



Acero School Transitions

Welcome

SY25-26 Acero Community Incubation Meeting

Hybrid | Monday, January 26, 2026
Bartolomé de Las Casas Elementary School
4:00pm - 5:30pm



Chicago
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Casas Community Incubation Meeting Schedule

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Casas Community Incubation Meeting Schedule (In-Person, at the School, Mondays, 4:00pm - 5:30pm) Meeting Cadence: Monthly			
September	October	November	December
September 15, 2025 (virtual)	October 20, 2025	November 17, 2025 Principal Candidate Forum	December 15, 2025
January	February	March	April
January 26, 2026	February 23, 2026	March 16, 2026	April 20, 2026
May	June	2025-26	
May 18, 2026	June 8, 2026		

Welcome Remarks

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Objective and Purpose for Today

- **Hear** principal remarks and vision casting for Casas ES for SY26-27
- **Provide** Key Incubation Updates
- **Facilitate** Q/A



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**

Agenda

01 Welcome Remarks + Norm Setting

02 Principal Remarks + Vision Casting

03 Key Incubation Updates

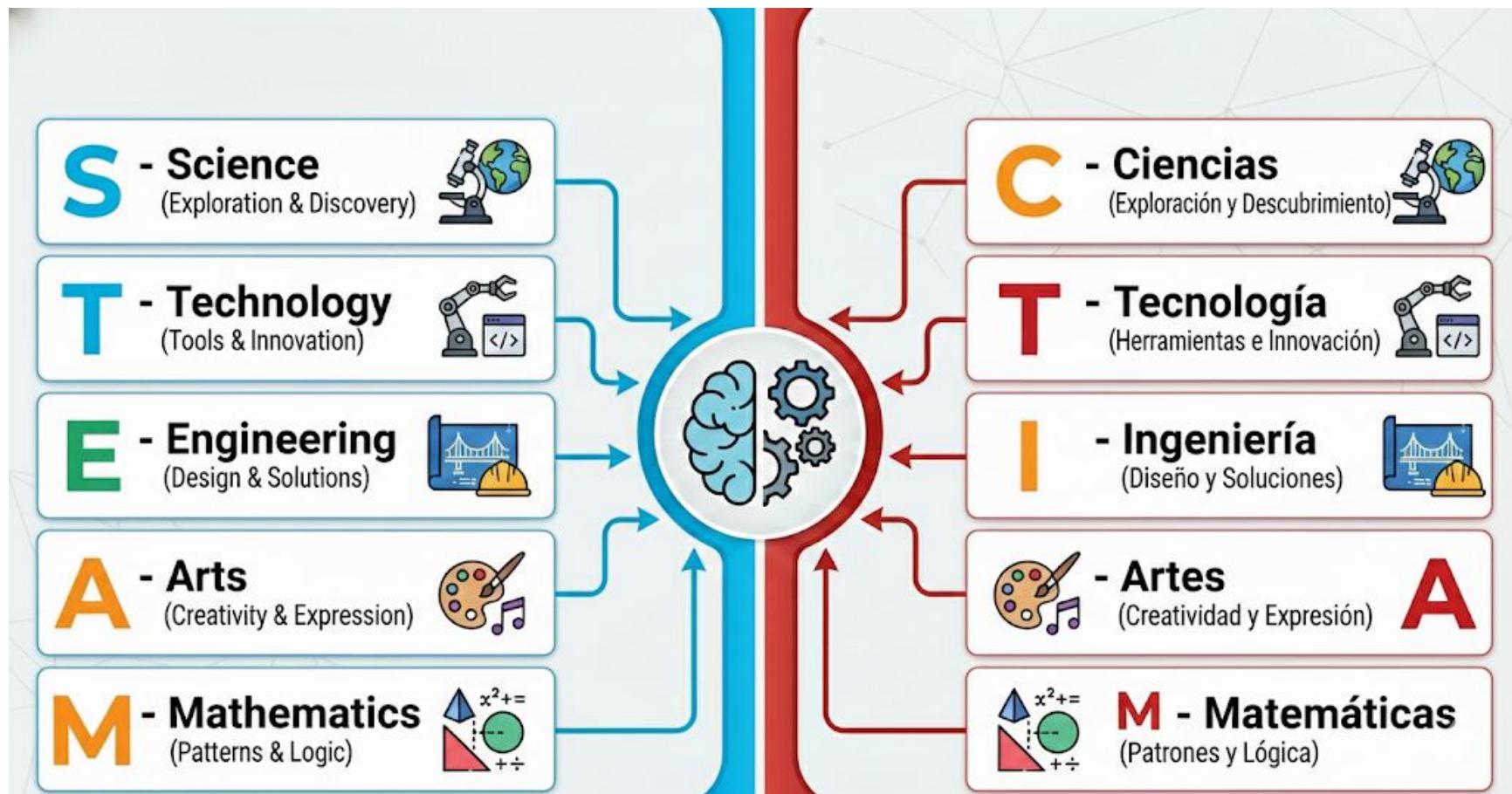
04 Q & A

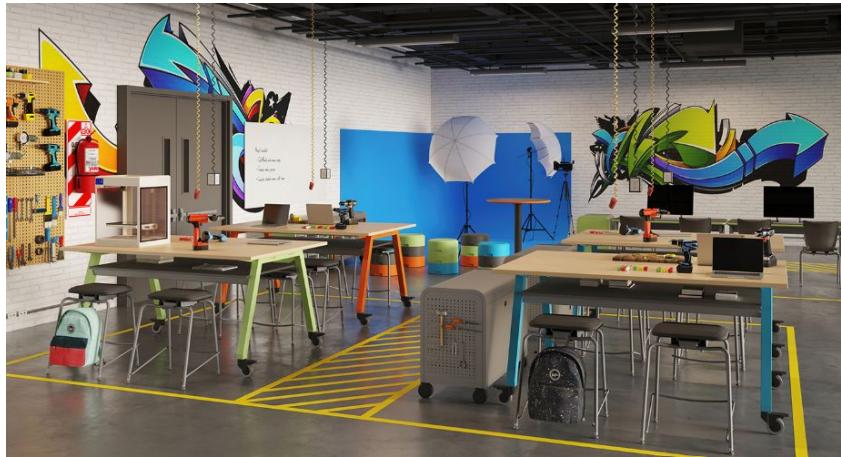


Brainstorming/Lluvia de Ideas

- Programming/
La programación
- Marketing







Agenda

- 01** Welcome Remarks + Norm Setting
- 02** Principal Remarks + Vision Casting
- 03** Key Incubation Updates
- 04** Q & A



New Incubation Updates

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- Casas Advisory & Design Leadership Council welcomes one (1) new council member:
 - Yolanda Ayala
 - 3 teacher/staff vacancies remain
- CPS Real Estate Team is in negotiations to secure a master lease agreement with the Archdiocese of Chicago for all 5 school sites (current locations)
- Hybrid vs. In-Person Meeting Facilitation
 - Live Zoom sessions will be simultaneously cast based on the availability of the CPS Digital Web Services Team
 - Current month's flyers and email messages will communicate if the meeting will include virtual access through Zoom

New Incubation Updates

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- Site Visits
