FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Popular Annual Financial Report

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor
City of Chicago, Illinois

CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION
Miguel del Valle, Board President
Sendhil Revuluri, Board Vice President
Board Members: Luisiana Melendez, Amy Rome, Lucino Sotelo, Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Dwayne Truss

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Janice K. Jackson, EdD, Chief Executive Officer
Miroslava Mejia Krug, Chief Financial Officer
Lenny Moore, CPA, MBA, CGFM, Controller
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is our privilege to present you with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) financial results, which demonstrate the district’s continued commitment to financial stability.

In FY20, CPS faced significant challenges due to the onset of COVID-19 and its subsequent effect on the global economy. Despite these circumstances, however, the district’s strong financial controls resulted in general operating revenues slightly exceeding expenditures during FY20.

While the global pandemic presented many challenges, we remained committed to our Five-Year Vision goals, investing $583 million to modernize classrooms, renovate science labs, build new pre-k classrooms, and improve ADA accessibility in our schools.

With little notice or preparation, CPS pivoted to a new model of education delivery in March, as teachers, students and families all learned about remote learning together. This unexpected challenge stretched the ingenuity of our teachers and administrators, and the determination of our students and families. Fighting through this adversity, CPS’ one year dropout rate is lower than ever before at 5.6% and the five year graduation rate is at an all-time high of 82.5%.

While we continue managing new and evolving issues created by the pandemic, CPS remains fully committed to investing in the learning environments that students need to thrive. Our Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) operating budget included $6.92 billion in funding, with 95 percent of these funds directly supporting schools. Expected increased revenue of $631 million in FY21 will keep CPS on track for sustainable growth. In FY21, we expect to spend $758 million on capital projects, moving the district closer to our goal of providing every child from every community in Chicago with equitable access to high quality school environments.

We remain committed to working with the Chicago Board of Education and the Honorable Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot to continue our district’s historic progress. Our focus moving forward will be on maintaining the district’s financial stability and on improving the equity and transparency that is needed for every child from every community in Chicago to receive the education they need for success in college, career, and civic life.

Respectfully submitted,

Miguel del Valle
President
Chicago Board of Education

Janice K. Jackson, EdD
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Board of Education
Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is a body politic and corporate, and a school district of the State of Illinois having boundaries coterminous with the City of Chicago. The Board of Education of the City of Chicago is established under and governed by Illinois School Code and is not a home-rule unit of government. The Board of Education of the City of Chicago operates a system of schools primarily for grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. As the third largest school district in the nation, our schools and students reflect the broad diversity of our city. In fiscal year 2020, CPS had 638 schools, including district-run traditional and options schools, charter and contract schools. Student enrollment as of September 2019 was 355,156 while CPS employs 37,246 workers, including 24,853 teaching positions.

CPS is governed by a seven-member Board of Education appointed by the Mayor of the City of Chicago. Board members elect one member to serve as President of the Board. In addition, pursuant to amendments to the Illinois School Code initially enacted in 1988, elected Local School Councils, composed of parents, teachers, principals and community representatives, exercise certain powers relating to the operation of individual schools, most notably the selection of principals.
Introduction

This popular version of our annual financial report is designed to give our readers a snapshot of Chicago Public Schools’ (CPS) financial condition and to highlight information that our parents, teachers, supporters, and community and state leaders should find helpful for improving their understanding of our operations.

This report does not provide all the detailed financial information that is contained in our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR includes all of the audited financial statements and disclosures.

For a detailed report, please visit our website at https://www.cps.edu/about/finance/annual-financial-report/

The primary function of the Department of Finance is to ensure the financial integrity of the organization and to accurately report on the Board’s financial condition in accordance with all state and federal legislation, governmental regulations and Board policies. While the external, independent auditors focus primarily on verifying the accuracy of the information presented, they also assess the financial risks to the organization and review the processes that CPS has in place to reduce these risks. As highlighted throughout this report, CPS has focused on improving its financial foundation and funding those activities that will improve the educational achievement of our students.

