

Dear Parents, Students, Friends,
Colleagues and Partners:


All of Chicago's children deserve a world-class education that will prepare them for success in the 21st century. Chicago Public Schools must graduate students with the skills to excel in the world beyond high school, in college or technical training, in career and in life.

OUR ACTION PLAN – THE NEXT GENERATION: CHICAGO'S CHILDREN – lays out a roadmap for achieving our vision of a challenging, high-quality education for every child in every neighborhood in this city. Achieving this vision will require the energy and talents of all of us—principals, teachers and parents, faith-based organizations, nonprofits and elected officials, universities, foundations and businesses, and all of our community partners. We cannot reach our goals without your help.



Growing up in public housing in Harlem, I faced many of the same challenges that our young people in many parts of Chicago face today. I know our children have the strength and fortitude to triumph over obstacles that some of us cannot even imagine. But, I have learned that children triumph only if the adults in their lives do not give up on them. As a district and as a city, our mission is to support our children to ensure they achieve their dreams. I thank you for your commitment as we work together to develop the next generation of Chicago's leaders.

Sincerely,


Barbara Byrd-Bennett
CEO, Chicago Public Schools



CHICAGO
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

CPS

Chicago Public Schools
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“Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

“Lighting Your Way To A Better Future” (speech given at the
Mindset Network, Johannesburg, South Africa, July 16, 2003).



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Access the complete CPS 2013-18 Action Plan
online at www.cps.edu/ActionPlan

The Next Generation: Chicago's Children

21ST CENTURY PREPARATION
FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2013-18 ACTION PLAN

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EDUCATE ME



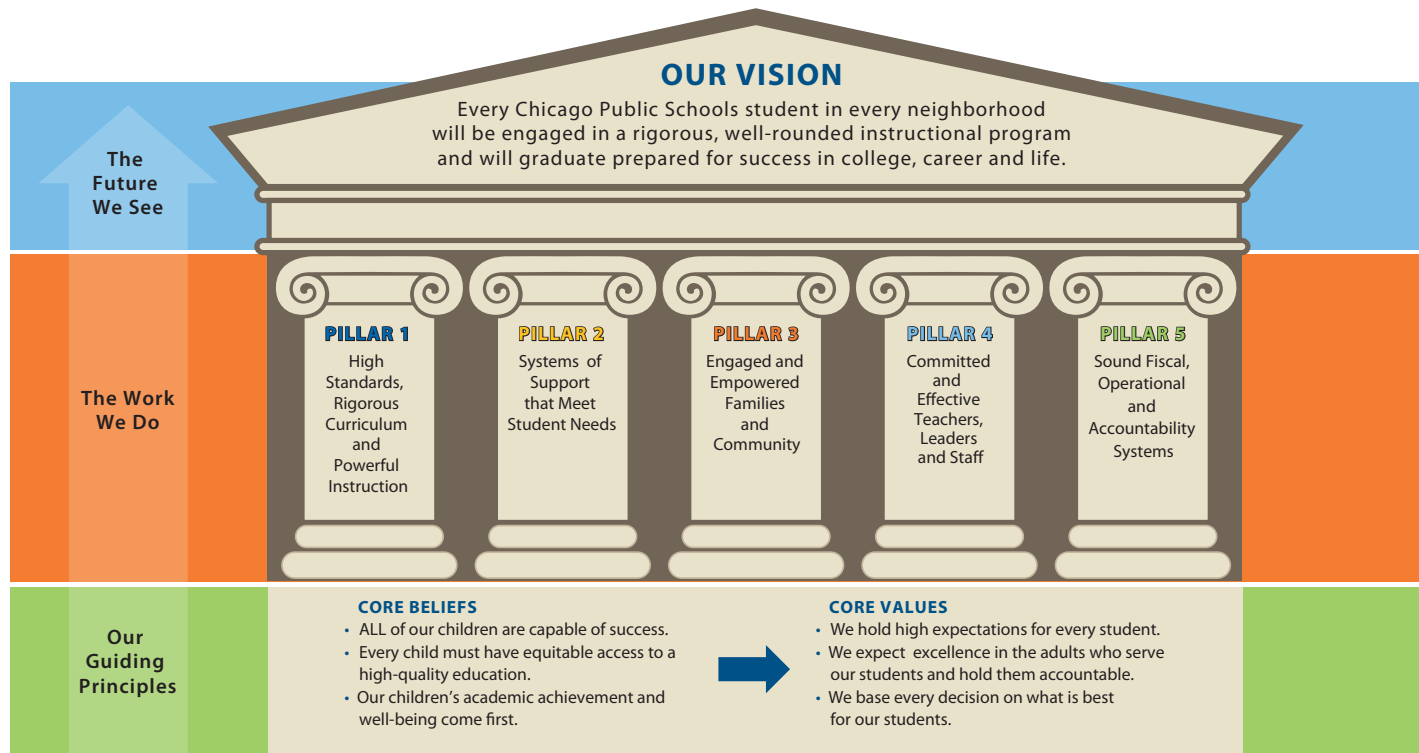
INSPIRE ME



TRANSFORM ME



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.



HOW WE WILL KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL

Our Ultimate Outcomes are Increases in:

- > Graduation rate
- > Academic preparedness for college and career
- > Entry into college, military or employment
- > Persistence and success in college and employment

PILLAR 1 – High Standards, Rigorous Curriculum and Powerful Instruction: We must go beyond the basics to ensure that all 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 extra-curricular activities.

PILLAR 2 – Systems of Support that Meet Student Needs: 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.

PILLAR 3 – Engaged and Empowered Families and Community: Parents must be empowered as leaders who can advocate for their children and for all the community's children. School and district leaders must be resourceful in identifying community partners who can support children's growth and learning.

PILLAR 4 – 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.

PILLAR 5 – Sound Fiscal, Operational and Accountability Systems: Priorities that lead to student success must drive planning, spending and accountability at the school and district level. Everyone who works for the district needs to be held accountable for student outcomes and also provided with useful data and guidance in working toward those goals.