

# The Central Planning Area

# Area Overview

Chicago's Central Area is bounded by Division Street on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, the Stevenson Expressway on the south, and by N Halsted Street and the Kennedy/Dan Ryan Expressway on the west. It consists primarily of eight neighborhoods–Chinatown, Grant Park, the Loop, Museum Campus, Near South Side, River North, Streeterville and portions of the West Loop. The Central Area is covered by nine wards: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 11th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 34th, and 42nd. Although among the smallest areas geographically, the Central Area currently has the fastest growing population, the highest use of commercial space and continues to be the economic driver for the Chicago region.



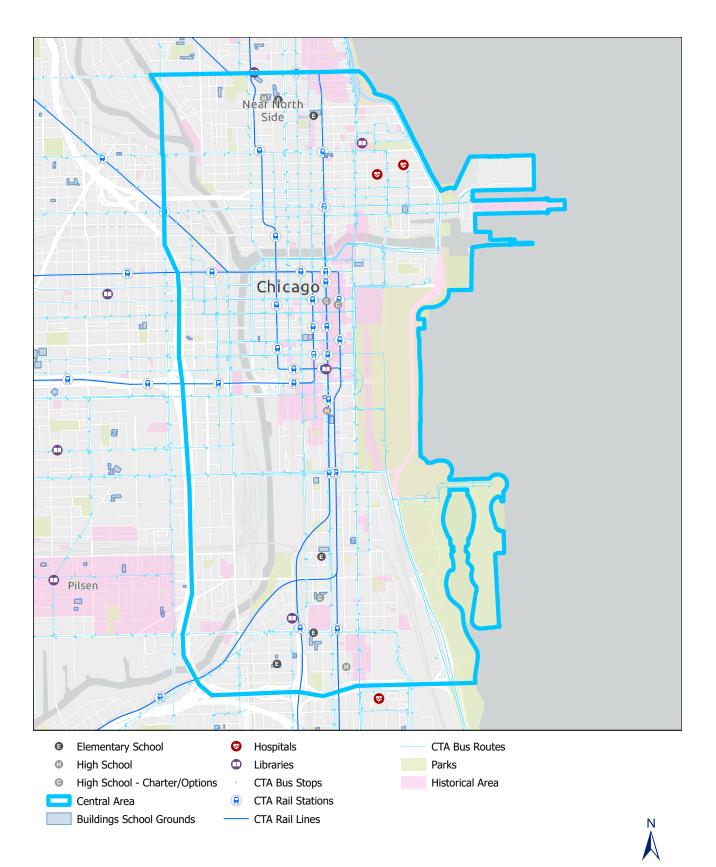






Source: City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development







### **History and Context**

The Central Area's seven community areas developed as early trading posts, and residences grew around the three branches of the Chicago River. Transportation has always been the driving force behind Chicago's development; when the first canal and railroad opened in the 1800s, Chicago became the transportation hub of the country. During this period, much of the Central Area's land was filled with rail tracks that converged at the edges of the commercial core. Commerce continued to grow, and between 1837 to 1871, Chicago's population grew from around 4,000 to nearly 300,000.

After the 1871 Chicago Fire, the city reconstructed what was previously all wooden infrastructure. Builders and architects developed new "fireproof" building materials, construction techniques, and architectural styles, leading to taller buildings supported by steel frames and the world's first skyscraper: the Home Life Insurance building of 1885.

While many examples of this late 1800s building period survive today on State Street and Wabash Ave, Chicago's central business district has experienced successive waves of new development. The 20th century brought the expansion of commercial areas north of the river, most notably N Michigan Ave, which was branded as the "Magnificent Mile" in the 1940s.

With the rising use of automobiles, plans for Chicago's primary highways were completed in 1940, and various expressways opened in the 1950s and 1960s. They all converged at the Central Area, forming new borders on the area's south and west sides.

In the 1960s, the Central Area's rail tracks were abandoned as automobile and interstate truck use increased. Businesses began moving outside the city center, requiring a plan for Chicago's downtown revitalization.

