The Next Generation: Chicago’s Children – Our Framework for Success

At CPS, our vision is that every student in every neighborhood will be engaged in a rigorous, well-rounded instructional program and will graduate prepared for success in college, career and life.

First: we need high standards, rigorous curriculum and powerful instruction for all students regardless of their neighborhood, diverse learning needs or level of English language proficiency. We must go beyond the basics to ensure that children become critical thinkers, effective communicators and responsible global citizens. The definition of core instruction must be expanded to include the arts, health, physical education and extracurricular activities.

Second: we need robust systems of supports that meet all of our students’ needs because every student is unique. High expectations for all students must be coupled with a holistic approach that supports the individual needs of each. We must also remove barriers to learning with practices that promote children’s health and safety, social and emotional development, school attendance and college and career preparation.

Third: for students to achieve at the highest level, the district needs engaged and empowered families and communities. Parents must be empowered as leaders who can advocate for their children and for all the community’s children. Meanwhile, school and district leaders must be resourceful in identifying community partners who can support children’s growth and learning.

The fourth pillar is to ensure committed and effective teachers, leaders and staff. Our teachers, principals and administrators will be valued and developed, will hold themselves accountable and will be rewarded for success. We must ensure we are the place where the best talent comes to work.

And the fifth and final pillar is that we need sound fiscal, operational and accountability systems. Priorities that lead to student success must drive planning, spending and accountability at the school and district level. Every employee needs to be held accountable for student outcomes and also provided with useful data and guidance in working toward those goals.