



DRAFT TRANSITION PLAN

**For the Co-location of Talent Development High School
with Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School**

I. Introduction

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is committed to ensuring that every student, in every community, has access to high quality schools in order to graduate college and career ready. For our current students, this means we must put our students’ needs first, make difficult decisions, and act now to ensure they have the best opportunity to personally realize that goal. School actions (including closures, consolidations, reassignment boundary changes, phase-outs, and co-locations), along with significant investments to improve our schools, are being proposed in the communities that need better opportunities the most.

In order to ensure that CPS students have access to a variety of educational options, CPS is proposing a school action to co-locate Talent Development High School (Talent Development) with Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School (Crane) in the same CPS facility located at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. The transition plan outlined below summarizes the proposal, identifies the academic, social, emotional, and safety supports where relevant that will be provided to impacted students, and explains the process for commenting on the action and obtaining more information. All co-locations will abide by the CPS Shared Facility Policy (Board Report 05-0126-P01).

It is important to note that this draft transition plan is subject to change based on input from parents, schools, and community members. CPS welcomes this input and hopes that the feedback provided will assist in preparing for a smooth transition should this proposal be approved by the Board.

II. Summary of Proposed Action

In order to ensure that CPS students have access to a variety of educational options, CPS is proposing to co-locate Talent Development with Crane in a shared facility located at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. Talent Development first opened in the fall of 2009 with 94 students and is currently located at 4319 W. Washington Blvd. in a building that can no longer accommodate its growing enrollment. Due to the existing space constraints, Talent Development serves only 200 students from 9th to 11th grade; however, the school expects to serve up to 600 students from 9th to 12th grade next year if provided with the necessary space to do so.

Crane is a neighborhood high school located in a CPS-owned facility at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd., within the Near West Side community and the West Side High School Network. Crane High School and Achievement Academy currently serves 638 students. The proposed co-location meets the criteria of the Chief Executive Officer’s Guidelines for School Action because Talent Development is a Board-approved charter school. Furthermore, the CPS facility that currently houses Crane has the capacity to be used as a shared facility.

Please note that in addition to this proposed co-location, Crane is also subject to another proposed school action that, if approved, would cause Crane to phase out one grade at a time over the next three years.

If this proposed co-location is approved, the Board will enter into a lease agreement with Talent Development for the facility located at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. Talent Development and Crane will operate as two separate, independent schools while sharing the facility and will be expected to adhere to the Board’s Shared Facility

Policy (Board Report 05-0126-P01). CPS is committed to making the necessary capital investments to ensure the successful operations of the two independent schools within the same facility.

III. Facility Details

As stated in the Board's 2005 Shared Facility Policy, CPS believes that it is in the best interest of students and communities to identify buildings that are not being utilized at their full capacity and to increase the utilization of those facilities. One potential way to accomplish this is to transform an underutilized building from a single school facility to a shared facility by bringing one or more additional schools into the building. CPS believes that proposing the co-location of Crane and Talent Development will provide CPS students with increased access to educational options.

Crane is located in Chicago's West Side at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. The high school was originally constructed in 1923 with a subsequent building addition in 1978. Main access to the school is on W. Jackson Blvd. Staff and visitor parking are located along Leavitt St. between Jackson and Van Buren. The site also includes an athletic track and soccer/football field.

The school has several computer, art and science labs which make up approximately 20% of the total classrooms and are primarily located on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. The 4th floor is almost completely dedicated to general classrooms. Other key spaces include: competition gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria/kitchen, library, and auto shop. The facility also has a School Based Health Clinic located on the first floor.

The 2245 W. Jackson facility has 74 classrooms. Crane, with an enrollment of 638 students, is anticipated to need 22 homerooms, as well as 6 additional classrooms for special programming, such as science, art, music, and special education—for a total of 28 classrooms. Talent Development, with an anticipated enrollment of 600 students, will require 25 homerooms, as well as 7 additional classrooms for special programming, including science, art, music, and special education—for a total of 32 classrooms. The facility has enough space to accommodate the combined 60 classrooms required to serve both Crane and Talent Development. In accordance with the CPS Shared Facility Policy, CPS will work to program the space to create a clear boundary between the two campuses and will create separate administrative offices as needed. Over time, if the proposed phase-out of Crane is approved, additional space will open up in the Crane facility to potentially serve other uses.

