

FY2025 Highlights

CPS' FY2025 school budgets will:

- Protect the investments and strategies that have propelled our students' remarkable post-pandemic growth
- Keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, despite a challenging budget environment
- Reflect a new funding strategy that sets an equitable standard for a high-quality student experience, no matter the size, type, or location of their school

Keeping Cuts Away From the Classroom

Over the past three years, CPS has increased direct funding to schools by close to \$500 million. However, with the expiration of COVID relief aid this year, CPS faces a \$391 million deficit.

Despite this challenging budget environment, **CPS is committed to keeping cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.**

While individual schools' funding levels may change this year, **the total amount CPS allocates for school budgets will not be cut in FY2025.**

CPS plans to absorb the deficit by reducing expenditures and finding efficiencies within central office functions, operations, and other areas.

Investing in Strategies That Drive Student Growth

CPS elementary students are #1 among large urban districts when it comes to post-pandemic reading growth, and #3 in combined growth in reading and math. Our youngest learners are showing remarkable growth in early literacy. And our high schoolers are reaching new heights, with record-breaking graduation rates and almost half of graduates earning an early college or career credential. The FY2025 school budgets double down on the strategies that are powering our students' remarkable recovery.



Learning Acceleration

- Ensuring a **high-quality, culturally-responsive curriculum** for all
- More **professional development** offerings for teachers and staff
- **Intervention teachers** to get students back on track
- **High-dosage tutoring** in reading and math through CPS' landmark Tutor Corps program



Extended Learning Time

- Expanded **Out-of-School-Time programs and summer programs**
- Flexible funding for schools to design **local programs tailored to student needs**



Emotional/Behavioral Support

- **Additional counselors** targeted to schools with the greatest needs
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** resources and services
- Access to community **mental health providers and partnerships** at the school level

Transitioning From Student-Based Budgeting to Needs-Based Budgeting

In FY2025, CPS will complete its transition away from a budget model that primarily relied on enrollment — also known as student-based-budgeting — to a more equitable and transparent model that better supports the varying needs of students across our city.

This new strategy reflects stakeholder feedback and our commitment to ensuring that funding flows to the schools and students who most need support.

School funding in FY2025 will be allocated in a more simple and transparent way:

- Guaranteeing a foundational baseline of resources and positions for every school, regardless of size
- Expanding need-based allocations based on each school's unique needs
- Preserving flexible funding for principals to support local school-level priorities

Foundational Resources for Every School

Additional Resources Based on Need

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Core classroom and holistic teachers
- Counselor(s)
- Clerk
- Professional development funding
- Baseline funding for discretionary needs
- Centrally-managed operational positions (custodians, engineers, security, lunchroom)
- Before- and after-school programming to support athletics, enrichment, and other activities

- Additional teachers to support smaller class size
- Additional discretionary funding for high-needs schools
- Additional counselors for high-needs schools
- Instructional coaches
- Intervention Teachers
- Tutoring
- Advocates for Students in Temporary Living Situations
- Special education positions
- Supplemental English Learner resources
- Social and emotional supports
- Restorative justice coordinators for high-needs schools

CPS' Opportunity Index

The Opportunity Index is a tool that uses 12 indicators to analyze differences in access to opportunity.

CPS has relied on the Opportunity Index to make some operational and funding decisions in the past, but starting in FY2025, CPS will use this tool to guide the distribution of a greater share of funding, ensuring those most impacted by inequity have strong, vibrant and healthy school communities.

Opportunity Index Indicators

| Community Factors | Demographics | | Historical Funding |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Hardship Index • Students Residing in Invest SJW • Community Life Expectancy Index | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of students with disabilities • % eligible for free and reduced lunch • % of English Learner students • % eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of students in temporary living situations • % of teachers retained • 90% majority single race/ethnicity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Capital & TIF Funding • Historical School Funding Levels & Changes Over Time |