



Acero School Transitions

Welcome

**SY25-26 Acero Community
Incubation Meeting**

Virtual | Monday, September 15, 2025

Virtual CPS Zoom Platform

5:30pm - 6:30pm



Chicago
Public
Schools

I&I

Innovation
& Incubation

Zoom Session – Naming Convention

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- Please ensure that your name appears as follows:
 - School Name - First Name Last Name
 - **Example:** Fuentes - John Doe
- The tech team will use this to ensure you are placed in the correct breakout session later in the meeting.
- On your Zoom home screen, open up “Participants” towards the bottom of the screen, scroll to your name, click the three dots at the end of your name, and click “Rename”.

Welcome Remarks

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Objective and Purpose for Today

- **Share** What We've Learned from Spring 2025 Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Feedback Surveys
- **Announce** Network Assignments + **Meet** Network Leaders (by School)
- **Provide** Brief Overview of Principal Selection Process + Timeline
- **Discuss** Advisory Council Member Selection Process
- **Launch** Advisory Council Voting Window
- **Share** Incubation Updates + Looking Forward
- **Provide** Important GoCPS + Enrollment Updates for Current Acero Students and Families
- **Facilitate** Q/A



Agenda

- 01** Welcome Remarks
- 02** Key Learning and Takeaways from Spring 2025 Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Feedback Survey
- 03** Network Assignments
- 04** School Breakout Sessions + Transition
Meet Network Leaders
- 05** Incubation Updates
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Norms for Engagement | Our Commitments

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- **Be Present and Engaged**
- **Listen Respectfully:** Allow others to speak without interruption, seek to **understand different** perspectives, and avoid judgment.
- **Stay on Topic:** Keep discussions relevant to the agenda, manage time effectively, and address off-topic items separately if necessary.
- **Challenge Ideas, Not People**
- **Listen and gather community feedback and input**
- **Facilitate an equitable process**
- **Provide transparency**
- **Allow Equity of Voice**

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What We've Heard From You

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Emerging Themes

- **Community and Belonging**
 - Deep relationships between families and staff are seen as central to student success. Families want to keep current school names and mascots.
 - Majority of families have a strong desire to keep current Principal, AP, and teachers.
- **Continuity in Student Support Services**
 - Families value the holistic support structure (academic, emotional, behavioral) currently in place and want to ensure those systems carry over into the CPS structure as much as possible.
- **Enrichment and Engagement**
 - Extracurricular opportunities are viewed as critical to student joy, motivation, and identity development.
- **Cultural Relevance & Celebration**
 - There's a strong desire to maintain bilingual, culturally affirming programming and to continue celebrating students' heritage.
- **Transparent Communication**
 - Families want timely, clear communication and a direct way to understand how decisions are being made and what to expect next.

Poll Results - Advisory Council

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School	Membership Constraints and Composition Advisory Councils
Acero - <i>Bartolomé de las Casas</i>	11 - 15 members: 6 or more parents; More than 3 staff members; 1-2 community members <i>Monthly meeting cadence</i>
Acero - <i>Sandra Cisneros</i>	8 - 10 members: 4-5 parents, 3 staff members; 1 -2 community members <i>Monthly meeting cadence and/or as needed based on milestones</i>
Acero - <i>Carlos Fuentes</i>	8 -10 members: 6 or more parents; 3 staff members; 1-2 community members <i>Monthly meeting cadence and/or as needed based on milestones</i>
Acero - <i>Esmeralda Santiago</i>	8 -10 members: 4 -5 parents; 2 staff members; 1 -2 community members <i>Monthly meeting cadence</i>
Acero - <i>Rufino Tamayo</i>	8 -10 members: 4-5 parents; 2 staff members; 1 -2 community members <i>Monthly meeting cadence and/or as needed based on milestones</i>

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CPS Network Assignments

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School	Network	Network Leadership
Acero - Carlos Fuentes	4	Chief of Schools: Jerry Travlos Deputy Chief of Schools: Januario Gutierrez
Acero - Esmeralda Santiago	5	Acting Chief of Schools: Tiffany Brown Deputy Chief of Schools: Vacant
Acero - Bartolomé de las Casas	6	Chief of Schools: Ethan Netterstrom Deputy Chief of Schools: Fernando Kim
Acero - Sandra Cisneros	7	Chief of Schools: Antonio Acevedo Deputy Chief of Schools: Evelyn Randle-Robbins
Acero - Rufino Tamayo	8	Chief of Schools: Gilberto Piedrahita Deputy Chief of Schools: Kristie Langbehn

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Breakout Session Instructions

- Participants select their school-specific breakout
- I&I bilingual Zoom assistant helps with placement
- Registration form used for organization
- Support available in English & Spanish
- If you did not register, Ben or Travis from the Digital Media team will assist you with getting to the proper breakout session.