How We Did Last Year

Despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the general operating fund had revenues and other financing sources of $6.209 billion and expenditures of $6.164 billion, resulting in $45.3 million net change in fund balance. It ended FY20 with a positive fund balance of $517.1 million, which is the third consecutive year of positive fund balance for CPS. Actual general operating fund’s expenditures were $155 million under the FY20 final budget.
Impact of COVID-19 on FY2021 Budget

The onset of COVID-19 and subsequent impact on the broader economy potentially has significant implications for CPS’ short-term financial picture. As CPS adapts to the remote environment and plans for reopening for in-person learning, CPS has budgeted $75 million in expenses to cover the associated costs. This is on top of the City’s commitment to connect 100,000 students to high-speed internet at no cost through the Chicago Connected initiative and our efforts to distribute 128,000 devices to students this past spring. Along with these additional expenses, COVID-19 will have an impact on CPS’ revenues. Economic difficulties at the state level forced the state to forgo its planned increase to Evidence Based Funding, which would have yielded approximately $65 million in new funding for CPS. Other economically sensitive revenues, like Personal property replacement tax, will likely be reduced significantly in fiscal year 2021 versus 2020. CPS has budgeted for fiscal year 2021 $343 million in additional funding beyond the CARES act funding already authorized by Congress.

Despite the current COVID-19 environment, CPS still expects operating revenues to increase by $696 million from actual FY20 revenues, to a total of $6,894 million. See detailed estimate FY21 revenue resources in the chart below.

Capital Improvement Program

CPS continues to fund its Capital Improvement Program. In Fiscal year 2021 capital improvement plan, $758 million was budgeted for capital projects that will help ensure students throughout the city have access to modern, safe school buildings for years to come. CPS fund capital projects through a mixture of funding sources, including Capital Improvement Tax Bonds, Intergovernmental agreements with the City of Chicago and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Finance Initiatives and Accomplishments

Finance Major Accomplishments

- CPS launched an inaugural public engagement process around school funding ahead of the FY2021 budget release that included:
  - Convening of a School Funding Working Group with 24 stakeholders representing principals, teachers, parents, students, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, CPS, and other school funding experts.
  - Six public workshops, held throughout the city (pre-Covid) and attended by over 500 people, that included a presentation on the current state of school funding, small group discussion, and share-out from attendees.
  - A public report from the School Funding Working Group that consolidated feedback from public workshops into recommendations informing the FY2021 budget and future work around school funding.
  - This engagement process helped inform the approach taken and methodology utilized for the FY2020 Equity Grants which included the incorporation of the UIC Economic Hardship Index to reflect greater diversity in need-based metrics and a differentiated approach to improving equitable funding for schools.

- Utilized Environmental, Social and Governmental (ESG) ratings for 100 percent of investment decisions for commercial paper to improve financial returns and reduce the overall risk profile of the portfolio while aligning investments with the broader public interest.

Professional Financial Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded CPS with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting each year since 1996 for its CAFR. Since 1998, CPS has also received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. In addition, CPS has received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting in the previous years and for fiscal year 19.

![Image of graph showing FY2021 Budget-All Funds' Revenues]

Dollar Amount in Millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Project Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Revenues</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Revenues</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Local Revenues</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement Tax</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Long-Term Financial Planning

As a result of CPS’s improved revenue structure, due primarily to new funding from the state and dedicated revenue sources for teacher pensions, the district’s reliance on one-time budget balancing measures has declined and performance in fiscal year 2020 indicates a structural balance that the district will seek to maintain going forward. CPS will, however, continue to face challenges in maintaining structural balance, with declining federal revenues, caps on local property taxes, and legacy debt service and pension costs.

The structural budget deficit that persisted through fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to inequitable state education funding, and the new state funding formula both guarantees a minimum funding level for CPS and sets a path to equitable funding. Full equity in funding, however, will not be achieved until the state is able to fully fund its Evidence-Based Funding formula, and, despite the state’s coverage of teacher pension normal cost, CPS remains the only school district in the state that funds the vast majority of its teacher pension costs.

The passage of the new Evidence-Based funding formula (EBF) in 2017 structurally increased the total level of state aid that CPS received. Before then, CPS experienced years of steady state revenue decline, making CPS increasingly reliant on property tax revenue. Since 2007, the percentage of property tax revenue comprising the total budget thus steadily increased from 36.7% in fiscal year 2007 to 41.5% in 2017. In fiscal year 2020, with inflation at 1.9%, the base property tax levy increased by $174.4 million, putting total budget’s percentage of property tax revenue at 50.2%. Although CPS is able to take advantage of new property that is added to the base property values, the annual increase in non-pension dedicated revenues remains modest.
CPS Annual Financial Report and the Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A)

Each year, CPS produces a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. CAFR is prepared using a reporting combination of both government-wide financial statements and fund financial statements. Financial data contained in this report is presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

These financial statements consist of two major components:

- Government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities which provide a broad, long-term overview of CPS’ finances. They are reported using accrual basis of accounting.
- Fund financial statements include the balance sheet and statement of revenue, expenditures, and net changes in fund balances. They provide a greater level of detail of revenues and expenditures and focus on how well CPS has performed in the short term in the most significant funds. They are reported using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

What is the Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A)?

