

OUR PARENT-LED,
DATA-INFORMED APPROACH TO

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

2018-2020
IMPACT REPORT

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS.
WORLD-CLASS CITY.



“Michelle and I want every kid in Chicago to grow up knowing even better opportunities than we had – and that requires full and equitable access to the best tools and resources. We’re happy to help Chicago Connected reach every kid in the city. This is where I found a purpose and a family – and it’ll always be our home.”

**FORMER PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA**

Twitter

PAGES

4-5

6-13

14-21

22-27

28-38

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME LETTER

SECTION 1 | COMMUNITY & FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

PARENT-POWERED EDUCATION WINS
HOW THE ARA GUIDES PROGRAM INVESTMENTS
ITERATING ON OUR DIGITAL SCHOOL SEARCH TOOL

SECTION 2 | CHICAGO CONNECTED

ELEVATING PARENT VOICES & UNDERSTANDING NEED
IMPLEMENTING A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION
PROGRAM IMPACT

SECTION 3 | LOOKING AHEAD

PARENT-LED SOLUTIONS TO EDUCATION RECOVERY
MEASURING PROGRESS IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SECTION 4 | PARTNERS & INVESTORS

CLOSING LETTER
PARENT ADVISORY BOARD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
STAFF
SUPPORTERS & INVESTORS
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4

WELCOME LETTER



Dear Friends,

2020 has been one of the most challenging years in our lifetimes. The pandemic exposed and deepened every inequity embedded in our society's fabric. It is hard to find clarity and optimism when we look at the hardships that Black and Brown families endure during this painful, uncertain time.

Yet, steel is forged in fire. The crises of 2020 have also ignited a newfound commitment to meaningful and sustained change. Conversations around racial equity and healing are now in the mainstream, recognized as essential for a more just education system and society for all. There are signs of positive change taking root

and being led by the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, philanthropic partners, schools, and community partners. We're moved by the strength, generosity, and compassion we see on the ground.

At Kids First Chicago, we're especially inspired by Chicago parents, who lead us and share their struggles and successes with us during this prolonged period of uncertainty.

These families galvanized us to bridge the digital divide and consider more innovative and equitable ways to deliver education, leading our city to make improvements that will have a positive impact for years to come.

\$50,000,000

IN PROGRAMMATIC INVESTMENTS
DRIVEN BY THE ANNUAL REGIONAL
ANALYSIS

100,000+

STUDENTS SERVED BY CHICAGO
CONNECTED IN YEAR 1

5

“We’re especially inspired by Chicago parents, who have shared their struggles and successes with us during a prolonged period of uncertainty.”

As we close 2020, we look back on what partners like you have helped us accomplish. We reflect on the days before a global pandemic hindered in-person schooling and look ahead to a post-COVID world. Most importantly, we thank you.



Daniel Anello
CEO, Kids First Chicago, and the
Kids First Chicago Team

FALL/WINTER 2020

35

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUELING
THE CHICAGO CONNECTED PROGRAM

5,500

PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY
MEMBERS DIRECTLY ENGAGED

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS, WORLD-CLASS CITY.

SECTION

01

COMMUNITY & FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS



(Above) K1C Community Engagement Coordinator provides one-on-one support to a CPS parent.



“We often talk about the opportunity gap. But access helps to close that, because now it’s within their reach. That alone brings students and families closer to that selective type of programming. I think it’s going to open up a lot of doors and opportunities for West Side families.”

**-PEGGIE BURNETT-WISE
PRINCIPAL, MORTON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**

Quoted in Block Club Chicago

PARENT-POWERED EDUCATION WINS



(Above) Kids entertain themselves at a K1C Enrollment Workshop while their parents receive free enrollment support.

Kids First Chicago believes that those closest to students – families and community members – are best equipped to design policies and systems that will improve educational equity and lead to stronger outcomes for our students, our communities, and our city.

Focused in West and South Side communities, our strong relationships with parents, community-based organizations, schools, and neighborhood leaders have catalyzed critical wins for students and families.

With each victory and through the ongoing development we provide on key education issues, K1C-supported community leaders learn how to activate their power to advocate for their own school communities and collaborate on larger community- and city-wide issues.

9

Over the last two years, we've organized communities and families around several education wins:

ANNUAL REGIONAL ANALYSIS (ARA). In partnership with CPS, K1C produced three installments of a new universal fact base on all PK-12 students in all 650+ schools. This provides community members with transparent information about their schools and enables CPS to make data-driven decisions about programmatic investments across the city. The ARA spurred a total of \$50 million invested in 54 schools that the data showed needed it most.

MICHELE CLARK H.S. IB PROGRAM. We provided data insights, advocacy training, and technical assistance to support a community proposal for the West Side's first high school International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Michele Clark High School in Austin. Clark is now the first combined public STEM-IB program in the city's history.

MORTON ELEMENTARY REGIONAL GIFTED CENTER. We generated community interest for a new regional gifted program at Morton School of Excellence in East Garfield Park. Morton became the West Side's first regional gifted program as part of CPS's \$18 million programmatic investment in June 2020.

PENN ELEMENTARY NEW PLAYGROUND AND BATHROOMS. K1C supported parent-led organizing around vital facilities upgrades for this North Lawndale elementary school.

COMMUNITY HUBS. We promoted a viable plan to reimagine under-utilized schools as community hubs, a parent-driven concept articulated in both North Lawndale and Austin's Quality of Life plans and West Side United's education plan.

