Chicago Public Schools (CPS) defines a student teacher as an “active participant in the CPS Student Teaching Program who is enrolled in an accredited University’s School of Education, is seeking college credit for student teaching, and who is in process of receiving teacher certification from a state board of education, and who has direct contact with CPS students.” In a school year, the CPS Talent Office welcomes over 900 student teachers and partners with over 50 Institutions of Higher Education (IHE).

Student teachers receive orientation, professional development, and valuable training from a cooperating teacher. As student teachers approach graduation, they are invited to attend resume workshops, career fairs, and students in high-need subjects may be eligible for an early offer of employment. We look forward to students beginning their journey with Chicago Public Schools!

The CPS Student Teaching Program is for service at CPS district schools and Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL) schools. University coordinators work to place students with cooperating teachers who teach in the same content area as the student is earning licensure. The CPS School Locator is a great resource to learn about local schools and view the governance/management network. For placements at charter, contract, option, or private schools please contact the school directly to inquire about student teaching procedures.

**Student Teaching Application** Prospective student teachers must follow all student teaching guidelines established by their institution of higher education (IHE). Additionally, the IHE must be an affiliated student teaching partner.

**The Fall 2020 Application opens on April 7th and closes on May 29th.**

Apply at [www.teach.cps.edu/student-teacher](http://www.teach.cps.edu/student-teacher)

- **Fall Semester (September - December):** Application opens on the first Tuesday in April and closes on the last Friday in May.
- **Spring Semester (January - June):** Application opens on the first Tuesday in September and closes on the last Friday in October.

**Approval Tasks** Effective January 2018, active CPS employees and CPS volunteers (Level I and Level II) are required to complete all the steps below prior to the start of student teaching. Once the application form is submitted, prospective student teachers are invited to become “community members” on a software platform and complete the following approval tasks:

- **Student Teacher Application**
  This is an opportunity for students to review application fields, provide new/missing information, and update any information that has changed. Many of the fields will be prefilled based on the answers received from the online application form.

- **Guidelines and Acknowledgements**
  The student teacher acknowledgements can be found on the [Confidentiality Agreement and Acknowledgement of the Talent Office Policy](http://www.teach.cps.edu/student-teacher).
• **Site Placement(s)**
  We will request confirmation of your school placement(s), cooperating teachers(s), and start and end date(s). Please complete these questions only when you have received confirmation from your university coordinator that the information is correct. Your answers will be reflected on your approval notice and require the highest degree of accuracy.

• **Complete background check and tuberculosis test**
  Prospective student teachers are required to complete a fingerprint background check and a tuberculosis skin test. **Within 7 days** of the online application closing (either the last Friday in May or October), student teachers will receive an email with forms and specific instructions. Upon receiving the forms, students have **30 days** to complete both the background check and tuberculosis test. **Accurate Biometrics** is the contracted vendor for State of Illinois and FBI fingerprint-based background checks.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
1. Save your Accurate Biometrics receipt with Transaction Control Number (**sample receipt**).
2. Upload a copy of your completed **Certification of Freedom from Tuberculosis form and Accurate Biometrics receipt** to be reviewed by the Talent Office.

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**Report to Service Notification (Approval Notice)**

*The Report to Service notice is contingent on the successful completion of all approval tasks, including: completed application, confirmed cooperating teacher, clear background check and tuberculosis results.*

This notice authorizes the student to begin student teaching. It will be emailed to the student, university coordinator, CPS Principal(s), and CPS cooperating teacher(s).

To ensure the highest level of safety for our school communities, students are **NOT AUTHORIZED** to report to a CPS school until they have received an approval notice. Thank you for helping us ensure the highest level of safety for our schools and communities.

Please feel free to contact the Student Teaching program at **studentteach@cps.edu** with any questions, and we look forward to welcoming you to CPS!
Special Circumstances

If you plan to student teach at the same CPS school where you are currently staffed as a CPS employee please indicate on your application that you are a current CPS employee and enter your CPS employee number. The Talent Office will review candidates on a case-by-case basis and some employees may be eligible to skip a new background check and tuberculosis test.