In the MD&A section of the CPS’ annual report, management discusses numerous aspects of the organization, both past and present. Among other details, the MD&A provides an overview of the previous year of operations and how the CPS fared in that time period. Management also touches on the upcoming year, outlining future goals and approaches to new projects.

Highlights from the Government-Wide Financial Statements

- Total assets of $9.6 billion decreased $182 million or 1.9% primarily due to a decrease in current cash and investment in escrow in FY20. Non-current assets decreased $89 million primarily due to the decrease in the long term investments. Capital assets, net of depreciation, for fiscal year increased by $164.9 million due to an increase in construction in progress in fiscal year 2020.
- In fiscal year 2020, CPS issued $349 million of Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding bonds. Long-term liabilities increased $749 million or 3% due to an increase in the pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities. The total long-term portion of debt outstanding and capitalized leases was $8.6 billion in fiscal year 2020 and $8.8 billion in fiscal year 2019.
- Accrued pension increased to $14.13 billion in fiscal year 2020 from $13.44 billion in fiscal year 2019, an increase of $0.69 billion or 3.0%. The year-end balance reflects the increase in the net pension liability related to Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund (CTPF).
- Total OPEB liabilities increased to $2.555 billion in fiscal year 2020 from $2.272 billion in fiscal year 2019, an increase of $283 million, or 12.5%. The year-end balance reflects the increase in Total OPEB related to healthcare costs associated with CTPF.
- CPS’ net position decreased $1.08 billion to a deficit of $15.877 billion. Of this amount, CPS recorded a negative $1.561 billion net investment in capital assets, net of depreciation, and related debt. Restricted net position of $797 million are reported separately to present legal constraints from debt covenants and enabling legislation. The deficit of $15.113 billion of unrestricted net positions represents the shortfall CPS would experience if it had to liquidate all of its non-capital liabilities as of June 30, 2020.
The following condensed Statement of Net Position and Changes in Net Position are aimed at citizens who are interested in a government’s finance, but do not have direct access to the detailed accounting data. The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the school district’s finances in a manner similar to a private sector business.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of CPS’ assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

All of CPS’ services are reported in the government-wide financial statements, including instruction, pupil support support services, facility support services and food services. Property taxes, replacement taxes, state aid, interest and investment earnings finance most of these activities. Additionally, all capital and debt financing activities are reported here.
How Are Chicago Public Schools Funded?

The Chicago Public Schools are financed through a combination of local, state and federal sources. CPS uses fund accounting to ensure and to demonstrate compliance with government accounting and legal requirements. Resources from all sources for all funds totaled $7.3 billion for fiscal year 2020.

*Governmental Fund Financial Statements are available in CPS’ Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
Resources by Type – General Operating Fund

The following charts present a summary of revenues and other financing sources by type for the general operating fund for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020, June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018. Local property taxes provide approximately 48.5% of all revenues in fiscal year 2020. The other local revenues come from personal property replacement taxes, interest income and other miscellaneous revenues.

- Property tax increased by $117 million or 4% from FY19 as collections from the existing levies were higher due to the inflation 1.9%, new property added to the tax bases and slightly larger than expected assessment increases.
- State aid decreased by $41 million, or 2.2% from FY19 as a result of an increased allocation of EBF revenue to the debt service fund instead of the General Operating Fund. Additionally, diversions to charter schools approved by ISBE was increased.
- Other revenue, interest and investment earnings and other financing sources were increased by $96 million, or 24.6% from FY19, mainly due to the increase in Tax Increment Financing surplus funding by $61.8 million.
Where Does the Money Go?

These graphs display fiscal year 2020 and previous years’ expenditures across specific program areas. Instruction includes basic education and special education for students with physical, mental, emotional and/or learning disabilities. Also included are vocational education, summer school, supplementary bilingual education and education for economically deprived students.

Pupil Support Services includes guidance counseling, social work, speech pathology, nursing, psychology, occupational and physical therapy services.