BACK OF THE YARDS HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY. K1C parent champions advocated for the creation of a standalone library for this high school on the Southwest Side. As a result, \$15 million in state funding has been awarded to build a new library.

2018-2020

22

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDES

5.5K

PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS DIRECTLY ENGAGED

30+

ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, AND INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED FEATURING PARENT VOICE AND PERSPECTIVE

\$50M

PROGRAM INVESTMENTS INSPIRED BY THE ARA

10

HOW THE ARA GUIDES PROGRAM INVESTMENTS

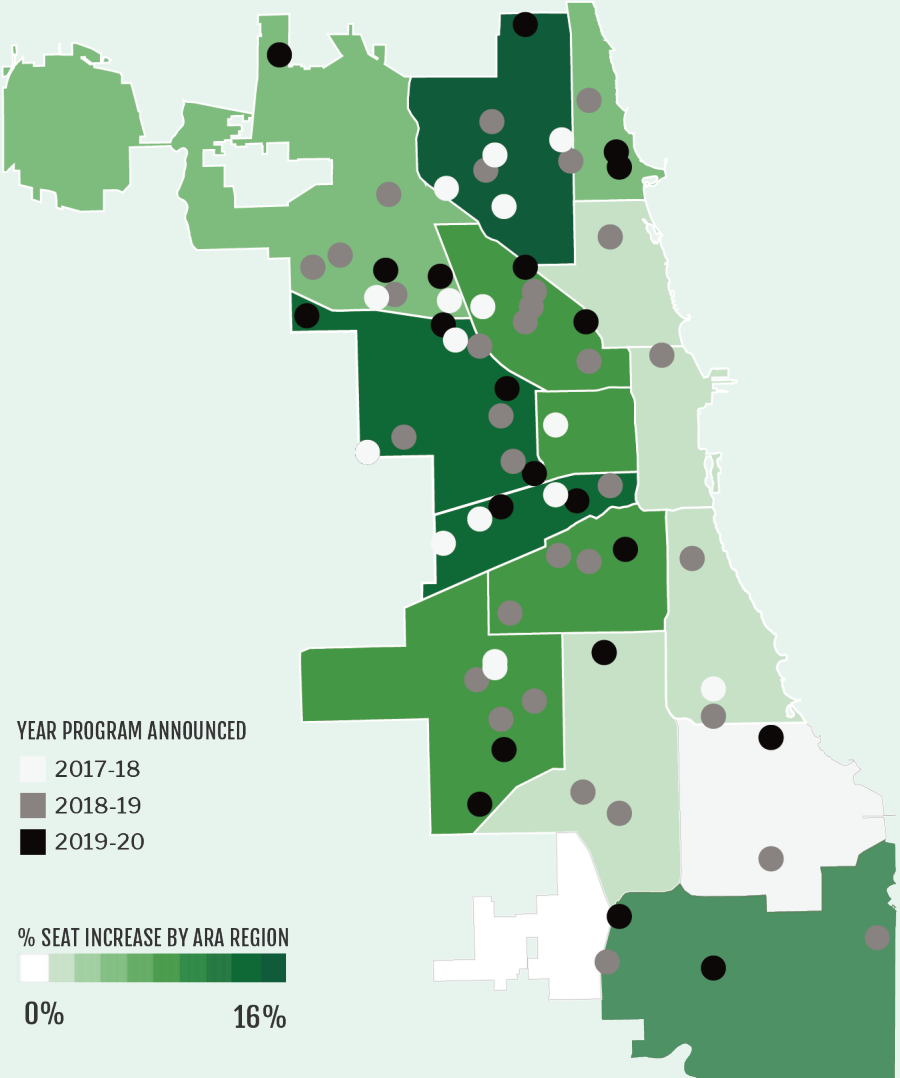
In 2019 and 2020, the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) spurred CPS to invest \$50 million in 54 schools to enhance their academic program offerings. These investments significantly increased variety and availability in key regions where students previously had to travel nearly 3+ miles to access these programs at schools in other community areas.

TOP TEN NEW PROGRAMS BY DISTANCE TO NEAREST ALTERNATIVE

SCHOOL	PROGRAM	ARA REGION	DISTANCE (MILES)
JULIAN HS	Fine & Performing Arts	Greater Calumet	6.9
LOCKE J	International Baccalaureate	Far Northwest Side	5.3
CHICAGO MILITARY HS	STEM	Bronzeville / South Lakefront	4.3
CLARK ES	Dual Language	West Side	3.8
CRANE MEDICAL HS	STEM	Near West Side	3.6
CLARK ES	World Language	West Side	3.5
ADDAMS	Personalized Learning	Greater Calumet	3.3
BELDING	International Baccalaureate	Northwest Side	3.0
SOIORIO HS	STEM	Greater Midway	2.9
CLARK HS	International Baccalaureate	West Side	2.8

