



Acero School Transitions

Welcome

SY25-26 Acero Community Incubation Meeting

In Person | Wednesday, February 25th, 2026
Carlos Fuentes Elementary School
4:00pm - 5:00pm



Chicago
Public
Schools



Innovation
& Incubation

Fuentes Community Incubation Meeting Schedule

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Fuentes Community Incubation Meeting Schedule (In-Person, at the School, Wednesdays, 4:00pm - 5:30pm) Meeting Cadence: Monthly and/or as needed based on milestones			
September	October	November	December
September 15, 2025 (virtual)	October 22, 2025	November 19, 2025 <i>Principal Candidate Forum</i>	December 17, 2025
January	February	March	April
January 28, 2026	February 25, 2026	March 18, 2026	April 22, 2026
May	June	2025-26	
May 20, 2026	June 10, 2026		

Agenda

01 Welcome Remarks + Norm Setting

02 Incubation Updates

03 Visioning Activity

04 Question and Answer Session



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**

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 2026:~~ Foundational positions hired **(Still looking for a counselor)**
- **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

Incubation Updates

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Hiring

- Bilingual AP hired with a start date of June 1, 2026
- 10 current ACERO employees have been retained
- 12.5 positions left to hire for; all have been posted

Budget lines provided for the following:

- PE Equipment-\$15,000
- Office Supplies-\$10,000
- Curriculum and Classroom libraries-TBD
- Marketing

Incubation Updates

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Marketing

- Logo and Branding draft coming soon
- Drawstring Bags, T-Shirts, pencils, postcards, website, etc.
- Parent/Community input on other items
- Academic Seal Examples (in a few slides)

Curriculum

- Working with teachers to determine what is available and what is considered high quality
- Ordering new science materials

Incubation Updates | Centrally Staffed Positions

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School-based centrally staffed positions fall into the categories below are not interviewed and hired by the school principal, but rather the CPS department that manages their work.

The Principal will work with ONS and relevant Central Offices regarding the following roles:

- **Related Service Providers** - Managed and assigned by Office of Students with Disabilities
- **Security Officers** | Pre-screened by the Office of Safety and Security
- **Nutrition Support** | Managed and assigned by Nutrition Support Services
- **Custodial & Engineering** | Managed and assigned by Facilities

Creating a New Vision for Fuentes

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A shared vision keeps us all moving toward the same future.

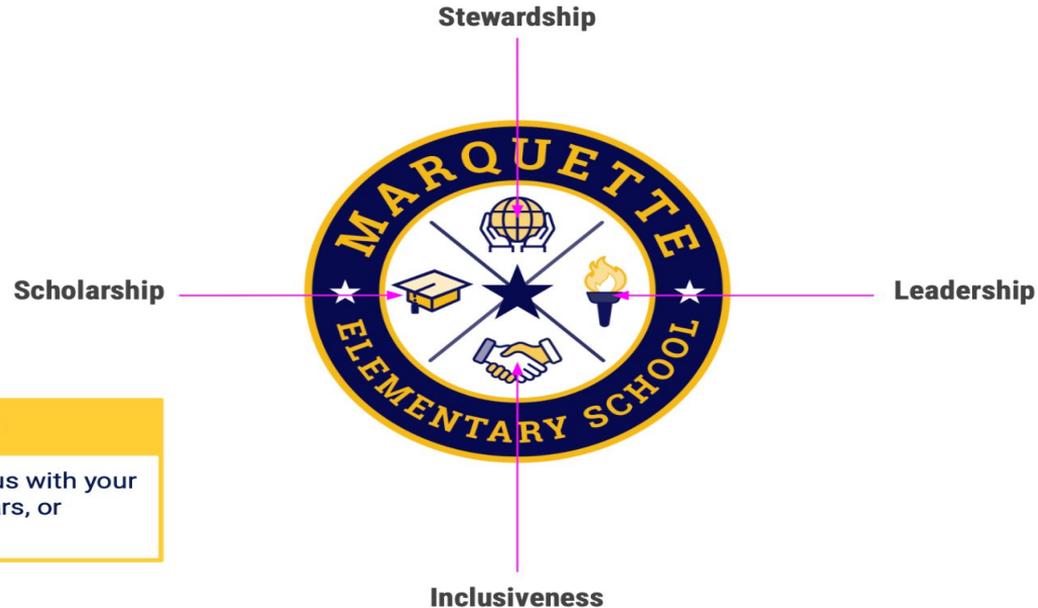
- **It describes what we want our school to be and what success looks like for our kids.**
 - What does our school aspire to accomplish?
 - What do we want to be known for?
 - How do we define success for our students and community?

