



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITY INDEX



CPS EQUITY LENS

At CPS, we apply an [Equity Lens](#) to all of the work we do. It enables us to see and understand the existing structures and conditions that create inequities, as well as the changes that are necessary to create more equitable learning environments so ALL students can achieve universal goals.



RESOURCE EQUITY

The goal of resource equity is to create equitable student experiences for every child. Resource equity means consistently prioritizing and allocating people, time, and money to align with levels of need and opportunity.

WHAT IS THE CPS OPPORTUNITY INDEX?

The CPS Opportunity Index is a tool that uses indicators to analyze differences in access to opportunity. This tool is one of the ways CPS makes operational and funding decisions to ensure those most impacted by inequity have the resources and conditions necessary for strong, vibrant, and healthy school communities.

The CPS Opportunity Index currently consists of 12 distinct indicators. These indicators include:

- Community Factors, which are indicative of the socioeconomic environment in which attending students live.
- School Demographics, which consider the percentage of the attending student population that fits a particular category.
- Historical School Funding, which accounts for resourcing schools experienced in prior years.

Opportunity Index Indicators

Community Factors

- Chicago Hardship Index
- % of students residing in INVEST SouthWest neighborhoods
- Community Life Expectancy

School Demographics

- % of diverse learner students
- % of students eligible for free and reduced lunch
- % of English learner students
- % of students eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid
- % of students in temporary living situations
- % of teachers retained
- 90% of students of a single race/ethnicity

Historical School Funding

- School Budget & Changes in School Budgets
- Capital & TIF Funding



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITY INDEX

CPS OPPORTUNITY INDEX INDICATORS & DESCRIPTIONS

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, INDICATORS ARE BASED ON 20TH DAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF THE CURRENT YEAR

Index Indicator	Geographic Level	Description	Index Type
Average Community Student Hardship Index	Community Area	Chicago Community Area Hardship Index (2016-2020) developed by UIC. Average Community Area Hardship Index (based on the community area that students attending the school reside in)	Quintiles
% of students residing in INVEST SouthWest neighborhoods	Community Area	Percent of students at a given school who reside in one of the city's INVEST South/West community areas	Quintiles
Average Community Life Expectancy	Community Area	Life Expectancy Data (2020): Average life expectancy (based on the community area that students attending the school reside in)	Quintiles
% Diverse Learner Population	School	Percent of diverse learner population (LRE 1, 2, or 3)	Quintiles
% Economically Disadvantaged	School	Percent of students qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch	Quintiles
% English Language Learners	School	Percent Limited English Proficiency of attending students	Quintiles
% Medicaid Underenrollment	School	Percent of students enrolled (eligible) in FRL but not enrolled in Medicaid	Quintiles
% STLS	School	Percent of students in temporary living situations (homeless)	Quintiles
Teacher Turnover	School	Identifies teachers in school-level teacher rosters as of Nov 1 of base FY23 and not on the following Nov 1 FY24 roster (includes teachers who have transferred to other schools and those who have left the district)	Quintile
>90% Majority One Race/Ethnicity	School	Indicates whether a school has a student population over 90% single race or ethnicity	Binary
School Budget & Changes in School Budgets Funding Index Score: A	School	Average of A1 and A2 A1. SY18-SY20 School Budgets 1 to 5 scale A2. School Budget Change (SY20 vs SY19) 1 to 5 scale	Quintiles
Capital & TIF Funding Funding Index Score: B	School	Total Capital Investment (2010-2019) + TIF (1999-2019) 1 to 5 scale	Quintiles

CPS OPPORTUNITY INDEX SCORE METHODOLOGY

The CPS Opportunity Index exists as a composite score attributed to elementary and high schools, both district-managed and charter. Certain types of schools (options, safe, early childhood education centers, and specialty) are not currently assigned an Opportunity Index given their unique educational models. Access to opportunity for these schools is considered on a case-by-case basis.



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITY INDEX

For each metric, the values are ranked by percentile and divided into quintiles. These quintiles are then assigned a point value between 1 and 5. Higher scores indicate being further from opportunity. For example, a school with a very high percentage of students in temporary living situations would receive a score of 5.

Scores for each metric are then averaged to produce a composite Opportunity Index Score, based on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 indicating having the most opportunity, and 5.0 being furthest from opportunity. Given the fundamental differences between PK-8 instruction and learning environments versus 9-12, elementary scores are calculated separately from high schools.

****** The sum of each of the indicator scores, rather than the average, is used in the CPS School Budget formula to help determine resource allocations as part of CPS' need-based teacher and discretionary funding formulas. In this approach, schools range from 14 (lowest need) to 53 (highest need) out of a possible 60 points.***

CPS OPPORTUNITY INDEX SCHOOL SCORES

CPS Opportunity Index individual school scores can be found [here](#).

CURRENT AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY INDEX

CPS' Opportunity Index is deeply rooted in decades of academic research about the best ways that school districts can account for inequities and apply resources to ensure an equitable student experience. The index was developed in collaboration with communities and stakeholders to ensure their voices are being heard, and that their needs are being addressed. Moving forward, the Office of Equity is committed to leveraging the Spectrum of Inclusive Partnerships — centering the voices of stakeholders and partners — in our efforts to continuously improve the Opportunity Index over time.

CPS OPPORTUNITY INDEX QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in learning more about the CPS Opportunity Index, please contact the Office of Equity at equity@cps.edu



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITY INDEX

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