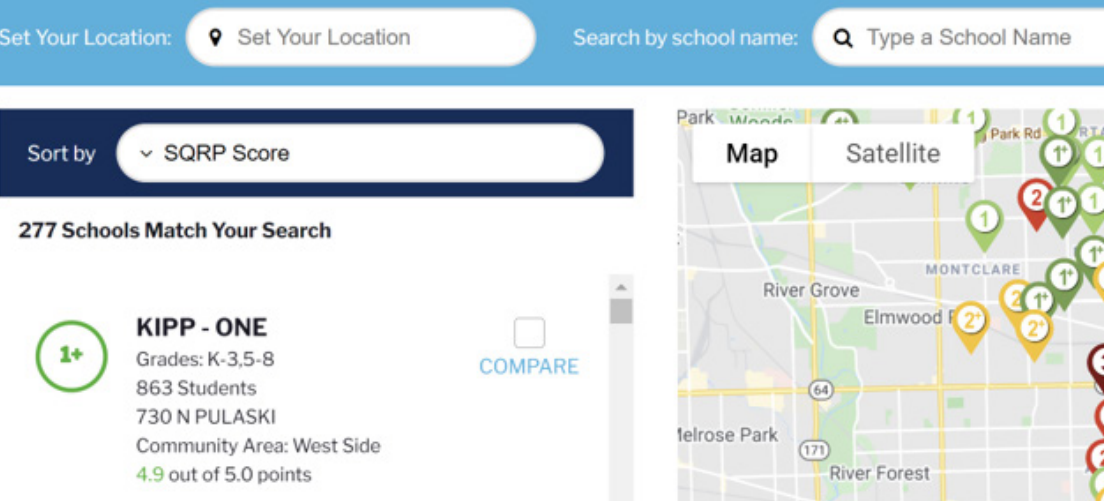
(Pages 10 and 11) This analysis was created using publicly available datasets from Chicago Public Schools and the City of Chicago. Estimates of the percentage change in program seats may vary slightly from previously published analyses by CPS.

% INCREASE IN PROGRAM SEATS BY ARA REGION



OUR DIGITAL SCHOOL SEARCH TOOL

HOW KIDS FIRST USES PARENT FEEDBACK AND DATA TO IMPROVE TOOLS OVER TIME



(Above) Screen capture of current Kids First Chicago School Search Tool.

In Fall 2016, Kids First Chicago launched our first School Search tool, designed to support community engagement coordinators in assisting families to navigate Chicago's school enrollment process. At the time, CPS offered 172 high schools with nearly 500 program choices, but no centralized enrollment system – which made it difficult to research and access schools that were both high-quality and a good fit.

Since then, we've used parent feedback to evolve the tool. In our second iteration—**School Search 2.0**—we used parent feedback and user data to prioritize new features, like the ability to compare, save, and print schools. We also added a Spanish version.

In Spring 2017, the Chicago Board of Education approved a single application, GoCPS, for high schools.

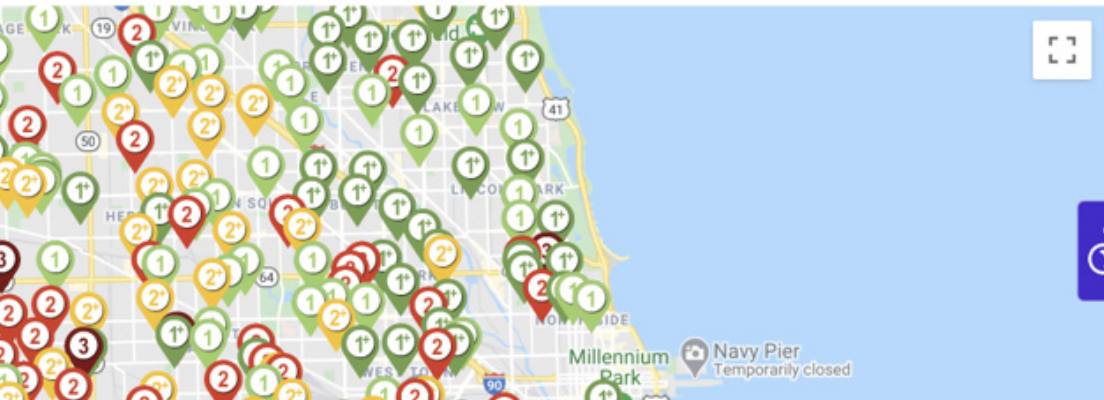
In Fall 2017, we continued to work directly with families using the School Search 2.0 tool alongside GoCPS. By 2018, we needed to revise our search tool drastically to meet parents' evolving needs, including more information about CPS's school measurement system, a more mobile-friendly tool, and a more detailed school profile that wasn't duplicative of CPS's resources.

We created a prototype that included high-priority new features and tested it with 120 parents and teachers.

Respondents emphasized the need for simplicity and accessibility: we needed to present information in a clear way without educational jargon, show school ratings in context, and ensure that the tool was usable even for parents without technological savvy.

Translate

Filters (0)



LAUNCHING 3.0 SQRP & PROFILE ENHANCED

After nearly a year of prototyping, designing, and building, Kids First Chicago launched our **School Search 3.0** tool in the fall of 2019.

It includes updated features and much more detailed school performance history information as compared to previous versions of the tool.

SPECIFIC ENHANCEMENTS

- Enhanced filters and search
- Mobile- and desktop-friendly
- Enhanced Compare tool
- Profile for each school
- Improved Dual Language functions
- Detailed information on a school's performance on SQRP metrics both annually and over time
- Additional help/support videos & resources to help parents understand SQRP broadly
- A pop-up "tour" that demonstrates how to navigate the tool and its unique features

SECTION

02

CHICAGO CONNECTED: BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



(Above) Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board Member Yolanda Williams with her daughter. Photo courtesy of Chicago Connected program



“No student or family should be cut off from opportunities to learn, connect, and thrive—especially at this moment when our devices have become our classrooms, doctors’ offices, and more. Chicago Connected represents a critical step on the path to equity for students city-wide.”