Detailed fund financial statements and description of other expenditures by function are available in CPS’ CAFR.
Expenditures by Object

The following chart represents a summary of the general operating fund expenditures by objects for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020, June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018.

- FY20 total expenditures $6,164 million in GOF increased $305 million, or 5.2% from FY19 total expenditures $5,859 million.

- Salaries increased by $149.1 million, or 5.8% from FY19, mainly due to contractual salary increases related to the district’s new contracts.

- Benefits were increased by $135 million or 9.4% in FY20. This change correlates to the increase in overall salaries.

- Services were increased by $49 million or 3.4% from FY19, driven mostly by $26 million increased payment to charter schools and $19 million increase in profession services.
The Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") is designed to relieve overcrowding and renovate school buildings to enhance the educational environment. Chicago Public Schools’ CIP uses a phased prototype renovation process that allows us to restore buildings while minimizing the impact on students and maximizing the benefit to the community. Since the inception of the CIP in 1995, the CIP has made a significant impact on the physical quality of our schools, which in turn has made a substantial impact on our students’ learning environment.

Since 2012, CPS and the Board of Education have appropriated over $5 billion to build new schools, provide playgrounds and air conditioning, improve access to technology with new computers and expanded bandwidth, expand academic programs (career and technical education programs, for example), and make core investments in our facilities to maintain roofs, fix chimneys, and replace or fix boilers and other mechanical systems. This has been done to ensure the students have a high-quality learning environment to support their education.

New Construction and Renovations

Below are the projects that are currently being pursued, in various stages, and a quick snapshot of the fiscal year 2020 projects that will take two or three years to complete.

### Program Scope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Scope</th>
<th>Total # of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facility Needs</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Stabilization</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Alarm Replacement</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masonry Remediation Program</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Program</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Improvements</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Program Phase I</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Program Phase II</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Labs</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEAM, STEM, IB, Magnet, CTE</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Improvements</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential State Funded Projects</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Capital Plan by Project Year

**Budget Dollar Amount in Million**
Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2021

The FY2021 budget for CPS includes a capital budget of $758 million of capital investments that will focus on priority facilities needs at neighborhood schools; full-day Pre-K expansions; ADA accessibility; and continued expansion of technology upgrades, modern science labs, and other academic priorities.

The CPS facility portfolio includes 522 campuses and 798 buildings. Our average facility age is over 80 years old, and the total CPS facility need is over $3 billion. Since FY2016, CPS has invested over $2.1 billion into capital improvements across the district. These projects include major renovations to ensure our schools stay warm and dry, facility construction to relieve overcrowding, security cameras to provide a safer environment for our children, and renovations to aid programmatic enhancements, among others. Additionally, CPS is investing $100 million in the next five years to ensure all CPS campuses are more accessible. The FY 2021 budget also includes $100 million to develop new preschool classrooms throughout the city, moving CPS closer to the goal of providing universal Pre-K for all 4-year-olds.

The FY2021 capital budget is funded by future estimated $410 million bond proceeds backed by Evidence-Based Funding (EBF), potential state capital funding $47.3 million, and potential outside resources as they become identified.

![Capital Budget by Project Type](image)
Long-Term Debt

As of June 30, 2020, CPS had $8.8 billion in total debt, including accreted interest and capitalized lease obligations outstanding versus $9.0 billion for fiscal year 2019 - a decrease of 0.2 billion. The decrease in outstanding debt represents the significant decrease in new debt issued in fiscal year 2020.

Bond Issuances

In fiscal year 2020, CPS issued its Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2019AB (September). The various series of bonds were primarily issued for a combination of refunding and capital improvement program financing.

Debt Ratings

Investors who purchase municipal bonds use debt ratings as an indicator of the financial stability of an organization and consequently the safety and security of the debt sold by that organization. In general, higher credit ratings often result in lower borrowing costs via reduced interest rates paid on municipal bonds. Strong ratings also promote a wider market by attracting more buyers of municipal bonds. CPS currently has bonds outstanding with credit ratings from Fitch Ratings, Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Moody's Investor Service and Standard and Poor's. During fiscal year 2020, Moody's Investor Service general obligation (GO) rating of the Board was upgraded from B2 to B1 and the outlook was positive. Also in 2020, Fitch Ratings' General Obligation (GO) rating of the Board was upgraded from BB- to BB and the outlook was revised to stable.