During the past 40-plus years, the city's vision to make the Central Area more residential has made the downtown area vibrant again. Well-known residential developments, such as Printers Row, Lakeshore East, Dearborn Park, New Chinatown Square, and Central Station, occupy former manufacturing buildings and rail yards.

Today, the Central Area continues to improve, as historic

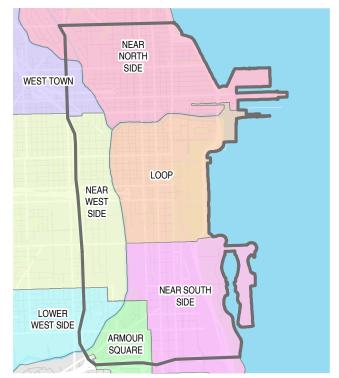


Figure Central-1: Planning area communities; Source: City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

buildings are restored and converted to new uses. Revitalized theaters, retail areas, tourist attractions, and modern skyscrapers dot the Central Area's urban landscape.Navy Pier and Millennium Park – which replaced the Central Area's sprawling rail yards – represent two of the city's top tourist attractions.

The Near North includes university campuses representing some of Chicagoland's key research institutions, including DePaul, Loyola, and Northwestern. The Streeterville neighborhood is home to a major medical district focused around Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Although the portion of the Near West Side east of the I-94 expressway is primarily a commercial area, there has been extensive residential, retail, and restaurant development in the West Loop in the past decade. Meanwhile, the Near South is one of the fastest growing residential areas of the city, with new large-scale residential developments like Dearborn Park and Central Station occupying former rail yards.

Table Central-1: Planning area neighborhood assets; Source: City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

	) Parks	CTA Stops	Metra Stations	Libraries	다. Hospitals
Armour Square	5	60	2	1	0
Loop	8	154	16	1	0
Near North Side	17	255	7	2	2
Near South Side	13	84	3	0	1
Near West Side	18	357	9	3	4



# **School Facility Overview**

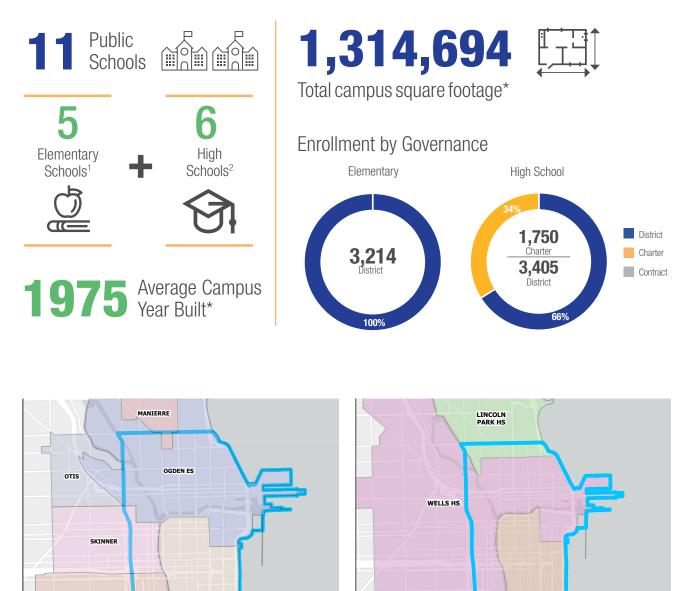


Figure Central-2: Elementary school boundaries

HEALY

WALSH

SMYTH

Figure Central-3: High school boundaries; Source: Chicago

TILDEN HS

PHILLIPS HS

JUAREZ HS

<sup>1,2</sup> Elementary and high school counts include all CPS schools regardless of governance.

DRAKE

SOUTH LOOP

NATIONAL

HAINES

\* Data calculated from CPS owned and leased campuses



# Utilization

The area average utilization for elementary schools in CPS-owned or leased facilities is approximately 61 percent and the area average utilization for high schools is 111 percent. There are 2 schools with enrollment levels below 70 percent.