**– BARBARA GOODMAN MANILOW
CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES’
BOARD CHAIR**



“This has impacted my daughter’s access to schooling. It’s hard to fill in the gaps. We need access — access to the internet, to laptops.”

- HUMBOLDT PARK PARENT

(Above) K1C Parent Advisory Board Member Claiborne Wade with his family. Photo courtesy of Chicago Connected program

ELEVATING PARENT VOICES & UNDERSTANDING NEED

When Chicago’s public schools closed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kids First Chicago team immediately pivoted to do what we do best: ask families what they need.

We spoke to hundreds of parents, learning their concerns about access to basic needs and quality education. We also heard firsthand how deep the digital divide was for our most vulnerable communities and families.

True to our data-driven model, we dug deeper and found that 110,000 Chicago kids in 60,000 households do not have access to broadband. While learning in CPS had moved online amidst COVID-19, 1 in 5 kids in Chicago couldn’t participate simply because they don’t have reliable in-home internet access.

We released an issue brief, **Digital Equity in the Coronavirus Era**, in partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Council. It featured the stories of several parents, including those who were making the impossible choice between paying for food for their kids or paying for internet access.



110,000

STUDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET

1 out of 5

STUDENTS WITHOUT ACCESS TO INTERNET

IMPLEMENTING A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

To ameliorate these serious concerns from families, we partnered with the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, philanthropists, and Internet Service Providers to champion a long-term sustainable solution.

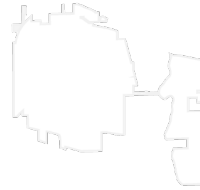
On June 25, 2020, Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced **Chicago Connected**—a groundbreaking multi-year partnership to close Chicago’s digital divide and ensure that 100,000 eligible CPS students and 60,000 households have access to the internet and remote learning. This program is the largest and longest-term in the country, and has been lauded as a national model for closing the digital divide.

In launching Chicago Connected, the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, and the city’s philanthropic community have made a historic commitment to eliminating internet access as a barrier to digital learning.

Kids First Chicago leads the core implementation of Chicago Connected and manages relationships with 35 community-based partners across the city, helping to engage hard-to-reach families and ensuring they are set up for successful connections.

PROGRAM IMPACT & REACH

Chicago Connected brings free high-speed internet to families. A critical component of program success is the partnership with 35 community-based organizations, who work hard to reach families as they get connected.



COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- 1 ALBANY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
- 2 LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
- 3 BRIGHTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
- 4 THE BACK OF THE YARDS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
- 5 THE COALITION FOR A BETTER CHINESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY (CBCAC)
- 6 THE RESURRECTION PROJECT
- 7 YMCA OF METRO CHICAGO
- 8 GREATER AUBURN GRESHAM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- 9 HOPE TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION CENTER (HOPE TEC)
- 10 AUSTIN COMING TOGETHER
- 11 AUSTIN CHILDCARE PROVIDERS NETWORK
- 12 PROJECT EXPLORATION
- 13 CLARETIAN ASSOCIATES
- 14 NORTHWEST SIDE HOUSING CENTER
- 15 CENTER FOR CHANGING LIVES (CCL)
- 16 CHICAGO CITYWIDE LITERACY COALITION
- 17 ONWARD NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (ONH)
- 18 BRIGHT STAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH (BSCO)
- 19 GADS HILL CENTER
- 20 METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES
- 21 PREVENTION FORCE FAMILY CENTER (PFFC)
- 22 TEAMWORK ENGLEWOOD
- 23 INNER-CITY MUSLIM ACTION NETWORK
- 24 THE SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT (SWOP)
- 25 SOUTH SHORE WORKS PLANNING AND PRESERVATION COALITION
- 26 PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER (PRCC)
- 27 NORTH LAWDALE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK
- 28 YWCA
- 29 PHALANX FAMILY SERVICES (PHALANX)
- 30 CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS
- 31 ASIAN HUMAN SERVICES
- 32 LATINOS PROGRESANDO
- 33 ERIE HOUSE
- 34 CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE
- 35 COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS) OF CHICAGO

Please note that some community-based organizations have multiple locations and appear on the map more than once.

35

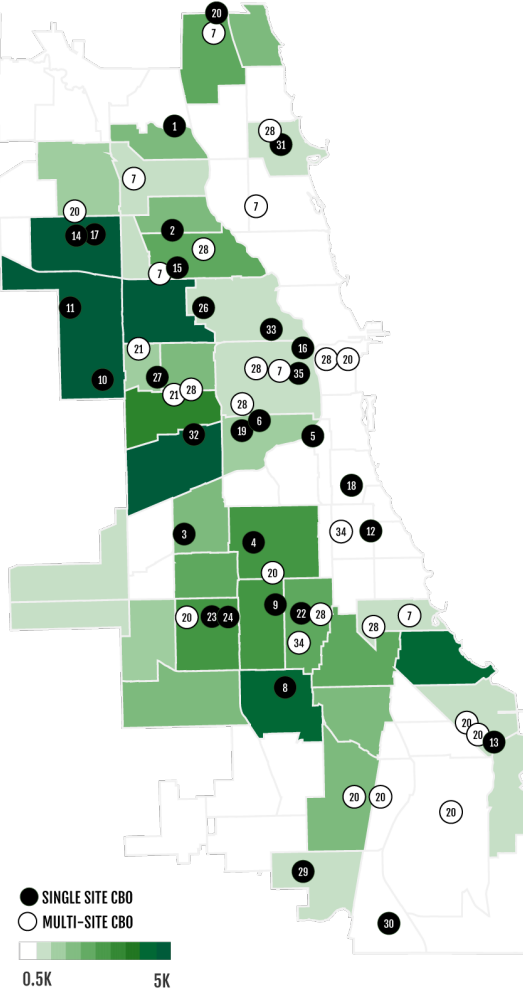
COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS
FUELING CONNECTIVITY

