with their homework. Some tutors even live in the house. Scholars have academic advisors who ensure that they take challenging, but achievable course loads.

**Q: What are the houses like?**

A: Each house is totally unique. They are typically large houses in residential neighborhoods. Each house has several bedrooms in which Scholars typically live with one roommate. Some Scholars have their own rooms, while some two or more roommates. The houses have large kitchens with dining areas that easily allow both Scholars and staff to have meals together. Most programs have cooks that prepare meals, while at others the Resident Directors cook the meals. The houses have living rooms with TVs, additional recreation rooms, and study rooms. The houses provide a family-like atmosphere while Scholars are away at school.

**Q: What kind of supervision is there?**

A: Each house has either a single Resident Director or a married couple in that role. Most have additional adults living in the house to provide extra supervision and serve as tutors during study hours. All of the programs enforce high academic and behavior standards for their Scholars.

**Q: What other kinds of support do Community School Programs offer?**

A: Each Scholar gets paired with a "host family" in their community to provide an additional safe and nurturing environment. Scholars visit their host families frequently and participate in regular activities with the family. Some host families even take Scholars on vacations. Most Scholars stay in contact with their host families long after they graduate from high school.

**Q: How much do Community Schools Programs cost?**

A: Tuition, room, and board are free at most CSPs. Most programs even pay for transportation between the program and the Scholars' homes. Some programs charge fees, but the yearly cost to families is typically in the hundreds, not thousands, of dollars.