Teach Chicago Tomorrow is a new CPS strategy to bring additional talented and diverse teachers to our classrooms by investing in our own high school graduates who are interested in teaching.

Our goal is to produce a larger group of homegrown teachers who look like our kids, come from our communities, and are invested in our neighborhoods.
Teach Chicago Tomorrow

CPS graduates can make an extraordinary difference as CPS teachers—this is the belief that drives Teach Chicago Tomorrow.

We're happy you're considering teaching in CPS! Use this toolkit to navigate the six essential steps from CPS graduate to CPS teacher. Starting now, and within each step along the way, be sure to connect with your counselor/academic advisor. Let this toolkit be a guide for those conversations.

Step 1: Apply to the college that's right for you
Essential questions to ask yourself:

1. What kind of teaching am I most interested in?
   - In-Demand Teaching Specialties:
     - Elementary Education
     - Special Education
     - Early Childhood Education
     - Bilingual Education
     - STEM
     - Arts
     - Physical Education
     - World Language

2. What schools are right for me?
   - Great Options for CPS Graduates:
     - City Colleges of Chicago
     - Illinois State University
     - University of Illinois at Chicago
     - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
     - National Louis University
     - Northeastern Illinois University
     - DePaul University
     - Loyola University Chicago
     - Chicago State University
     - Western Governors University

3. How can I get help paying for college?
   - Funding Resources:
     - StudentAid.Gov
     - TEACH Grant
     - Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
     - Minority Teachers of Illinois
     - IL Special Education Tuition Waiver Program
     - Golden Apple Scholars
     - Bloom Room Orphan
     - STAR Scholarship (City Colleges)
     - Call Me MISTER (UIC)

More Resources:
- College Scoreboard
- Chicago Scholars
- Bottom Line

Step 2: Enroll and stick with it
Congratulations! You've been accepted. Here's what's next.

Talk to your new counselor or advisor as soon as possible about enrolling in the right classes for you and take advantage of student services.

Am I enrolled in the right classes?
What supports are available to me?
How regularly will we check in?

Example Supports to Ask About
- Financial Advising
- Academic Tutoring
- Counseling Center
- Writer’s Workshop
- Math Labs
- Library Services
- Wellness/Health Center
- Multicultural Affairs
- Student Clubs and Greek Orgs
- Mentorship Program

Quick Links:
- One Million Degrees
- College Possible
- Student Resource Directory

Step 3: Transition from sophomore to junior year
This step looks different at each school, so it's critical to talk with your college counselor or advisor from the jump and every conversation afterward.

Checklist for students transitioning from a two-year to a four-year college:
- Find the 4-year program that's a good fit for you
- Make sure you're taking transferable courses
- Work hard and keep your grades up

Checklist for students at a four-year college, accepted into education major as a freshman:
- You'll have additional flexibility to take certain courses earlier in your college career
- Requirements don’t change, nor does the focus on career preparation during the second half of college

Checklist for students at a four-year college, accepted to education major as a rising junior:
- Apply to school of education by sophomore year
- Make sure you're taking the right classes
- Keep your grades up as some program admissions are competitive

Transition Pathways Examples
- CCC Transfer Center
- NLU
- NEIU
- UIUC

More Resources:
- College Scoreboard
- Chicago Scholars
- Bottom Line
Step 4: Career-Focused Coursework and Internship

Professional Coursework: You'll take classes in your grade level specialty (e.g. early childhood, elementary, high school science), plus teaching foundations coursework including reading methods, teaching diverse learners, and teaching English language learners.

Internship: Prepare for career success through hands-on practice in a real CPS classroom. Your internship will generally have 2 parts:

• Clinical Experience, where you will spend at least 100 hours in live classrooms, observing, supporting planning, and even helping with small-group instruction.

• Student Teaching, where you'll spend, on average, 12-16 weeks of full-time student teaching in a mentor’s classroom. Building on everything you’ve learned up to that point, work time will be spent inside your mentor teacher’s classroom to gradually take more responsibility for planning lessons, teaching lessons, and evaluating your students’ learning.

Step 5: Testing, Bachelor’s Degree, and Licensure

In this penultimate step, show what you’ve got through final testing, completing your BA, and earning your Illinois Professional Educator’s License (PEL). Remember, a PEL is required for all teacher positions at CPS.

Content Test
In grade band/content area tests you’ll demonstrate command of your subject through a traditional exam.

EdTPA
In this assessment, you’ll demonstrate proficiency in the skill of teaching by compiling a portfolio of your work, including student teaching videos.

Licensure
After completing your course work, apply for and receive your Professional Educator’s License from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Step 6: Start Your CPS Teaching Career!
teach.CPS.edu

Don’t Forget
• Reach out to our career counselors early and often (starting in your junior year)
• Network during your student teaching
• Apply to the CPS early offer program
• Explore the personalized hiring support of the CPS Opportunity Schools program.

Learn more by visiting: cps.edu/teachtomorrow

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For partnership opportunities, contact:
Felipe Perez, Director of Pipeline Diversity, Talent Office, Chicago Public Schools: fperez45@cps.edu

Teach Chicago Tomorrow is a core component of Teach Chicago, CPS’ initiative to attract and retain highly qualified, diverse teachers for every classroom in the city, teach.cps.edu

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