

November 4, 2025

ESTABLISH CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AS A DISTRICT-MANAGED FINE & PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Chicago High School of the Arts located at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard, effective July 1, 2026, as a district-managed school. This follows notice by the contractor to the Office of Innovation and Incubation in September 2025 of its intent not to submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

DESCRIPTION:

Effective July 1, 2026, the contract school, Chicago High School for the Arts at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard, will become a district-managed Fine & Performing Arts School, identified as a school serving approximately 640 students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

The Board may assign a formal school name prior to July 1, 2026, in accordance with the procedures for naming new schools identified in the Board's Policy on Naming and Renaming Schools (Board Report 03-0326-PO04) or as amended. Initially, the Chicago High School for the Arts will establish a transitional advisory body. A Local School Council will be established in a timely manner.


The school will be a citywide school. Students will be admitted in accordance with the Admissions Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment, and Other GoCPS Schools and Programs (Board Report 22-0727-PO1).

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The incubation and transition of The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) from a contract school to a district-managed Fine & Performing Arts High School may incur costs of up to \$1.5 million, distributed across FY26 and FY27. The District is committed to preserving the conservatory to the greatest extent practicable. The District will explore alternative financial strategies and partnerships to sustain and preserve the school's conservatory model to promote continued access to high-quality fine and performing arts education for students. Additional time will allow the District to engage in broader public engagement processes. The District will endeavor to revisit the conservatory funding by the January Board Meeting following the completion of the public engagement efforts and the consideration of available financial options.


PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: CPS will work with employees and their union representation to determine how to support employees through this transition.

Approved for Consideration:

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Alfonso Carmona
Acting Chief Education Officer


Approved:

Signed by:

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Macquiline King, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

Initial
ELS

Signed by:

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Elizabeth K. Barton
Acting General Counsel