

Appendix A

District and Community Demographics

INTRODUCTION

Chicago has a rich history of economic growth and transformation. Our city set a global standard in the 19th century as an industrial giant as it developed a strong base of esteemed manufacturing firms, robust supply chains, and an efficient transport and logistics infrastructure. By the late 20th century, the focus of the city and the region had expanded to embrace a knowledge-based economy while developing a highly skilled workforce. Today, the Chicago region has emerged as a major hub for national and global corporation headquarters and thriving finance, insurance, law, information technology, marketing, and logistics business communities.

The economy of Chicago and the region remains large and diverse, boasting a strong foundation of physical, technological, and institutional business assets. If the Chicago region were a country, it would be the 23rd-largest economy in the world. Our city and region are global in character, with a substantial and growing foreign-born population and non-stop flights to over 200 destinations around the world.

CHICAGO POPULATION

There are approximately 2.7 million people and 1.1 million households in Chicago, the third-largest city in the United States.¹ An estimated 22.4 percent of the city's population is under 19 years old.

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the nation's fourth-largest school district. In the 2025–26 school year, CPS enrollment was 316,224, a decrease of 9,081 students from the prior school year. CPS has a higher proportion of students of color, low-income students, and English learners as compared to the city's population as a whole and school districts in the rest of the state.

Race and Ethnicity: 46.4 percent of CPS students are Latinx, 34.3 percent are African American, 11.8 percent are White, 4.9 percent are Asian, and 2.4 percent are multi-racial or other.

English Learners: English learners are students eligible for transitional bilingual education, and for whom English is not their native language. 86,172 CPS students were English learners during the 2025–2026 school year, which is 27.3 percent of the District's total student enrollment.

Income and Poverty: CPS students are disproportionately low-income as compared to the rest of the state. Students ages 3 to 17 meet the low-income criteria if they receive or live in households that receive public aid from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or TANF (Targeted Assistance for Needy Families); are classified as homeless, migrant, runaway, Head Start, or foster children; or live in a household where the household income is within 185 percent of the federal poverty line. There are 227,119 economically disadvantaged students within CPS, representing 71.8 percent of the CPS student population.

¹ As of the 2020 US Census.

Table 1: CPS Enrollment 2016–2026

	Fall 2016 (FY17)	Fall 2017 (FY18)	Fall 2018 (FY19)	Fall 2019 (FY20)	Fall 2020 (FY21)	Fall 2021 (FY22)	Fall 2022 (FY23)	Fall 2023 (FY24)	Fall 2024 (FY25)	Fall 2025 (FY26)
School- based PK	20,673	19,441	17,668	17,492	11,494	15,430	16,403	17,589	17,893	16,916
Elementary Schools (K-8)	251,623	244,589	237,779	232,931	223,967	210,278	203,308	203,714	206,049	200,501
High Schools (9-12)	109,053	107,352	105,867	104,733	105,197	104,703	102,270	101,948	101,363	98,807
Total Enrollment	381,349	371,382	361,314	355,156	340,658	330,411	321,981	323,251	325,305	316,224