



Acero School Transitions

Welcome

SY25-26 Acero Community Incubation Meeting

In-Person | Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Sandra Cisneros Elementary School

4:00pm - 5:30pm



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& Incubation

Cisneros Community Incubation Meeting Schedule

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Cisneros Community Incubation Meeting Schedule (In-Person, at the School, Tuesdays, @4pm) Meeting Cadence: Monthly			
September	October	November	December
September 15, 2025 (virtual)	October 28, 2025	November 18, 2025 <i>Principal Candidate Forum</i>	December 16, 2025
January	February	March	April
January 20, 2026	February 17, 2026	March 17, 2026	April 28, 2026
May	June	2025-26	
May 26, 2026	June 9, 2026		

Welcome Remarks

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Objective and Purpose for Today

- **Formally** Introduce New Principal for Cisneros ES (CPS)
- **Hear** principal remarks and vision casting for Cisneros ES for SY26-27
- **Provide** Key Incubation Updates
- **Facilitate** Q/A



Agenda

- 01 Welcome Remarks + Norm Setting
- 02 New CPS Principal Introduction & Greeting
- 03 Principal Remarks + Vision Casting
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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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Brief Meet & Greet with the Principal

Megan Byrnes

As we begin this transition together, my priorities will be:



- Creating a strong school identity rooted in equity and joy.

- Maintaining the positive climate and culture of Cisneros while making way for our new CPS era.

- Hiring a talented, student-centered staff who are committed to our mission and vision.

- Building positive partnerships with educators and families through communication, feedback, and shared decision-making.

- Designing programs and supports that meet the needs of all students—including beyond the school day.

Cisneros: A place where every student belongs and every story matters.

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Principal Remarks & Vision Casting

Vision Casting



Throughout this process, we are rooted in the belief that we are collaborating to bring our combined vision of Cisneros to life.

What do you want your student to experience at Cisneros? What programs do you want to see at Cisneros?

Please complete the following survey to help shape the future of CPS Cisneros by Sunday, February 1st, 2026.

All results will be shared with the Advisory & Design Leadership Council during the February meeting.

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Overview | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

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- Once Design Committee Membership Selection Process has concluded, then the Advisory Council and the Design Committee will form a ***joint transition committee - Advisory & Design Leadership Council***
- Composed of parents, staff, students, and community representatives, this group supports the successful transition and incubation process of all 5 Acero Schools to district-managed schools by summer 2026

Potential Workstreams	
Advising and supporting the facilitation of the principal selection process	Identifying needs and concerns during the CPS transition
Advising on school culture and climate priorities	Reviewing and responding to key district proposals or changes
Recommending course offerings, electives, enrichment, and other specialized programs and supports for students and families	Helping CPS Network Chief + Principal make final decisions, key to school readiness for SY2026-27
Helping define the student and family learning experiences\Developing and executing effective family and community engagement plans	Meeting with CPS academic departments to understand program implementation, timeline, and limitation

