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New Comprehensive District Analysis Report Expands to Promote Equity

Incorporating data from community and educator feedback, CPS’s new Annual Regional Analysis adds new equity-focused metrics

Chicago, IL – Released in September of 2018, CPS’s inaugural Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) was celebrated as an accessible, comprehensive, and critical source of district and school performance data. Designed to provide community leaders, policymakers, parents, and educators with the information they need to make informed decisions about Chicago's public schools, the newly updated and just released ARA 2018-19 is now expanded to support more equity-focused priorities.

“The ARA provides us with a uniform, clear, and fact-based understanding of our schools’ performance and students’ educational access,” said Daniel Anello, CEO of Kids First Chicago (K1C). “If we are going to provide every kid in Chicago with a high-quality learning environment, we need to focus on metrics designed to promote equity. That is exactly what this additional information allows us to do.”

Kids First Chicago (K1C) helped CPS design the first and second editions of the ARA, which is comprised of publicly available data, organized in a digestible format that includes maps, graphs, and key performance metrics. K1C has participated in and led more than 100 outreach events with community leaders, education advocates, and families to begin discussions on how they might utilize the data to inform their work around education policy and programming.

Critical enhancements to categories of information were added based on community feedback and are designed to drive an equity focus throughout the system. These enhancements include:

- More comprehensive information about all students and schools, including Pre-K students and options, alternative and special education specialty schools.
- Enhanced racial equity lens: maps of students color-coded by race, and information about the percentage of students attending school out of region by race.
- The addition of average commute time for students, rather than just distance traveled.
- Improved student choice data: data about high school (GoCPS) application rates and top school choices to better understand demand for programs and school types.
- More programmatic variety data, such as dual language, early college STEM, and fine and performing arts for high schools.

In fall of 2018, CPS released a competitive RFP to communities and schools to propose programmatic enhancements that were supported by educational gaps found within the ARA 2017-18. We encourage CPS to continue to use the ARA to determine future funding priorities in partnership with communities. A best-case example of this is the partnership between Kids First Chicago and Michele Clark High School in the Austin neighborhood to propose a new International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which Chicago Public Schools formally approved earlier today.

kidsfirstchicago.org
Michele Clark High School Principal Charles Anderson said, “Michele Clark is proud to announce that we have been awarded the opportunity to implement an IB program at our school. To be the first STEM/IB program in the city’s history is an honor. By creating an expanded sphere of learning within our four walls, students’ views of the world will shift and broaden. Our dual-focus will open our doors to students with varied interests and provide unprecedented exposure for West Side students in igniting imaginations, selection of college majors, and the careers they pursue later on in life.”

“We’d like to thank Kids First Chicago for their data expertise, community advocacy coordination, and ongoing technical support – and the many community leaders and groups who have remained committed to prioritizing our students’ academic and life success.”

“There are IB programs in almost every other region in Chicago,” said Daniel Anello of Kids First Chicago. “Leveraging the data in the ARA to bring an IB program to the underserved West Side is exactly what we mean when we talk about expanding equity within the system.”

To view the ARA, visit https://cps.edu/SchoolData or https://kidsfirstchicago.org/ara.

**Available for questions or comment:** Daniel Anello, CEO of Kids First Chicago, can be reached at danello@kidsfirstchicago.org or 312-853-9162, and Vivian Lee, Chief of Policy of Kids First Chicago, at vlee@kidsfirstchicago.org or 312-853-3694.

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**ABOUT KIDS FIRST CHICAGO**

Kids First Chicago (K1C) is an education non-profit that works to ensure that every family and child in Chicago has access to a high-quality education. Their work focuses on empowering parents to identify, navigate to, and advocate for quality public schools for their kids. Then, they work directly with district leadership, using parent input to shape education policy to better support families.

Kids First Chicago offers free enrollment workshops, research and data analysis on Chicago public education, and direct family and community outreach. For more information, visit kidsfirstchicago.org or attend an event or workshop.