 - Various CPS Central Office teams and departments **started completing site visits during the first week of January, which will continue through June 2026**
 - **e.g. Marketing + Communications, Student Safety & Security, Information Technology Services, Capital Planning + Facilities**
 - All dates and time frames were pre-approved through collaboration with Acero Network leaders, and are scheduled as to avoid disrupting teaching and learning for staff and students, and to prevent **to the fullest extent possible**, the disruption of normal school operations;
 - **Target dates and time frames prioritize when students are not present**
 - The purpose of the visits are to assess and make decisions to ensure facility and environmental readiness by the first day of school in August 2026

Incubation Updates | Interview Priority

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- All Casas teachers who want to return next year have been interviewed. Teacher notifications should happen within the next week.
- Final staffing decisions are made once CPS employment eligibility is confirmed and all required onboarding steps are completed, including a licensure review, criminal background check, and CPS policy acknowledgements.

Incubation Timeline

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- ~~August~~: Decision on the Network for each school
- ~~September~~: Opening of Principal positions
- ~~Late September~~: Establishment of Advisory Council at each school
- ~~October~~: Inaugural Advisory Council Meetings
- **September - June 2026**: Recurring district incubation committee meetings, listening sessions with stakeholders, design committee and advisory council meetings
- ~~Middle of December 2025~~: Principal hired

- **Start of January 2026**: Posting of ~~Foundational Positions (AP, Clerk, and School Counselor)~~ and teacher and staff positions
- **End of January - February 2026**: 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

Q&A





Thank You For Coming!

*Have an amazing
rest of your
week!*

**See you on February 23rd for the next Casas
Community Incubation Meeting**





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