



Board of Education

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street
Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Board Report

24-1114-RS1 FINAL

Agenda Date: 11/14/2024

RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN ACERO ATTENDANCE CENTERS

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois enacted the Charter Schools Law as Public Act 89-450, effective April 10, 1996, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Board's mission is to provide a high-quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, and the Board has laid out a vision for the future of Chicago's students, parents, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board's charter selection process seeks to charter schools that share its mission, vision, and aspirations for students by creating new and innovative educational techniques and programs within the public school system; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Board of Education entered into a Charter School Agreement with Acero Charter Schools, Inc. ("Acero") on February 19, 1998, and has renewed the Charter Agreement thereafter, with the current Agreement effective for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its current Charter Agreement, Acero has operated fifteen Campuses and Attendance Centers predominantly serving Latine students; and

WHEREAS, by notice dated October 9, 2024, Acero notified the Board of the "closure of as many as seven (7) Attendance Centers," which identifies seven campuses only as "subject to" closure; and

WHEREAS, Acero asserted in its notice that closures are "in the best interests" of Acero's continued operations and financial security; and

WHEREAS, if permitted to close seven Attendance Centers at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, approximately 2,000 students will be displaced from their public school and approximately 270 educational staff will be laid off of work; and

WHEREAS, closing seven Attendance Centers could cause substantial disruption and harm to the education of Acero's students and employment of its staff; and

WHEREAS, Acero’s announced closures are inconsistent with the educational mission of the Board and call into question whether the Board should renew Acero’s Charter School Agreement in 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO THAT:

1. Acero representatives are directed to appear before the Board at the next Agenda Review Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 10:30am, to explain the basis for its October 9, 2024 notice of its intention to close “up to” seven (7) Attendance Centers.
2. The Board and Acero shall mutually discuss and explore alternatives that enable Acero to continue operating its fifteen Attendance Centers through June 30, 2026.
3. Should Acero proceed with closing seven (7) Attendance Centers before the next school year:
 - a. It shall return all unspent public funds and property as required under 105 ILCS 5/27A-10.10 and Acero’s Charter School Agreement; and
 - b. This action may be considered in whether to renew Acero's Charter Agreement for another term in 2026.
 - c. The Board shall create a contingency plan to try to keep all seven (7) Attendance Centers open beyond June 30, 2025 as CPS schools.
4. To minimize the potential disruption to the Acero students, the 2025-26 GoCPS application deadline shall be extended to December 15, 2024.