**CPS DEBT RATINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Obligation Bonds (GO)</th>
<th>JUN. 2020</th>
<th>JUN. 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitch Ratings</td>
<td>BB</td>
<td>BB-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kroll Bond Ratings</td>
<td>BBB</td>
<td>BBB-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moody's Investor Service</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard and Poor's</td>
<td>BB-</td>
<td>B+</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Improvement Bonds (GO)</th>
<th>JUN. 2020</th>
<th>JUN. 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitch Ratings</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kroll Bond Ratings</td>
<td>BBB</td>
<td>BBB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Highest rating is ‘AAA’, lowest is ‘D’*

**BOND ISSUANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>(IN THOUSANDS)</th>
<th>SERVICES</th>
<th>TYPE OF BONDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2019</td>
<td>Refunding</td>
<td>$ 225,284</td>
<td>2019A</td>
<td>Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding (GO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2019</td>
<td>Refunding</td>
<td>$ 123,795</td>
<td>2019B</td>
<td>Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding (GO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Since the start of the pandemic, the district is committed to ensuring every student who needs a device receives one.

School year 2019-2020, the district distributed more than 128,000 devices, and, as of September 21, the district distributed more than 46,000 devices for the fall.

Connected more than 15,000 students to high-speed internet through the groundbreaking Chicago Connected program.

Provided more than 22 million meals to students at hundreds of sites across the city.

Social Science and Civic Engagement

In school year 2020, with just over a $2 million operating budget, the Office of Social Science and Civic Engagement supported the development and implementation of 14 curriculum supports, supplementary guidance and toolkits for schools to realize its mission of building transformation schools that ignite curiosity, promote agency and elevate active participation in civic life.

Social and Emotional Learning

Through the district’s commitment to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), we are keeping more of our students in school and engaged. With an over $10 million investment in social and emotional learning supports, including over $5 million for restorative practices and direct student services from community partners, the district is dedicated to providing students with the SEL skills necessary for college, career and life success.

Curriculum Equity Initiative

In Fiscal year 2020, the district invested $8.7 million for the Curriculum Equity Initiative (CEI). The CEI is a multi-year initiative that will provide teachers with a high-quality curriculum across six content areas: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Science, Spanish and French.

As a district, Chicago Public Schools strategically invests in proven programs that expand access to high-quality educational opportunities to our youngest learners; promote civic engagement; expand Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, STEM, and STEAM programming; and support the whole child through comprehensive social and emotional services and trauma informed care.

STEM and International Baccalaureate

Through the Academic Programs RFP, the district invests in schools by providing school-based academic programs in a variety of content areas. For the Office of Teaching and Learning, these include Fine and Performing Arts, STEM, STEAM, Personalized Learning, IB, and Gifted programs. In FY20, the district invested $5.2 million to incubate the following new programs: 7 IB Schools, 11 STEM/STEAM schools, 6 Fine and Performing Arts schools, 2 Personalized Learning schools and 1 gifted program.
Education Outcome

Thanks to our students, families, educators, partners, and city leaders who have given their all to lift CPS to new heights. Despite unprecedented pandemic of the 2019-20 school year, we have so much to be proud of as a district. Our graduation rates are at an all-time high, and a record high number of CPS students are earning college and career credentials before they even finish high school.

Graduate Growth
In 2019-20 School year, CPS students posted a record high 82.5% graduation rate, an accomplishment spearheaded by strong gains from Latin and African American students. Over the past decade, the district’s graduation rate has increased by nearly 27 percentage points.

Record High College and Career Credentials Earned
This year, more CPS graduates earned college and career credentials than ever before. Credential attainment jumped a two-percentage points this year, with 49.3 percent of 2020 graduates earning at least one early college and career credential, which helps make college more accessible and affordable for students and their families.

Supporting Post-Secondary Success
The Class of 2020 was the first class to graduate under Learn. Plan.Succeed, which ensures seniors have meaningful planning conversations with dedicated staff, and submit concrete post-secondary plans. More than 97 percent of seniors at district-operated schools submitted a plan, and nearly 83 percent of those plans included a college acceptance.

