



The Chicago Freedom School provides a space where young people and adult allies can study the work of past movements, deepen their understanding of current social problems, build new coalitions and develop strategies for change. We support new generations of critical and independent thinking young people who use their unique experiences and power to create a just world.

We envision a world that supports, respects and values the work and perspectives of young people. We see communities filled with youth and adults who engage with one another about ideas that matter the most to them and who learn and grow from this engagement. We believe that the world can learn from its mistakes and it can be free of all forms of oppression.

We are informed in purpose and program by the values established by our Founders:

1. We believe in personal, social, and political consciousness to boldly fight all forms of oppression and inequality.
2. We are committed to addressing adultism as a systemic problem by improving the fabric of our society to be more inclusive and respectful towards youth.
3. We are dedicated to fostering the empowerment of youth who are criminalized, racially profiled and marginalized but the discriminatory public policies.
4. We are committed to providing youth with opportunities to become part of a permanent social justice movement.
5. We aspire to create transformative changes in all members of the Chicago Freedom Schools community.
6. We believe in liberation from all forms of violence.
7. We respect the dignity and interconnectedness of all beings and recognize this as the foundation for non-violent solutions to human problems.
8. We believe that it is important for youth from various communities to see themselves as a part of a larger world within and beyond Chicago.
9. We believe that young people have power to create and lead social change.
10. We are committed to have youth at least equally involved in the development, the governing and the administration of the school.
11. We believe in youth and adults working cooperatively at all levels of planning and we appreciate caring and supportive parents/guardians who join with us as partners in social change.
12. We see aspects of today's youth culture as valuable organizing tools.
13. We believe that reflection, evaluation, and action are equal and necessary components of social change.
14. We are committed to maintaining an environment of everlasting and mutual learning and growth.
15. We believe that having fun in an important part of interacting and learning.
16. We value spaces where honest, authentic language is always used.
17. We value spaces where all participants hold each other and themselves accountable.
18. We are committed to building an open organization where decision-making is consensus based.
19. We respect and embrace diversity in all of its forms.
20. We envision the Freedom School as a physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually safe space.