100,000

CPS STUDENTS AND 60,000
HOUSEHOLDS CONNECTED IN YEAR 1

19

OF CHILDREN WITHOUT BROADBAND & CBO LOCATIONS



PROGRAM FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Chicago Connected would not be possible without the generous support of:

- Ken Griffin, Philanthropist and CEO of Citadel
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund
- Illinois Tool Works
- Pritzker Traubert Foundation
- JPB Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Joyce Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- President Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama

“Being the father of children who are in school, realizing that we were about to pivot to remote learning, you immediately realize that for 100,000 kids in Chicago, not only is COVID-19 a health crisis but an education crisis.”

-KEN GRIFFIN,
PHILANTHROPIST
AND CEO OF CITADEL

From the Wall Street Journal

\$50,000,000

INVESTED OVER 4 YEARS

\$20,000,000

IN PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING
IN YEARS 1 & 2

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS, WORLD-CLASS CITY.

TIMELINE

Key dates as Chicago Public Schools shifted from in-person to virtual learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



AUGUST

08/06

Release of K1C brief, *Parent-Led Solutions to Education Recovery*

08

OCTOBER

10/16

CPS announces phased reopening plan for second quarter of school year

10

DECEMBER

12/21

CPS schools close for winter vacation

12

SEPTEMBER

09/08

First day of 2020-2021 school year

NOVEMBER

11/15

K1C-led citywide survey of CPS parents launches

“Chicago Connected is a blessing to me. I’m hopeful for my daughter’s future.”

NORTH LAWNSDALE PARENT

SECTION

03

LOOKING AHEAD: EDUCATION RECOVERY



(Above) A CPS family attends a free K1C enrollment workshop.



“Now, more than ever, parents and caregivers must be partners in designing education policy so that all of our students have access to a high-quality education.”

-KATRINA ADAMS, KIDS FIRST CHICAGO PARENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

From Parent-Led Solutions for Education Recovery

24

PARENT-LED SOLUTIONS TO EDUCATION RECOVERY



16
FOCUS GROUPS

163
PARTICIPANTS

Our Parent Advisory Board hosted 16 formal focus groups throughout July 2020, reaching 163 parents. The focus group participants shared what families need for effective learning during this prolonged crisis. Four of these focus groups were held in Spanish, and two were specifically aimed at parents of diverse learners.

During these in-depth sessions, parents and caregivers shared their difficulties and successes with remote learning, their hopes and concerns about sending their children back to school in the fall, and their priorities to recover lost education time. Most of all, parents shared strategies and solutions to ensure that remote learning is effective, return-to-school is safe, and education recovery is equitable for all students.

We compiled their recommendations into a brief, **Parent-Led Solutions for Education Recovery**. This report provides a jumping-off point for school, district, city, and state leadership to engage further with parents. Together, as co-creators, they can design plans to ensure that their children's needs are met throughout this unusual school year.

Our engagement with families does not stop here. We know that the 2020-2021 School Year will continue to be unlike any other. Most importantly, we know that students, families, educators, and schools face serious challenges as we all work to recover education lost during this ongoing pandemic.

Children have missed out on learning and access to remote instruction has been inequitable and, at times, ineffective.

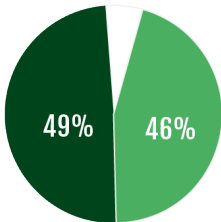
25

“Students miss their classrooms, their teachers—every student needs dedicated time to just talk to their friends and check in with their teachers about something other than math. We have to make time for this in remote learning, too, because it is part of what school does that keeps our kids healthy.” - FOCUS GROUP PARENT

PARENT POLL

If CPS announced a return to in-person learning tomorrow, would you choose the fully in-person option, a hybrid option, or virtual learning only?

HYBRID VS. VIRTUAL LEARNING



IN-PERSON
HYBRID
VIRTUAL ONLY

TOTAL RESPONSES | 112

Activating Parent Power to Achieve Equity

Decades of systemic racism have created inequitable access not only to a high-quality education, but to other resources like affordable housing, healthy food, regular healthcare, and well-paying jobs. Although each of these produce challenges that have a different impact on families and communities, they compound to perpetuate a pernicious imbalance of power.

To remedy this, our work is rooted in building and activating the power intrinsic in parents and community members to advocate for change in their own schools and neighborhoods. Every parent wants the best for their children. We partner with parents to help them gain the resources, information, and access they need to achieve their vision for their children’s education.

At Kids First Chicago, we know that sustained change will require a reckoning with our past and meaningful redistribution of power within our public-school system. Our ultimate goal is to build a knowledgeable, insightful, independent base of Black and Latinx/a/o community and parent champions ready to disrupt politics as usual and unlock a new era of progress and growth for Chicago’s public-school students.

We can leverage this moment of unprecedented crisis to build a more equitable education system. Parents are now, undeniably, the conduit to students’ learning. We must listen to their perspectives and ideas as we seek to ensure that students not only recover from this pandemic, but **thrive**.

Measuring Progress in Chicago Public Schools

We believe that measuring progress in our schools is essential to knowing where we are and what we need to do so that all students get the education they deserve. We heard from parents that they want to understand how their children are performing in school and how schools in their communities are working to meet the needs of their students.