Scholarship Dollars Earned
Last year’s graduating class earned over $1.16 billion in scholarship offers, making 2020 the fifth straight year that students have earned over $1 billion. Expanding access to college-level programming and support from dedicated school counselors and college and career coaches have helped ensure students are aware of scholarship opportunities and receive the support they need to complete applications. More than 10,000 seniors accessed the CPS Academic Works Scholarship tool, which is a resource that pairs students with over 200 strategic scholarships that are promoted throughout the school year.
Chicago Public Schools has gained national recognition for its notable gains in leadership in urban education. Chicago Public School’s highlights can be found below.


The top five spots and 26 of the top 100 high schools in Illinois were CPS schools, with eight CPS Schools ranking among the top 500 schools in the United States.

**Chicago Sun-Times: Lightfoot unveils $50 million program to provide free high-speed internet to CPS students**

June 25, 2020

“Roughly 100,000 Chicago Public Schools students will get free access to high-speed internet service over the next four years, thanks to a $50 million program bankrolled in part by Illinois’ richest man.”

“The school district has a five-year goal of getting 60% of students some postsecondary credentials before graduating. College credits can be earned through Advanced Placement courses or by taking college classes either on a college campus (dual enrollment) or at their high school (dual credit).”

“Taking college courses at their school or a nearby college gives more students the chance to earn credit. It also opens the door for all students, including lower-performing ones, to try a college-level curriculum.”

**WBEZ: Chicago High Schools Going From ‘College Prep’ To ‘Early College’**

September 10, 2019

“Chicago Public Schools has a five-year goal of getting 60% of students some postsecondary credentials before graduating. College credits can be earned through Advanced Placement courses or by taking college classes either on a college campus (dual enrollment) or at their high school (dual credit).”

“The school district has a five-year goal of getting 60% of students some postsecondary credentials before graduating. College credits can be earned through Advanced Placement courses or by taking college classes either on a college campus (dual enrollment) or at their high school (dual credit).”

“Taking college courses at their school or a nearby college gives more students the chance to earn credit. It also opens the door for all students, including lower-performing ones, to try a college-level curriculum.”

**NBC: CPS Reaches Record-breaking Graduation Rates for 2019-2020 School Year**

September 4, 2020

“Lightfoot said the school system’s graduation rate ended up at 82.5% this past year, despite finishing the school year in a remote learning format.”

“The district also reported a record low dropout rate at 5.6% in the 2019-2020 school year, according to the Chicago mayor.”

**CBS Local: CPS Increases Its Budget with $125 Million for the Upcoming Year**

April 28, 2020

“CPS CEO Janice Jackson said the money will go towards everything from special education resources to equity grants to specific schools.

‘These budgets include more than $125 million to promote greater equity in our schools. This budget also addresses key priorities such as special education, college and career readiness and supports and services for our district’s schools in our highest need areas.’

Of that amount, Jackson said, the lion’s share will go towards special education services. That’s $97 million. She added it’s the largest amount committed to special education in the history of the Chicago Public School system.”

Jackson said 255 schools will receive $44 million in equity grants.

**Chicago Tribune: Barack Obama video chats with Chicago Public Schools educators to thank them during Teacher Appreciation Week surprise**

May 6, 2020

“Obama tweeted a video montage of the calls Wednesday morning that said he made the calls “to simply say thank you.”

‘There’s no limit to the devotion I’ve seen in teachers like these @ChiPubSchools educators,’ Obama said in the tweet. ‘Their dedication shapes the best parts of who we become. I couldn’t be more thankful for their work, especially as they shift lessons online to keep students on track during this crisis.’ “
Glossary

**BUDGET** Allocation of available revenue in accordance with the spending guidelines and policies of the revenue sources to carry out educational goals of the school district.

**BOND** A written promise to pay a specified sum of money, called the face value or principal amount, at a specified date in the future (the maturity date), together with periodic interest at a specified rate.

**CAPITAL ASSETS** All tangible property which cannot easily be converted into cash and which is usually held for a long period, including real estate, equipment, etc.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT** Any permanent structure or other asset in real estate added to a property that adds to its value, whether through new construction or renovation.

**DEBT RATINGS** A grade assigned by credit rating agencies that evaluate the credit worthiness of a corporation's debt issues. A rating is specified by a letter classification, such as AAA, B, or CC. This rating is a financial indicator to potential investors of debt securities (i.e. bonds).

**DEBT SERVICE FUND** Governmental fund type used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest.

**FUND ACCOUNTING** Accounting whereby nonprofit organizations and organizations in the public sector are measured by accountability instead of profitability. These organizations have a need for special reporting.