If you plan to student teach in the same CPS school where you completed field experience hours in successive (back-to-back) academic terms indicate on your application which school you completed CPS field experience and also plan to complete student teaching. This situation is also known as a “linked placement.” The Talent Office will review candidates on a case-by-case basis and some students may be eligible to skip a new background check.

If you are aware of any arrests/charges/convictions that may appear on your criminal background report, begin the fingerprinting process far in advance, since it may require 30 or more days to process results. Begin to prepare additional documents outlined on the Background Check Guidelines, which may be requested by the CPS Office of Safety and Security. Any background check that does not produce a “clear” result will be required to go before the CPS Criminal Background Review Committee, and the Committee will make the final decision regarding student teaching approval.

If you are an international student and you do not have a social security number you are still eligible to complete your fingerprinting at an Accurate Biometrics location. If you encounter any issues, please email backgroundcheck@cps.edu and studentteach@cps.edu.

Out-of-State Participants: Candidates who are physically out-of-state and unable to visit an Accurate Biometrics location are advised to take the following steps to ensure their fingerprints are properly submitted to Accurate Biometrics. More detailed instructions can be found at the Accurate Biometrics Out-of-State Guidelines.

✓ Go to a local Police Station and request an FBI Fingerprint Card (FD-258). The Police Station will take your ink fingerprints and affix them to the card.

✓ Mail the following 4 items to:

Accurate Biometrics  
500 Park Blvd, Suite 1260  
Itasca, IL 60143  
RE: CPS Student Teaching Program

1. The FBI Fingerprint Card (FD-258). Required information includes: full name, date of birth, home address, sex, height, weight, hair color, eye color, place of birth, reason fingerprinted, social security number, signature of official taking the prints, signature of person fingerprinted, and date.
2. A money order in the amount of $65.00 made out to Accurate Biometrics. Please include the full name of the applicant on the money order. If you would like to pay by credit card, please print the following form and include it in your package Credit Card Payment Form. Don’t forget to include the expiration date and three digit security code of the credit card that you are using.
3. The Identity Certification Statement (completed by officer during fingerprinting).
4. The CPS Fingerprinting Background Authorization & Release Form (and include your email address so you can receive a computer-generated receipt indicating the transaction control number).
Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to complete the entire student teaching process by the last Friday in May or October?  
No. The above dates are only the deadlines to submit the application (Step 2). Prospective student teachers will receive instructions to complete prior to the start of student teaching.

Will background checks from other vendors be accepted?  
No. CPS cannot accept background checks from outside vendors and agencies. You must fingerprint at an Accurate Biometrics location using the CPS Fingerprinting Background Authorization & Release Form.

If I completed a tuberculosis test and fingerprints for field experience and/or pre-clinical hours in the district and/or for another school district, do I need to complete the requirements again?  
Yes. Since January 2016, Illinois School Code requires new tuberculosis and fingerprint documents completed within 90 days of the student teaching state date.

I'm completing a year-long student teaching program. Do I need to submit separate applications for both semesters?  
No. You only submit one student teaching application. Plan to complete your application and required test results during the application window one semester before you start student teaching.

If I submitted an application, completed the required tests, and then deferred my student teaching to another semester, do I need to complete the process again?  
Yes. You will be required to submit a new application and complete new test results for the upcoming semester. All documents must be dated within the given application window for which you are applying.

Can I obtain my background check results even though the results go to CPS?  
Yes. You may request a copy of your background check results up to a year of your fingerprints being processed. To request your results, please contact your institute of higher education coordinator who will partner with CPS to obtain a copy.

If I did not receive a Report to Service approval notice, can I start student teaching?  
No. To ensure the highest level of safety for our students and school communities, an Approval Notice is required from every prospective student teacher.