If the proposed co-location is approved, Crane and Talent Development will need to share space in some areas. Due to the layout of the building, the two schools would likely need to share space on the 4th floor and in the common areas until Crane phases out completely. For the length of the phase-out, the following spaces would need to be shared: competition gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria/kitchen and library. There are various other entrances along the east and west elevations of the building that could be used as a main entrance for one of the schools.

The 2245 W. Jackson facility has sufficient space to accommodate the needs of both schools for academic courses, lunch, physical education, administrative offices, and other programming. If this proposal is approved, a specific memorandum of understanding (MOU) to allocate space between the two schools would be drafted in accordance with the Board's 2005 Shared Facility Policy.

IV. Safety and Security

CPS is committed to ensuring the safety of all students and staff members at Crane and Talent Development. The CPS Office of Safety and Security (OSS) will assess the environment at the 2245 W. Jackson facility to support the current security team through this transition. OSS will also provide security personnel, training, and consultation when requested for Crane and Talent Development to ensure a safe school environment.

Before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, a Campus Manager will be designated and will facilitate a meeting between the principals of Crane and Talent Development to discuss safety and security in the building. The principals will draft a safety and security plan to outline the emergency protocols and safety precautions that both schools will implement at the beginning of the school year. The Campus Manager will work with the principals throughout the year to ensure consistent implementation and transparent communication regarding safety and security needs and strategies.

CPS will also provide a school climate specialist for the facility to work with the Campus Manager and principals before the start of the 2012-2013 school year. The school climate specialist will help the administrators develop a strategy to encourage the students and staff members of Crane and Talent Development to develop a collaborative and calm learning environment in the building.

OSS will work closely with the Chicago Police Department, specifically with the Commander of the Twelfth Police District, to ensure the safety of all students and staff traveling to school and transitioning to a shared school environment. OSS will continue to provide safe passage workers, wearing green vests and standing on designated street corners to monitor students' safety during their travel to school in the morning and home in the afternoon.

OSS will conduct an audit of the 2245 W. Jackson facility before the start of the 2012-2013 school year to ensure that the facility promotes a calm learning environment for all students. OSS is committed to maintaining a secure climate at this facility.

V. Supports for Students and Schools

Academic Needs of Students

CPS is committed to ensuring that students will not be negatively impacted by the co-location of Crane and Talent Development and to seeking out opportunities for students from both schools to benefit from the space-sharing agreement.

As described by the CPS Shared Facility Policy, the CEO or his designee will appoint a Campus Manager to oversee the general operations of the shared campus and facilitate the sharing of space among both schools. The Campus Manager will protect the academic well-being of students by

- mitigating any space-sharing challenges that arise to maintain a positive learning environment,
- enabling the individual school leaders to focus on the independent educational mission of each school,
- serving as a neutral facilities coordinator to ensure that both schools are making full and complementary use of the available classroom space,
- coordinate a safe plan for dismissal such that Crane and Talent Development students do not disrupt each other's learning time
- offering joint after-school programming to maximize and diversify academic and extracurricular offerings for students

- meet with leadership from both campuses to develop other shared programming that would benefit both high schools, e.g., a shared College and Career Center.

CPS acknowledges that space sharing requires a delicate balance of separation and interaction. To that end, the Campus Manager will coordinate with both school leaders to create a distinct learning environment for each school and mediate the use of shared spaces, e.g. science and computer labs, cafeteria, auditorium, and shared spaces for showcasing student work.

Social Emotional Needs of Students

The mission of Talent Development is to prepare all students for success in college, career, and civic life. Talent Development fosters a respectful, caring, and motivating learning community that challenges all students and adults to develop their unique gifts and talents and realize their highest academic and human potential.