Using CPS's School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP), we've historically reviewed school performance by looking at schools' two-year SQRP averages. Just five years ago, there were 75,000 students enrolled in Chicago's lowest-performing schools. Now, that number has decreased to approximately 42,000 students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended schooling as we know it. The way that we approach school performance and accountability must also shift to accommodate the seismic changes taking place in education.

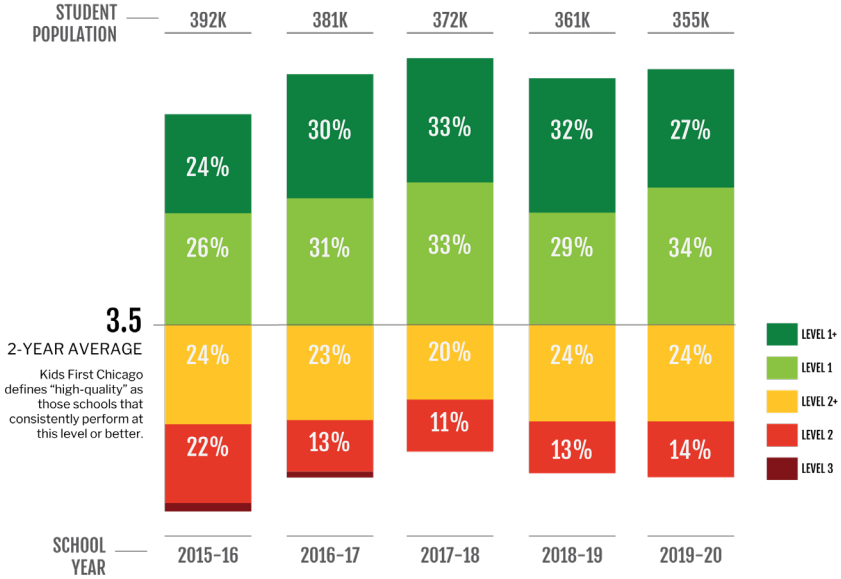
By Spring 2022, Chicago Public Schools will complete a comprehensive review process, including extensive engagement with multiple stakeholders, to determine the future of school and district measurement. We are committed to ensuring that parents are co-designers in this process. Together, we'll co-create an enhanced measurement system and policy that supports student learning and growth in this new era.

“I hope that this is an opportunity to start to open up the system and really elevate parents as co-creators in the policies that are going to be impacting their children.”

- NATALIE NERIS,
CHIEF OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

From Crain's Chicago Business

27



LEVEL RATING	SCORE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
LEVEL 1+	4.0 or Higher	Above average performance that far exceeds expectations.
LEVEL 1	3.5 to 3.9	Above average performance that exceeds expectations.
LEVEL 2+	3.0 to 3.49	Average performance that meets expectations.
LEVEL 2	2.0 to 2.9	Below average performance that does not meet expectations.
LEVEL 3	Less than 2.0	Far below average performance that does not meet expectations.
N/A	No Score	Not enough data. This often occurs when a school is new or serves only K-3rd grades.

NOTE: SQRP weighs factors including student growth and attainment on standardized tests, attendance, and school culture. For high schools, it also measures graduation rates, college enrollment, and college persistence. Measuring the consistency of a school's rating over time provides a more accurate depiction of that school's performance. Using this approach for all schools, we've been able to better understand whether the district is providing a quality education for all students.

SECTION

04

OUR LEADERS & INVESTORS



(From Left to Right) Dr. Janice K. Jackson, Consuelo Martinez, Alma Sigala, Rena Robinson, and Daniel Anello at Kids First Chicago's 15th Anniversary Celebration in October 2019.



“The real kind of change happened when philanthropy came to the table and said...let’s think about something more permanent, more enduring, that can make sure kids truly have convenient access to broadband.”

- KRISTIN POLLOCK
CHIEF OF DEVELOPMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

From Inside Philanthropy

CLOSING LETTER



David Casper, Kids First Chicago Board Chair, delivers closing remarks at the October 2019 15th Anniversary Celebration.

Dear Friends,

In Fall 2019, Kids First Chicago marked its 15th anniversary, celebrating nearly two decades of educational transformation within Chicago's public schools.

With nearly 300 friends, we honored the hard work that educators, principals, district leaders, communities, families, and dozens of education partners do every day to ensure that Chicago kids have access to a world-class education.

No one could have predicted that just a few months later, our world would be forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to acknowledge the work that Chicago's community of education champions has done over the last year.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE



STUDENTS IN HIGH-QUALITY SEATS



“Kids First Chicago could not do its work without the support and belief of our partners, investors, and friends.”

Following the lead of parents, and with the support of the philanthropic community, we elevated the profile on inequities facing our communities, connected families to basic services and necessities like food and healthcare, launched an initiative to permanently close the digital divide, and helped to stabilize families and schools during an incredibly uncertain chapter in our history.

Kids First Chicago could not do its work without the support and belief of our partners, investors, and friends.

We know that we are living in a time that is unlike any other and we know that there is much, much more work to be done. But together, we can make a real difference for kids and families across the city.

Thank **YOU** for putting kids first.

David Casper
U.S. CEO, BMO Financial Group &
Board Chair, Kids First Chicago

FALL/WINTER 2020

**A WORLD-CLASS CHICAGO WHERE ALL CHILDREN RECEIVE THE
HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION THEY DESERVE**

OUR TEAM

Kids First Chicago is led by passionate individuals who believe that education has the power to unlock a bright future for our kids and our city.