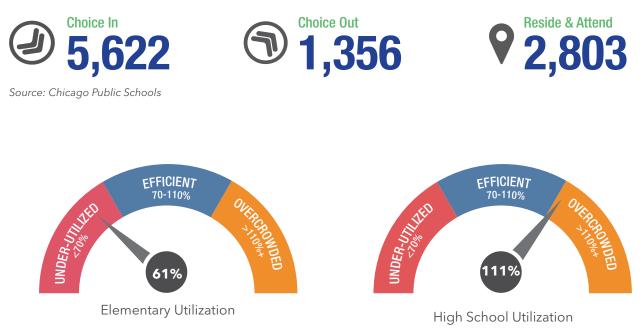


Figure Central-4: Campus utilization ("Adjusted Utilization2"); Source: Chicago Public Schools Space Use Standards. Computation excludes charter and contract schools as sole occupants in CPS owned/leased or non-CPS facilities.

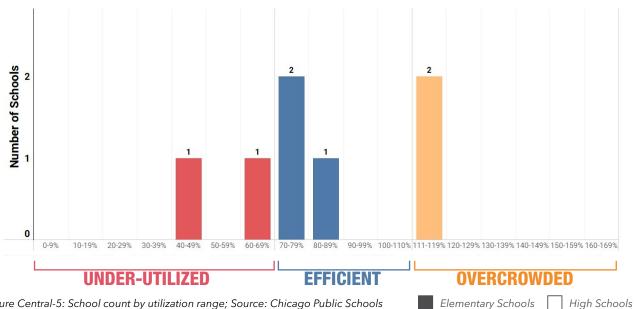


Figure Central-5: School count by utilization range; Source: Chicago Public Schools



# **Current Facility Deficiencies**

The figure below depicts the significance of need for each building system for campuses within Central. This data was collected as part of the 2021-2022 facility condition assessment and represents all need identified. This distribution is not weighted or otherwise adjusted based on impact to the buildings or occupants.

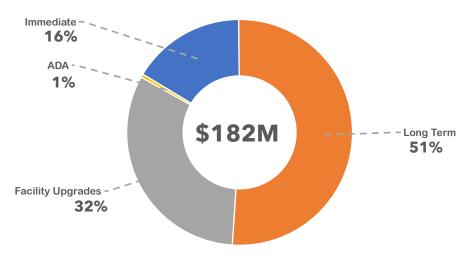


Figure Central-6:Current facility deficiencies by system; Source: Chicago Public Schools. Data calculated from CPS owned and leased campuses.

#### **Facility Upgrades**

Upgrades including finishes (paint, finishes, ceilings), lighting upgrades and other classroom upgrades. These upgrades will enhance the learning environment while also increasing the building energy efficiency.

#### Immediate

Critical systems facility needs such as building envelope (windows, roofs, masonry) and mechanical heating and cooling systems over next 5 years based on the 2021-22 facility condition assessments. These upgrades will result in energy efficient buildings with enhanced indoor air quality.

#### Long Term

Critical systems facility needs such as building envelope (windows, roofs, masonry) and mechanical heating and cooling systems from 6 to 10 years based on the 2021-22 facility condition assessments. These upgrades will result in energy efficient buildings with enhanced indoor air quality.

#### ADA Accessibility

Accessibility needs to make a campus accessible based on the 2021-22 facility Condition assessments. These upgrades will provide equitable access for all.

