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, unmatched in its freight network and manufacturing might. It developed a strong base of esteemed manufacturing firms – involved in sectors from metal fabrication and electronics, to chemicals and food processing – supported by 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 the headquarters of national and global corporations and the sophisticated business and professional services necessary to support them, including finance, insurance, law, information technology (IT), marketing/PR and logistics.

The economy of Chicago and the region remains large and diverse, boasting a strong foundation of the physical, human, technological and institutional assets vital to a developed economy in the 21st century. Chicago is the only inland American city with a global footprint. It is the latest metropolitan area in the United States poised to cross the “megacity” threshold of a total population over 10 million. Chicago’s performance on productivity, income and wage levels has consistently exceeded U.S. averages. Its 2010 gross regional product of approximately $500 billion places the Chicago region third among U.S. metro areas after New York and Los Angeles. If the region were a country, it would be the 20th 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 throughout around the world.

CHICAGO POPULATION
Total population. There are approximately 2.7 million people and 1 million households in Chicago, the third largest city in the US. An estimated 23 percent of the population is under 18 years old.

Race and ethnicity. Among residents reporting one race, approximately 48 percent are White; 32 percent are Black or African American; 6 percent are Asian; less than 0.5 percent are American Indian or Alaska Native; less than 0.5 percent are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and 12 percent were some other race. An estimated 2 percent reported two or more races. Across the above ethnic categories, approximately 29 percent are Hispanic or Latino.

Income and poverty. The median income for a household in Chicago is approximately $55,000, with 12% of households having income below $15,000 a year, and 13% at $150,000 or more. Overall, an estimated 23% are in poverty, including 34% of children under 18 years old.

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT
Overview. Chicago Public Schools is the nation’s third largest school district. In the 2015-16 school year, CPS enrollment was 392,285. As compared to the city’s population as a whole and as compared to students in the rest of the state, CPS’s enrollment has a higher proportion of minority students, low poverty students and English language learners.

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1 As of the 2010 US Census.
2 Race, ethnicity, income and poverty data from the US Census American Community Survey (2010-14).
Race and Ethnicity. 46% of CPS students are Hispanic, 39% are Black, 10% are White, 4% are Asian and 1% are multi-racial or other.³ Of all students in the state of Illinois, CPS enrolls approximately 42% of the African Americans, 35% of the Hispanics, 31% of the Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, 15% of American Indians, 15% of Asians, 7% of Two or More Races and 4% of Whites.⁴

³ School year 2015-16.
English Language Learners. English Language Learner (ELL) students are those eligible for transitional bilingual education, and for whom English is not considered their native language. In the 2015-16 school year, 67,326 CPS students were ELLs. This represented 17.2% of CPS student enrollment and nearly one-third (32%) of the ELLs in the State of Illinois. CPS students are nearly twice as likely to be ELLs as are students in the rest of the state. (An average of 8.7% percent of students are identified as ELL in schools districts throughout the rest of Illinois.) CPS offers bilingual education programs in 14 languages – including Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Polish, Ukrainian, Arabic and Urdu – to address the needs of ELL students. In addition to bilingual education programs, transitional language programs serve students from 110 different language backgrounds.

Income and Poverty. Socioeconomically, CPS students are disproportionately low-income as compared to the rest of the state. Students defined as low-income are those students, aged 3 through 17, who come from families receiving public assistance, live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children, are supported in foster homes with public funds, or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches. More than 80% of CPS students are from low income families, compared to less than 50% of students (approximately 48%) in the rest of the state.5

Total Enrollment. Over the last several years CPS has been:

- **Attracting a greater percent of the children born in Chicago:** CPS kindergarten enrollment in School Year 2015-16 was approximately 64% of the number of children born in Chicago five years ago that would have been age-eligible for kindergarten, higher than for any year between 2005-06 and 2010-11, when cohorts ranged between 56.7-63.0% of prior Chicago births.

- **Reducing dropout rates and improving graduation rates:** Between 2011 and 2015, CPS’s 5-year cohort dropout rates fell from 39.8% to 25.9% and CPS’s 5-year cohort graduation rate increased from 56.9% to 69.9%

- **Growing “market share” of Chicago students relative to private school options.** Between 2011 and 2015, CPS students as a percent of all students in Chicago’s schools grew from **86.9% to 87.6%.**

- **Expanding early childhood education opportunities.** In the last two years alone, CPS increased the number of full day Pre-K classrooms from 70 to 223.

Nonetheless, CPS enrollment has declined by approximately 21,000 students since 2005.6 CPS’s recent enrollment history (as of 20th day) is shown below.7 The official enrollment snapshot is taken on the 20th day of each school year.

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5 Students defined as low-income are those students, aged 3 through 17, who come from families receiving public assistance, live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children, are supported in foster homes with public funds, or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

6 Total enrollment figures do not include Pre-K students that are in community partnership programs. As of fall 2015, there were approximately 10,000 such students.

7 Early childhood enrollment projections are also shown, but funding for early childhood programs is based on a number of factors beyond enrollment.
This enrollment trend has been driven primarily by declining birthrates, which is a trend that has impacted the rest of the state and country. Even though CPS now attracts a higher percentage of Chicago’s children than it once did, the pool of children is smaller than it once was.

### Birth and population projections

Projections from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) indicate that over the next 10 years, the number of children living in Chicago (on a citywide basis) is expected to decline. However, Chicago will continue to represent more than 20% of Illinois’ births, and despite the overall decrease, there are large areas of the city that are expected to experience substantial growth: in particular, the central business area, South Loop, Near West, Northwest and the Southwest sides of the city.
The following two maps show the expected population changes within CPS’s existing elementary school boundaries (showing expected changes in the number of children residing in the area aged 5-14) and...
within CPS's existing high school boundaries (showing expected changes in the number of children residing in the area aged 15-19). While population change does not always coincide with a change in enrollment, it is a strong indicator.