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

Katrina Adams

Gillespie Elementary

Cherelle Bilal

Little Angels Learning Center

Guadalupe Carreon

Orozco Elementary

Denise Dyer

Nicholson STEM Academy

Lilia Guevara

Evergreen Academy Middle School

Tawana Harris

Von Steuben HS, Legal Prep HS

LaTeShia Hollingsworth

U of C Donoghue Elementary and U of C Woodlawn HS

Lorena Lopez

Seward Elementary

Consuelo Martinez

Back of the Yards HS

Darlene O'Banner

Earle STEM Academy

Mary Ottinot

Skinner West Elementary, Beard Elementary

Maria Owens

Hirsch HS

Brenda Rivera

Inter-American Elementary Magnet School

Rena Robinson

Westinghouse HS

Maria Sanchez

Orozco Elementary

Alma Sigala

Seward Elementary, Back of the Yards HS, and Phoenix Military HS

Cata Truss

Austin community

Claiborne Wade

DePriest Elementary

Yolanda Williams

Penn Elementary

Melinda Young

Skinner West Elementary

Maria Zavala

Seward Elementary

Andrea Zayas

Erie Elementary, and McAuliffe Elementary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Casper | CHAIR

U.S. CEO, BMO Financial Group

Daniel Anello

CEO, Kids First Chicago

Mara Botman

Program Director, Circle of Service Foundation

Patrick J. Canning +

Vice Chairman, Cresset Capital

Shayne Evans

Founder & Managing Partner, The Academy Group



Kids First Chicago parent leaders and Garrette Horne, Community Engagement Manager, at the 2020 Champion Dinner.

Thomas J. Formolo

Partner, New Harbor Capital LLC

Sam Ganga

Partner, Digital Strategy, KPMG US

Philip L. Hildebrandt

CEO, Segall Bryant & Hamill

John W. Madigan *

Retired Chairman & CEO, Tribune Company

Cameron Morris

Director, Industrials
William Blair & Company

Nichole Pinkard

Associate Professor of Learning Sciences,
Northwestern University

Jose Luis Prado

Former Chairman & CEO, Evans Food Group

John W. Rowe *

Chairman Emeritus, Exelon Corporation

Timothy R. Schwertfeger *

Chairman & CEO Emeritus, Nuveen
Investments

Nancy S. Searle | VICE CHAIR *

Civic Leader

Benjamin Smith

Head of Strategy, Fifth Third Bank

David J. Vitale

Former Executive Chair, Urban Partnership
Bank

Kelly R. Welsh

President, Civic Committee of the
Commercial Club of Chicago

Melinda Young

Local School Council Member,
Skinner West Elementary

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Lula M. Ford *

Retired CPS Educator and Retired Member,
Illinois State Board of Education

Donald G. Lubin *

Partner, Dentons US LLP

*Founding Board Member

*Former Board Chair



Parent leaders help at an enrollment workshop.

STAFF

Daniel Anello
Chief Executive Officer

Nilanjana Bhattacharya
Data Fellow

Lily Elderkin
Development and External Affairs Manager

Zelanel Ferrer Costas
Community Engagement Coordinator

Garrette Horne
Community Engagement Manager

Vivian Lee
Chief of Strategy and Operations

Natalie Neris
Chief of Community Engagement

Cathy Paliga
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Jasmin Pizano
Community Engagement Coordinator

Kristin Pollock
Chief of Development and External Affairs

Abel Rodriguez
Data Analyst

Sean Schindl
Director of Community Engagement

LeShonne W. Segura
Director of Special Projects

Ciera Smith
Community Engagement Coordinator

Hal Woods
Chief of Policy

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INVESTORS

Kids First Chicago is 100% privately supported by a dedicated group of individuals, corporations, and foundations. We gratefully recognize the following donors for their generous annual and multi-year support since 2015. Their dedication to Chicago students is exemplary.

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (4)
Scott Adelson
Andersen-Formolo Family Foundation
Elizabeth Anderson
Daniel Anello and Norma Lopez
John and Margot Anello
Robert Armour
Lori Baas, Christopher House
Christopher Bain
Jay Beidler and Deborah Witzburg
Best Portion Foundation
Andrew Bettino
Dorte Bjerregaard
Stephen Black
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bobins, The Robert
Thomas Bobins Foundation
Amy Bordoshuk
Ana Borisov
Bradley Bozych
Stuart Breslow
Andrew Broy, Illinois Network of Charter
Schools
Dominic Byrne
Amanda Cage
Kristen Cali
Allie Canfield
Betsy and Patrick Canning
The Canning Foundation
Victoria Canto
Elda Capilla
Joseph Caputo
Jane and David Casper
Mrunil Champaneri
David and Debbie Chizewer
Jamison Chong
Colleen Clifford
Lewis M. Collens

Kimberly and Peter Connors
Bill and Martha Curtin
Zachary Debelak
Donna DeHart
Michelle DeMent
Michelle Dickson
Janet and Craig Duchossois
Genevieve Durst
Lauren East
Richard Edelman
Mark Eidelman
Brian Eschbacher
Gustavo Esquivel
Shayne Evans
John Farnsworth
David Feinberg
Jordan Fisher
Lula Ford
Cassandra Fordrum
Roopa and Sam Ganga
Adam Garchik
Marvin Garcia and Milady Velazquez
Colleen Gilmartin
Vijayarajan Govindarajan
Gordon Groom
Zachary Grossman
Lee Hart
Patty and Craig Henderson Family
Foundation
Yan Verdeja Herms
Philip Herndon
David Hiller Charitable Fund at The Chicago
Community Foundation
Philip and Carole Hildebrandt
Christina Hsu
Philip W. Hummer
Matt James
Alex Johnson