CPS is committed to addressing the social and emotional needs for all students. In order to address the needs of students in the 2245 W. Jackson facility, the Campus Manager will

- maintain a positive atmosphere for learning and growth by capitalizing on the goal of Talent Development to foster a respectful, caring, and motivating learning community that challenges all students and adults to develop their unique gifts and talents and realize their highest academic and human potential
- identify existing resources that could be shared to benefit students in both schools, e.g. the School Based Health Clinic on the first floor of the facility
- ensure optimal utilization of social workers and counseling resources from both schools
- establish regular meetings with both school leaders to maintain open lines of communication and build positive working relationships
- develop a student leadership cooperative group to discuss building culture, provide peer-to-peer mediation support, and plan events to engage students from both campuses
- maintain a shared events calendar to ensure available space and staff for Crane and Talent Development events.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities at Crane will continue to be provided instructional support both in the general education classroom and in small group or individual settings, in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

All instructional, clinical and related services will continue to be provided in accordance with students' IEPs. All specialized services, including nursing, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, psychology, assistive technology support, and special education instruction will continue to be provided in the manner stated on each student's current IEP. The additional academic supports outlined above will also be made available for all students including students with disabilities.

The proposed co-share facility at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. is accessible to the public and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Schools designated as "accessible" all have a basic level of access, but the accessibility of individual floor levels, rooms and features may vary. For more information about a particular school, contact the CPS Director of ADA Policy at (773) 553-2158.

Students in Temporary Living Situations

CPS Office of Students in Temporary Living Situations (OSTLS) will continue the supports currently provided to students in temporary living situations (STLS), which include but are not limited to immediate enrollment, STLS transportation, and hardship transportation as appropriate at the shared facility.

English Language Learners

According to the Office of Language and Cultural Education, the expected enrollment of English Language Learners at this shared facility is less than 20. ELL students enrolled at Crane and Talent Development will receive state mandated transitional bilingual program services which include, depending on the number of ELL students enrolled, certified Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and/or support from the CPS Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE).

ELL students enrolled at Talent Development will continue to receive their federally-mandated instruction for achieving English language proficiency.

Transportation

No additional transportation will be offered as a result of this proposal. Provisions for specific student populations (i.e., student with disabilities, students in temporary living situations, and No Child Left Behind qualifying students), as determined by the CPS transportation policy, will continue to apply.

Facilities Investment

CPS will enhance the learning environment with facilities improvements which include paint, flooring, and partial lighting. Investments will be made equally in each school in the facility.

City of Chicago Resources

Chicago Departments and sister agencies that work with CPS students and families will work together in partnership to support the transition if this proposal is approved by the Board.

VI. Information Briefings Regarding Choice of Schools

Current Crane students' home school assignments will not be impacted by the proposed co-location of Crane and Talent Development. Students and families will have the opportunity to pursue additional enrollment options. CPS will provide informational briefings regarding enrollment options on the dates below during the times specified. At these informational briefings, parents and guardians will be given relevant information to assist them in making informed choices on the enrollment of their children.

For current 9-11th grade students

January 18, 2012 from 5-7 p.m.
Malcolm X College
1900 W. Van Buren St.

January 21, 2012 from 12-3 p.m.
Austin Polytechnical Academy High School
1745 West 63rd Street

CPS staff will be available to provide detailed information to students and parents immediately prior to the first community meeting, on January 6, 2012 from 5-6 p.m. at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren St.

VII. Public Comment

Community Meetings and Public Hearings

There will be two community meetings and one formal public hearing regarding this proposal. Public comment will be accepted during each meeting. CPS will consider community feedback and may amend this draft transition plan accordingly.

Community Meeting 1

January 6, 2012, 6-9pm
Malcolm X College
1900 W. Van Buren St.

Community Meeting 2

January 20, 2012, 6-9pm
Malcolm X College
1900 W. Van Buren St.

Public Hearing

January 24, 2012, 5:30-8:30pm
Board Chambers
125 S. Clark St., 5th Floor

Further Questions and Concerns

If you have any questions concerning the proposed co-location of Crane and Talent Development, please call the Chicago Public Schools Quality Schools Hotline at 773-553-5020.