



FINAL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ACTIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

(Published October 22, 2025)

I. PREAMBLE

The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-230) requires the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) to publish draft guidelines for school actions by October 1 of each year. These guidelines shall outline the academic and non-academic criteria for a school action, be created with the involvement of local school councils, parents, educators, and community organizations, and the draft guidelines, and each subsequent revision, are to be subject to a public comment period of at least 21 days before their approval. The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-230) also requires that the CEO announce all proposed school actions to be taken at the close of the current academic year by December 1 of each year. The draft Guidelines were published on October 1, 2025. Public Comments were received on the draft Guidelines until October 21, 2025. On October 22, 2025, Chicago Public Schools hereby publishes the Final Guidelines for School Actions applicable for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Chicago Board of Education (“the Board”) passed Resolution 24-0926-RS1, placing a moratorium on closures, consolidations, or phase-outs for district-managed schools through the 2026-2027 school year. Accordingly, the District will not pursue any of the following school actions for district-managed schools during the current school year:

- Closure or Consolidation
- Phase-Out
- Reassignment Boundary Change

This moratorium applies only to district-managed schools. Contract schools are not covered by the Board Resolution.

II. CRITERIA

If recommending any school actions, the CEO will consider the criteria specified below:

A. Criteria for Co-location

The CEO may propose a co-location of two or more schools within the same facility only if:

1. the school(s) principal, parents, or community members have requested that a co-location proposal be considered via the process to request proposals outlined in the “Definitions” section below; and
2. the combined projected enrollment is within the facility’s enrollment efficiency range as defined by CPS’ Space Utilization Standards, and the facility can support the academic programming of the schools being co-located together.

In determining whether to propose a potential co-location that meets the above-specified conditions, the CEO may consider other information, including, but not limited to: safety and security, school culture and climate, school leadership, quality of the facility, and an analysis of transition costs.

B. Criteria for Consolidation or Closure of a Contract School

The CEO may propose a consolidation or closure of a Contract school only if the students impacted by a consolidation or closure will be provided the option to enroll in a higher-performing school, whether designated as a welcoming school or otherwise. In addition, one of the following criteria must be met:

1. for a consolidation, the school(s) principal, parents or community members have requested that a consolidation proposal be considered via the process for commenting on draft guidelines and the resulting space utilization after the consolidation will not exceed the facility's enrollment efficiency range as defined by CPS' Space Utilization Standards; or
2. for a closure, the student enrollment as of November 1, 2025 is 0 students; or
3. a Contract school has not met the conditions for renewal by:
 - a. committing a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the school agreement; or
 - b. failing to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the school agreement; or
 - c. failing to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.

In determining whether to propose a consolidation or closure for a Contract school that meets the above-specified conditions, the CEO may consider other information, including, but not limited to: safety and security; school culture and climate; school leadership; quality of the facilities; transition costs; the academic performance of the schools; and the feasibility of impacted students to access options that are higher performing, including the likelihood of admittance and distance of travel required.

As stated in Section I of this document, proposals to consolidate or close district-managed schools will not be proposed, in accordance with [Board Resolution 24-0926-RS1](#).

III. NOTICE AND SCHOOL TRANSITION PLANS

Notice of any proposed school action will be provided to the principal, staff, local school council, parents or guardians, Illinois State Senator, Illinois State Representative, and Alderman for the school or schools that are subject to the proposed school action. The notice will include the date, time, and location of public meetings being held to solicit public comments on the proposal.

Along with the notice of the CEO's proposal, the CEO will issue a draft school transition plan concerning the proposed school action. The draft school transition plan will include, but is not limited to, the following: (1) services to support the academic, social, and emotional needs of students; supports for students with disabilities, students in temporary living situations, and English language learners; and supports to address security and safety issues; (2) options to enroll in higher performing schools, as applicable; (3) informational briefings regarding the choice of schools that include all pertinent information to enable the parent or guardian and child to make an informed choice, including the option to visit the schools of choice prior to making a decision; and (4) the provision of appropriate transportation where practicable; (5) the departments that are responsible for the oversight; (6) specific programs to be offered; and (7) support to implement plans at receiving schools, specifying the funding source.



The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-230) requires that, for a school closure only, eight (8) months after the notice is given, the CEO must publish on the District's website a full financial report on the closure that includes an analysis of the closure's costs and benefits to the district.

IV. DEFINITIONS

“Co-location” means two or more separate, independent schools with their own school leader(s) coexisting within a Chicago Public School facility.

“Consolidation” means the consolidation of two or more schools by closing one or more schools and reassigning the students to another school.

“Closure” means closing a school and assigning all of the students enrolled at that school to one or more designated receiving schools.

“Process to request proposals” means one of the following:

1. requesting a proposal via e-mail at transitions@cps.edu by November 1, 2025;
2. requesting a proposal via formal communications to the CEO or Chief Education Officer by November 1, 2025;
3. and requesting a proposal at a community meeting or open public meeting by November 1, 2025.

“School action” means any school closing; school consolidation; co-location; or boundary change that requires reassignment of students, unless the reassignment is to a new school with an attendance area boundary and is made to relieve overcrowding; or phase-out.

“Space Utilization Standards” means the Chicago Public Schools’ Space Utilization Standards, establishing the standards for determining enrollment efficiency, overcrowding, and underutilization, found at:
<https://www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/school-facilities/facility-standards/>.

For school year 2025-2026 the definition of “higher performing school” is aligned with state accountability measures, which are being used by Chicago Public Schools, per Board Report 23-1214-PO2. As such, “higher performing school” means a school with a higher ISBE overall index score, as articulated on [ISBE’s Accountability page](#).

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