36

Hilary Kallop
Lindy and Mike Keiser
Payal Keshvani
Kurt Kretzer
Scott Lamm
Charles Lewis and Penny Bender Sebring
Todd Linehan
The Madera Family
The Madigan Family Foundation
Tanvi and Ajay Mago
Donald Marshall
Stacy McAuliffe
Andrew and Joan McKenna Foundation
Payal Menda
Lucy Miller
Wing Yin Mok
Matt and Lucy Moog
Demetri Morgan
Clare Muñana
Graham Nash
Natalie C. Neris
Elaine Ni
Jonathan Nickelson
Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Family Charitable Trust
Kenneth Novak
Susan Blankenbaker Noyes
Richard Nyankori
Richard O'Connor
Patty Oey and Jack Hsu
William Oh
Kristie Paskvan
Chandrashekar Patel
Neil Patel
Nichole Pinkard
Carol Glass Pollock
Elizabeth I. Pollock
Kristin M. Pollock
Petre Popescu
Jose L. Prado
Ciera Proctor
Satish and Kavitha Royapet Rao
Saku Rimali
Freya Robayo-Perez
Craig Rohr
Zachary Rosenstock
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe
George Sargeant
Timothy R. Schwertfeger
Nancy S. Searle

Priya Shah
Meghan Shehorn
Jai Shekhawat
John Simmons
Benjamin J. Smith
Jilliann Smith
Antonia Smith Robinson
Susan Snyder
The Steans Family
Robin and Sandy Stuart Fund at the Chicago
Community Foundation
John and Jill Svoboda
Ann Szekely
John Talarico
Brian Tatnali
Edmund Taylor
Tolman Family
Traci Trapp
David Twardock
Jennifer Van Valkenburg
Solange-Marie Velazquez
David J. Vitale
Catherine M. & Frederick H. Waddell
David B. Weinberg, Judd Enterprises
Weinberg/Newton Gallery
Kelly R. Welsh
Jennifer Wilson
Alicia Winckler
Paula Wolff
Melinda Young
Jie Yu
Michael Ziegler

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Anonymous (2)
A Better Chicago
Accenture
Aon
AT&T
BMO Harris Bank
Boston Consulting Group
The John Buck Company
The CAFE
The Christopher Family Foundation
CIBC
Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of
Chicago
CME Group Foundation
The Crown Family

DRW Trading
Empower Illinois
Evans Food Group
Fifth Third Bank
Finnegan Family Foundation
Flamboyan Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Goodman Law Group | Chicago
Guggenheim Partners
Hickory Farms
Illinois Tool Works
IMC Charitable Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family
Foundation
KPMG LLP
Lefkowsky Family Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
McMaster-Carr
Molex, LLC
Morningstar, Inc.
Netflix
New Harbor Capital
Northern Trust
Nuveen Investments
The Osa Foundation
Parkside Investments LLC
Peoples Gas
PepsiCo Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
PNC Bank
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Pritzker Traubert Foundation
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Schwarz Supply Source
Spencer Foundation
Square One Foundation
Swiss Food Products
United Airlines
USG
Walton Family Foundation
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Foundation
William Blair & Co.
Working in the Schools
WTTW and WFMT

THANK YOU TO OUR LEAD INVESTORS

List reflects annual contributors of \$100,000
or more from 1/1/2018 to 11/15/2020.

ANONYMOUS

ANDERSEN-FORMOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION

BEST PORTION FOUNDATION

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

BMO  Harris Bank



CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES

ITW

 imc

TheJoyceFoundation

CHARLES LEWIS AND PENNY BENDER SEBRING

LLOYD A. FRY
FOUNDATION



ROBERT R.
MCCORMICK
FOUNDATION

JOHN W. AND JEANNE M. ROWE

THE STEANS FAMILY

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION

2019-2020 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

		YEAR ENDED	
		June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	REVENUES		
	Corporate	762,200	389,500
	Foundation	1,861,300	2,427,900
	Individual	450,000	548,300
	Event	-	218,000
	In-kind Donations	260,400	245,200
	Other	41,700	40,100
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 3,375,600	\$ 3,869,000
	EXPENSES		
	Community Engagement	875,200	1,085,600
Policy	667,200	724,900	
School Quality	255,800	338,700	
Other programs	116,300	122,800	
General and Administrative	386,400	469,900	
Fundraising	331,800	379,600	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,632,700	\$3,121,500	
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$742,900	\$747,500
	NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,638,000	\$3,380,900
	NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$3,380,900	\$4,128,400

Kids First Chicago's audited financials are available at kidsfirstchicago.org/financial-statements.

**Chicago's tomorrow relies
on educating our children
today. Support our work.**

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Make a tax-deductible gift

LEARN MORE

For more information about
how you can support
Kids First Chicago, contact
Kristin Pollock, Chief of Development, at
kpollcock@kidsfirstchicago.org.

[KIDSFIRSTCHICAGO.ORG/DONATE](https://kidsfirstchicago.org/donate)

DESIGNED BY

HALT CREATIVE



KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS
WORLD-CLASS CITY

KIDSFIRSTCHICAGO.ORG