Una visión compartida nos mantiene a todos avanzando hacia el mismo futuro.

- **Describe lo que queremos que sea nuestra escuela y cómo se ve el éxito para nuestros hijos.**
 - ¿Qué aspira lograr nuestra escuela?
 - ¿Por qué queremos ser reconocidos?
 - ¿Cómo definimos el éxito para nuestros estudiantes y nuestra comunidad?

Visioning to Create Academic Seal / Visión para crear un sello académico

Branding Examples - Academic Seal



SCHOOL TO-DO

Please provide us with your four values, pillars, or priorities.

Visioning to Create Academic Seal/ Visión para crear un sello académico

Brand Development - Academic Seals

SCHOOL TO-DO

Provide your icon preferences. If they do not appear here, please share your thoughts.

Keyword	Icon Suggestions
Education / Scholarship	(Graduation Cap, Open Book, Diploma)
Intercultural Understanding	(Globe, Hands Holding, Diversity Symbol)
Respect & Inclusion	(Handshake, People Holding Hands, Heart)
Trust	(Shield, Handshake, Lock)
Support / Supportive	(Helping Hand, Group of People)
Lifelong Learning	(Lightbulb, Open Book, Stack of Books)
Success	(Trophy, Medal)
Families & Community	(Network of People, Three People)
Leadership	(Torch, Flag on Mountain, Person Speaking, Podium)
Stewardship	(Globe with Hands)



MARKETING

Our Ideal Future

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Step 1 – Your "Ideal Future" (5 Mins)

- **Action:** Individual Writing
- **Prompt:** "Imagine your child is graduating 8th grade. What are 2–3 words (or a quick drawing) that describe who they have become because of this school?"

Paso 1 – Su "futuro ideal" (5 min)

- **Acción: Escritura individual**
- **Consigna:** "Imagine que su hijo se está graduando de octavo grado. ¿Cuáles son 2 o 3 palabras (o un dibujo rápido) que describen en quién se ha convertido gracias a esta escuela?"



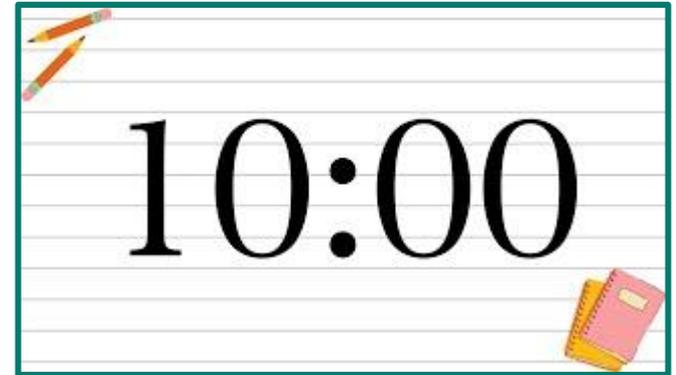
05:00

Step 2 – Small Group Huddle (10 Mins)

- **Action:** Partner or Small Group Discussion
- **Task:** Share your words and drawings with each other.
- **Goal:** What common words or big ideas did your group find?

Paso 2 – Reunión en grupos pequeños (10 min)

- **Acción:** Discusión en parejas o en grupos pequeños
- **Tarea:** Compartan sus palabras y dibujos entre ustedes.
- **Objetivo:** ¿Qué palabras comunes o ideas principales encontró su grupo?



We Envision

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Step 3 – "We Envision..." (5 Mins)

- **Task:** Use your common words to finish this sentence with a list of ideas:
 - *"Fuentes is a school where every child..."*

Paso 3 – "Visionamos..." (5 min)

Tarea: Usen sus palabras comunes para completar esta oración con una lista de ideas:

- *"Fuentes es una escuela donde cada niño..."*



05:00

Next Steps

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Ms. Bailenson and Mrs. Vasquez-Dorner will review your words and idea lists to find the academic symbols and icons for our school marketing that match the brainstorming of this team.

La Sra. Bailenson y la Sra. Vasquez-Dorner revisarán sus palabras y listas de ideas para encontrar los símbolos académicos e íconos para materiales de marketing de nuestra escuela que coincidan con el intercambio de ideas de este equipo

Q&A





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Thank You For Coming!

See you on March 18th for the next Fuentes
Community Incubation Meeting





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