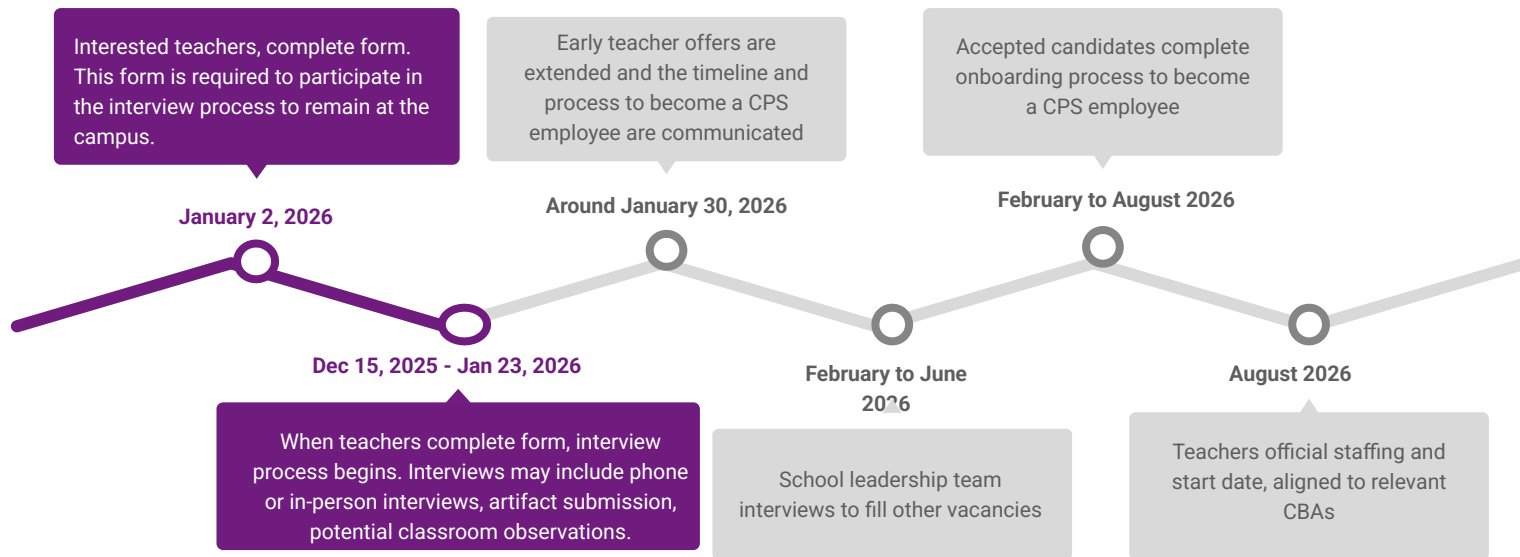
Incubation Updates | Interview Priority

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- Our top priority is to make sure that current teachers and staff affected by this transition are given the first opportunity to interview for available CPS positions at the school.
- 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 Updates | Anticipated Interview Time for Current Acero Teachers

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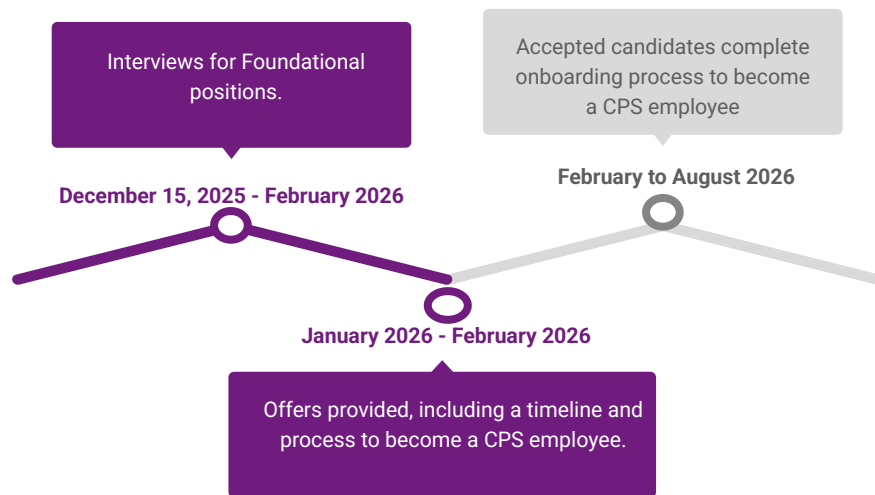


Incubation Updates | Interview Timeline for Foundational Positions

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Foundational Positions are the following roles:

- Principal (selected)
- Assistant Principal
- School Clerk
- School Counselor



Facility Plan for SY26-27

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As shared, the co-location proposal for Cisneros to co-locate with another school is off the table for the 2026-2027 school year.

- CPS will continue to work with the Cisneros community, CPS Leaders, and the Chicago Board of Education to determine next steps for the facility.
- CPS is committed and will transition Cisneros to become a CPS school which will open in the 26-27 school year.
- **New** CPS Real Estate Team is pursuing lease agreement with the Archdiocese of Chicago for all 5 school sites

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

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Q&A





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Thank You For Coming!

*Have an amazing
rest of your
week!*

See you on February 17th for the next
Cisneros Community Incubation Meeting





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