

**OVERVIEW: KEY FACTS ABOUT THE CHICAGO EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TASK FORCE**  
**State Rep. Cynthia Soto & State Sen. Heather Steans, Co-Chairs**

**WHO:** A 15-member panel appointed by the leaders of the Illinois General Assembly, with bipartisan representation from both Chambers. The Task Force was initially created by IL Public Act 96-803 in 2009. The Task Force includes one representative each from the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Principals & Administrators' Association and the Chicago Teachers' Union; plus four additional members, each representing a recognized school/community organization with past experience of educational facility issues. Blocks Together, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Designs for Change, and Grand Blvd Federation were appointed by the General Assembly leaders to serve on the CEFTF.

**WHAT:** The Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force's initial mandate was to examine CPS' facilities decisions about "School Actions" and facility spending and construction.

From March 2010-March 2011, the CEFTF worked to *formulate policy and legislative recommendations to the General Assembly*, the Governor, and the School District (Chicago Public Schools-CPS) to ensure that CPS decisions about the use and condition of public school facilities are made based on "educationally sound and fiscally responsible" practices. Reform ideas arose from the extensive public outreach efforts of the Task Force which gathered input from teachers, principals, parents, students, local government and CPS officials, elected officials, and national experts; analysis of CPS data; and extensive review of national "best practices".

In June 2011, the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted the "School Actions Accountability and Master Planning" Act (SB 0630), now IL Public Act 97-0474. It institutes key reforms in Chicago Public Schools' facility decisions. The law requires CPS to create a 10-Year Facility Master Plan based on broad input from educators, parents, communities, and other local governments. The Master Plan must be approved and in place by July 2013. The law also requires detailed disclosure and transparency in CPS capital budgeting and spending on facilities. *It also requires earlier notice about, and greater input into, CPS' "School Actions" including:* School Co-Locations; School Consolidations; School Closings and School "Phase-Outs" (a gradual closing of a school over time); and School Attendance Boundary changes ("student assignment" – *which* students get to attend *what* schools). The Act establishes greater protections for students when CPS takes School Actions through mandatory "School Transition Plans".

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Governor Quinn signed the bill into law, and went into effect immediately.

P.A. 97-0474 also re-authorizes the continuation of the CEFTF. The Task Force will monitor CPS' implementation of the reforms and issue at least one report per year on CPS' progress. It will also continue to gather public input, and review and assess CPS' decision making about the use of its public school facilities. The CEFTF will continue to hold regular open meetings; seek input from experts, local community stakeholders and the public; examine national "best practices" and as needed, call its own *public hearings*.

For more information on the General Assembly Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force,  
Please visit the website of the Illinois State Board of Education: [www.isbe.net/CEF](http://www.isbe.net/CEF)

## CHICAGO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS: AN OVERVIEW

### **3<sup>rd</sup> largest public school district in the nation**

(after NYC and Los Angeles)-with an Operating

Budget of **\$5.11 billion (FY2012)**

The FY2012 Capital Program: \$660 Million

Since 1996, CPS has spent approximately \$6 BILLION on Facility modernization and new school construction.

### **Total Enrollment (FY2011-2012) 404,151**

87% are from Low-Income Families

12.2% are Limited-English Speaking.

Preschool	24,232
Kindergarten	29,594
Elementary (1-8)	236,452
Secondary (9-12)	113,873

### **Racial Makeup**

African-American:	41.6%
Latino:	44.1%
White:	8.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander:	3.4%
Native American:	0.4%

### **FACILITIES**

**642** school buildings in active use (@ 60 million sq ft)

**675 "School Organizations," or, instructional units** –  
i.e. distinct schools providing instruction

**44** buildings house "Co-Locations"

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Are part of the School District, and approved by the School Board.

**Forty-One "Charter" Operators run 109 charter campuses Citywide, with approximately 44,000 students, 11% of all students. State Law caps the total number of Charters that CPS can provide at 70 (no cap on # of campuses).**

### **High School Drop-Out Rates remain high for Students**

**of Color:** As of 2010, CPS data show that the 4-Year Graduation Rate for African American students was only 47.3%. Only 38.2% of African American Males graduate high school in 4 years.

The 2010 Hispanic 4-Year Graduation rate was 56.1%, 49% of Hispanic Males graduate high school in 4 years. But 64% of all white students, and 58.6% of white Males, graduate high school in 4 years. (Analysis by Greater West Town Community Development Project, Chicago, IL: [www.gwtp.org](http://www.gwtp.org))

### **Results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress**

**(NAEP) for Chicago's 4<sup>th</sup> Graders** for 2009 show no significant improvement in Reading or Math achievement gaps for Black, Hispanic, or low-income students (eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch) since 2002.

## **Governance: Who's Runs Chicago's Public Schools?**

**Mayoral Control was instituted by the State Legislature in 1995.**

### **The Mayor appoints a 7-Member Board of Education, and CPS'**

**"Chief Executive Officer"** (a business model term, not called a "Superintendent" or "Chancellor"). The CPS CEO is the top School Administrator for the school district. Mayor Emanuel hand-picked the CEO and the next 4 highest-ranking administrators in CPS when he was elected in April 2012.

Chicago has the only appointed School Board in Illinois.

Chicago elects 50 members (one per Ward) to the City Council, but these local "Aldermen" have no real authority over the public schools. But a City Council Education Committee does make recommendations and pass occasional Resolutions that can influence the Mayor and CPS.