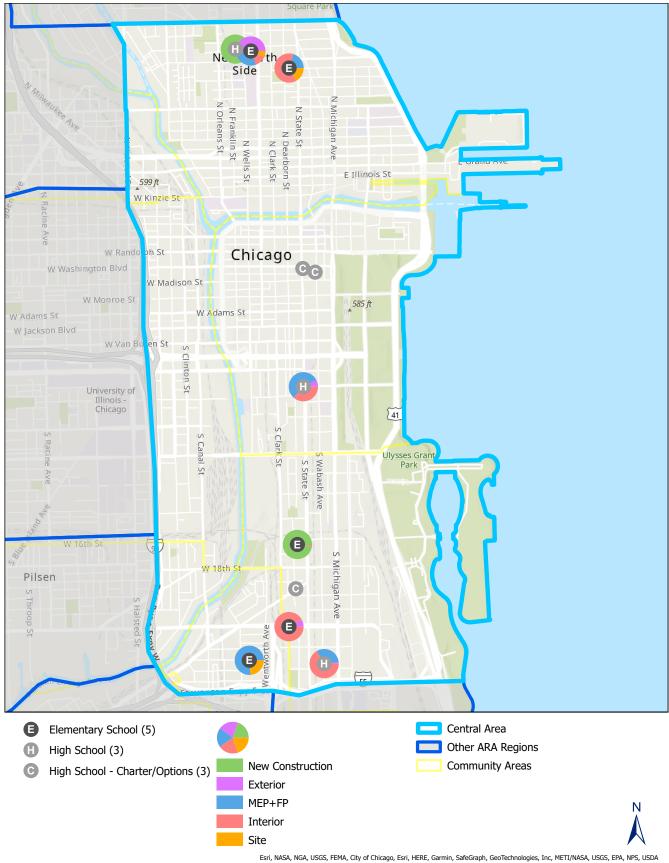
### **Future Facilities Priorities**

Future improvement plans could include the following.

### **Condition Improvement Priorities**

- Address exterior building envelope condition improvements for structural integrity
- Continue mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) upgrades to more energy efficient systems
- Invest in district initiatives such as ADA accessibility for equitable access
- Address additional needs including finishes (flooring, paint, and ceilings), energy-efficient lighting upgrades, and other facility upgrades

Capital Projects Since 2013 **Capital Projects Cost 85 8** 



### The Central Planning Area Historical Capital Projects



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### The Central School Needs\* Data

School Name	Immediate	Long Term	Facility Upgrades	ADA Accessibility	Total (in Millions)
GRAHAM HS					\$8.9
HAINES					\$19.4
JONES HS					\$56.9
NATIONAL TEACHERS					\$37.7
OGDEN ES					\$7.8
PAYTON HS					\$25.8
SALAZAR					\$4.8
SOUTH LOOP					\$20.4

\*Critical facility needs are based on the 2021-22 assessment data. Costs are high level and based on unit costs and historical cost information.



### The Central Planning Area Data

						Total	Total	C	hange in				
School Name	Туре	Governance	Boundary	Ownership	Co- Location	Attending SY 2021-22	Attending SY 2022-23	Δ.	Total ttending	Ideal Capacity*	Utilization*	Adjusted Utilization*	Utilization Status*
School Maine	Type	Governance	boundary	ownership	Location		1011-10		ttenung	capacity	othization	ounzation	Status
GRAHAM HS	HS	District	Citywide	Owned		205	239		34	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HAINES	ES	District	Attendance Area School	Owned		567	527	•	-40	690	76%	85%	Efficient
JONES HS	HS	District	Citywide	Owned		1960	1936	•	-24	1872	103%	111%	Overcrowded
NATIONAL													
TEACHERS	ES	District	Attendance Area School	Owned		727	754		27	1200	63%	71%	Efficient
NOBLE - MUCHIN HS	HS	Charter	Citywide	Non-CPS		963	861	•	-102	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OGDEN ES	ES	District	Attendance Area School	Owned		894	866	-	-28	1530	57%	61%	Underutilized
PAYTON HS	HS	District	Citywide	Owned		1193	1230		37	1212	101%	112%	Overcrowded
JOSLIN HS	HS	Charter	Citywide	Non-CPS		373	380		7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SALAZAR	ES	District	Citywide	Owned		301	272	•	-29	420	65%	70%	Efficient
SOUTH LOOP	ES	District	Attendance Area School	Owned		799	795	•	-4	1860	43%	43%	Underutilized
YCCS - INNOVATIONS	HS	Charter	Citywide	Non-CPS		429	509		80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Chicago Public Schools, based on Fall 2022 data.

\*Computations for ideal capacity, utilization, adjusted utilization, and utilization status excludes charter and contract schools as sole occupants in CPS owned/leased facilities, non-CPS facilities, or CPS Specialty Schools.