



Acero School Transitions

Welcome

SY25-26 Acero Community Incubation Meeting

Hybrid | Wednesday, January 28th, 2026
Carlos Fuentes Elementary School
4:00pm - 5:00pm



Chicago
Public
Schools



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 Principal Candidate Forum	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** Introduction and Purpose of Advisory Design and Leadership Council
- 03** Incubation Updates
- 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**

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Advisory Design and Leadership Council Members

Fuentes Advisory & Design Leadership Council Members

**Indicates Members Selected in January 2026 Through Design Committee Selection Process

Name	Role	Name	Role
Rocio Ambrosia	Parent	Tiffany Negron	Staff
Juan Rafael Bailon	Parent	Lauren Orozco	Community Rep
Brigid Buffington**	Staff	Betsey Pedrego	Parent
Ligia Cabrera	Parent	Blanca Perez	Parent
Elsie Damas**	Staff	Susana Ramirez	Parent
Lucrecia Dezort**	Staff	Robyn Vester**	Staff
Perla Garcia	Parent		
Angelica Juarez	Parent		
Subhana Khaja	Staff		
Eva Molinero**	Parent		

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
- **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

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/or 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

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New Incubation Updates

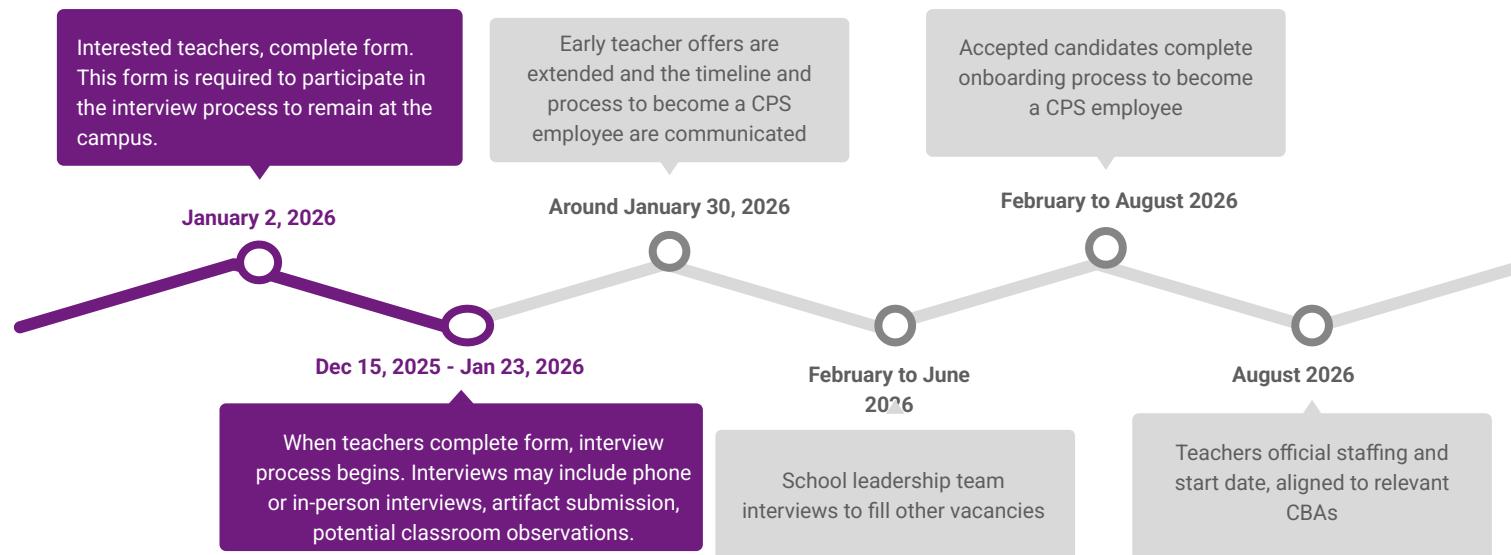
- Fuentes Advisory & Design Leadership Council welcomes five (5) new council members:
 - Brigid Buffington
 - Elsie Damas
 - Lucrecia Dezort
 - Eva Molinero
 - Robyn Vester
- CPS Real Estate Team is in negotiations to secure a master lease agreement with the Archdiocese of Chicago for all 5 school sites (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

- 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 | Anticipated Interview Time for Current Acero Teachers

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Incubation Updates | Interviews of Current Acero Teaching Staff Process

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Fuentes Timeline:

1. Interview interest form open until January 2nd
2. Interview options sent out over Winter Break for virtual meeting January 5th - January 9th (Before/After school options will be available)
3. Classroom visits and artifact reviews will be scheduled for either January 13th or January 14th
4. Decisions aim to be shared by January 30th

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



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

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Q&A





Thank You For Coming!

See you on February 25th for the next
Fuentes Community Incubation Meeting





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