Summary of SB 630

On August 22, 2011, Governor Quinn signed Public Act 097-0474, amending the Illinois School Code by adding requirements for School Action and Facility Master Planning. The bill requires that the Chicago Public Schools:

- Follow a clear process for school actions
- Publish space utilization and facility performance standards
- Produce plans for capital improvement and a 10 year education master facility plan
- Ensure that information regarding capital expenditures and leases are accessible to the public

By November 1, the Chief Executive Officer will publish guidelines for school actions outlining academic and non-academic criteria and the school actions process. These guidelines will be subject to public comment for 21 days. School actions shall be announced by December 1 and give notice of each proposed action while also including School Transition Plans. Three opportunities for public comment will be given on each proposed school action; the first opportunity being held at least 30 days after the proposed announcements.

Space utilization and facility performance standards must be published by January 1, 2012. Space utilization standards will outline:

- the method by which design capacity is calculated
- the method to determine the efficient use of a school building
- the rate of utilization
- the standards for overcrowding and underutilization

Facility performance standards will outline the minimum and optimal standards for:

- thermal comfort
- daylight
- acoustics
- indoor air quality
- furniture ergonomics for students and staff
- technology
- life safety
- ADA accessibility
- plumbing and washroom access
- environmental hazards
- walkability

The facility performance standards will be submitted to the Chicago Public Building Commission and each local school council. CPS will hold at least one public hearing prior to adoption.

CPS will develop a capital needs review process and one-year and five-year capital improvement plans. Beginning with fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012), the one-year capital improvement plan will be proposed at least 60 days prior to the end of the previous fiscal year (May 2, 2012). The proposed one-year capital improvement plan will be subject to public review, comment and at least three public hearings.

Every five years, CPS will prepare a 10-year educational facility master plan with the first such educational facility master plan to be approved by July 1, 2013. The educational facility master plan shall provide community area level plans and individual school master plans with options for addressing the facility and space needs for each building operated by the district over a 10-year period. By January 1, 2013, a preliminary draft of the Educational Facility Master Plan will be published for review and comment. Public hearings will be conducted.
and after considering the public input received, a final plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval.

Finally, capital expenditures and lease information will be published on the district’s website so that they are accessible to the public.