



Board of Education | City of Chicago

July 14, 2026 Agenda Review Committee Follow-Ups

Agenda Review Committee (ARC) follow-ups are shared publicly so that members of the public can view responses to issues that directly impact the CPS community in advance of the Board's consideration at regular Board meetings. Follow-ups are unanswered questions asked by Board Members during a public meeting. See the July 2026 ARC follow-ups and responses below.

Item Description	Follow-Up Question	District Response	Responding Department
Item 1BOE: ChiArts Resolution	We've heard a lot about fundraising. How much has been raised to date?	The Children First Fund (CCF) has established the Chicago Arts High School Fund to accept contributions from organizations and individual donors interested in supporting the school. CFF has also launched a dedicated web page and e-newsletter sign-up to keep supporters informed. To date, CFF has received \$600 in online donations from three individual donors and has had conversations with several grantmakers, though no funding commitments have been made at this time.	Department of the Arts
Item 1BOE: ChiArts Resolution	The resolution calls for additional funding. What is the cost to the district?	Depending on the final model, maintaining the Conservatory program in its current form is projected to cost the District an additional \$2.5 million to \$5 million annually. Chicago Arts High School previously operated as a contract school supported through a public-private partnership. The supporting foundation determined it could no longer raise sufficient private funding to sustain the increasing costs of the Conservatory model and announced it would cease operations in June 2026.	Office of Innovation & Incubation

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Item 1BOE: ChiArts Resolution	At one point we heard \$5m for the conservatory. What would the plan be if we reallocated \$5m to the conservatory for one year—where would the cuts come from?	CPS is currently managing an approximately \$700 million budget deficit. Reallocating \$2.5 million to \$5 million to fully fund the ChiArts Conservatory model for one year would require corresponding reductions elsewhere in the District’s budget. Specific reductions would be determined through the District’s budget process and Executive leadership. For context, the Department of Arts Education’s entire central budget—which supports arts programming, resources, and services for the District’s other 71 Fine and Performing Arts schools—is approximately \$5.0 million.	Office of Innovation & Incubation																		
Item 6: Budget	How many of the following are we losing: APs, classroom teachers, SECAs, TAs?	These details will be shared with Board Members at a later time.	Office of Budget and Grants Management																		
Item 12: Managing Environmental Consulting Services	How many of our buildings that house pre-K to 6 year olds still have lead paint to be abated?	No CPS building constructed before 1978 is considered entirely free of lead-based paint. The District manages lead-based paint in accordance with applicable health and safety requirements, prioritizing remediation where deteriorating paint could pose a potential exposure risk. Due to budget constraints, lead-based paint that is intact and not creating a hazard is managed through ongoing inspection and maintenance rather than full abatement. There are 618 District buildings constructed before 1978 that, according to District records, serve students in fourth grade or younger. <table><tr><th>Building Type</th><th># Buildings</th></tr><tr><td>Addition</td><td>172</td></tr><tr><td>Annex</td><td>41</td></tr><tr><td>Branch</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>Field House</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Leased</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Linked Addition/Aux Building</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Main</td><td>356</td></tr><tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>618</td></tr></table>	Building Type	# Buildings	Addition	172	Annex	41	Branch	19	Field House	5	Leased	15	Linked Addition/Aux Building	10	Main	356	Grand Total	618	Facilities Department
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