Network Breakout Sessions

Links to Presentations

- [Acero-Fuentes - Network 4 Breakout Session](#)
- [Acero-Santiago - Network 5 Breakout Session](#)
- [Acero-Casas - Network 6 Breakout Session](#)
- [Acero-Cisneros - Network 7 Breakout Session](#)
- [Acero-Tamayo - Network 8 Breakout Session](#)



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Decision Making for Principal Selection

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The Office of Network Support (ONS) will identify the CPS Network Chief who will ensure the following:

- Open a city-wide principal position for eligible applicants to apply
- CPS Network Chief, takes the first review of candidates resumes, screening, and narrow down applicants
- Advisory Council review top three applicants, create a community meet and greet with the applicants
- Advisory Council will make a recommendation to the CPS Network Chief
- CPS Network Chief will make the final decision regarding Principal Selection

Principal Selection Timeline

- **9/17 - 10/1:** Position posted and application submission window
- **10/1 - 10/6:** CPS Leadership Resumé Review and Creation of Principal Candidate Pool
- **10/6 - 10/13:** CPS Internal Vetting of Candidates
- **10/6 - 10/20:** Candidate Interviews with Network Leaders + Advisory Councils
- **10/13 - 10/20:** Reference Checks
- **10/20 - 11/3:** Candidate Introduction Forum at school
- **11/3 - 11/10:** Finalist(s) Interviews with CEo/CEO
- **11/10 - 11/17:** Distribution of Offer Letter, Staffing, Onboarding



Advisory Council Selection Member Selection Process

- **Democratic-Oriented Process:** Given that each school community shared feedback with the District earlier this year during the Spring Listening Sessions, which included feedback concerning Advisory Council and Design Committee membership and team size constraints, CPS is facilitating a selection process that allows key school stakeholders to decide who will serve on each school's Advisory Council.
- **Advisory Council Member Voting Required:** The amount of interested candidates exceeded the desired cap, and thus, a fair, equitable process has to be facilitated for membership selection at each school.



Advisory Council Member Selection Timeline

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- **The Advisory Council Member Selection process launched on Thursday, September 4, 2025, and concludes on Thursday, September 25, 2025.**
- **9/4 - 9/25:** Advisory Council Candidate Interest Form Submission Window
 - To ensure that school community makes an informed decision about who serves on the Advisory Council, all candidates are strongly encouraged to complete a Candidate Interest Form.
- **9/15:** SY25-26 Inaugural Community Incubation Meeting
- **9/19 - 9/25:** Public Posting and Review of Responses from Candidate Interest Forms
 - All candidate responses (both English and Spanish translations) will be posted on the CPS Acero Transitions Webpage for public review.
- **9/19 - 9/25:** Advisory Council Voting Window
- **9/26:** Poll Results Published and Advisory Council Members Announced

Advisory Council Member Selection Voting Details

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- **9/19 - 9/25:** Advisory Council Voting Window
 - Voting Window Opens at 5pm CST on 9/19
 - Voting Window Closes at 5pm CST on 9/25.
- All voting will take place via electronic ballot via a Google Survey Form.
- **On September 19, 2025:**
 - The voting ballot link will be distributed via email, that will also include a full list of candidates for each Acero campus - Casas, Cisneros, Fuentes, Santiago, and Tamayo.
 - The voting ballot link and full candidate list for each school will also be uploaded to the [Acero Transitions Webpage](http://www.cps.edu/acerotransitions) (www.cps.edu/acerotransitions)

SY25-26 Community Incubation Meeting Schedule

Acero School Transitions

- ***September 15, 2025***
- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- December 15, 2025
- January 26, 2026
- February 23, 2026
- March 16, 2026
- April 20, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- June 8, 2026

Note: All Community Incubation Meetings will convene monthly, on Monday afternoons/evenings.

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GoCPS + Enrollment Updates for Current Students & Families

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Current Students & Families

- All currently enrolled students **do not** need to apply for seats for the new CPS district-managed school.
- Students will automatically be rostered to the newly established CPS elementary school for SY26-27.
- Students and parents will receive email official notification once this process has been completed in early 2026.

GoCPS + Enrollment Updates for Incoming or Transferring Students & Families

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Incoming & Transferring Students for SY26-27

- Any parent of a student who is **not currently enrolled**, and who will be in **Grade K - 8 next school year**, must apply and follow the GoCPS process **this school year** to secure an enrollment seat for **next school year**.
- **GoCPS Application Window: September 23rd - November 14th**
- In this year's GoCPS application cycle, schools will appear as: **Casas, Cisneros, Fuentes, Santiago, and Tamayo** on the application. (the Acero handle will be removed)
- [Elementary School GoCPS Family Training Registration - English Sessions via Zoom](#)
 - **Available Training Dates:** September 30, October 8, October 16, October 24
- [Elementary School GoCPS Family Training Registration - Spanish Sessions via Zoom](#)
 - **Available Training Dates:** October 6, October 16, October 20

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Where We Go From Here

Acero School Transitions

- **August:** Decision on the Network for each school
- **September:** Opening of Principal positions
- **Late September:** Establishment of Advisory Council and Design Committees at each school
- **September - June 2026:** Recurring district incubation committee meetings, listening sessions with stakeholders, design committee and advisory council meetings
- **October:** Inaugural Advisory Council Meetings
- **Middle of October 2025:** Principal hired
- **End of October 2025:** Posting of Foundational Positions (AP, Clerk, and School Counselor) and teacher and staff positions
- **End of November 2025:** Foundational positions hired
- **December - June 2026:** Hiring of teachers and support staff
- **January - May 2026:** Final planning in conjunction with Advisory Councils and Design Committees
- **July 1, 2026:** Opening Day

Where We Go From Here | Cómo se ve el futuro

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If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Advisory Council, please complete the form below by 12pm CST on Thursday, September 18th. | [Advisory Council Candidate Interest Form](#)

Si está interesado en convertirse en candidato para el Consejo Asesor, complete el formulario a continuación antes de las 12 p.m. CST del jueves 18 de septiembre. | [Formulario de inscripción para el Comité Asesor](#)

See you for the next Community Incubation Meeting on October 20, 2025! | ¡Nos vemos en la próxima Reunión de Incubación Comunitaria el 20 de octubre de 2025!

Q&A





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