

## Summary of 2012-2013 Guidelines

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) released draft guidelines that will be used to help the public understand the criteria used to determine various school actions the District may take to help address challenges it faces in investing more resources to support student learning and give every child in Chicago access to a high-quality education. Tough choices need to be made to meet this commitment, as 50 percent of schools are underused and nearly 140 schools are more than half empty. This year's draft guidelines propose criteria to inform future decisions surrounding school actions and help CPS make decisions that are in the best interest of students. Decisions surrounding actions will be made with a rigorous community engagement process that gives parents and CPS communities a voice in the process and the respect they deserve as part of that process.

For the 2012-2013 school year, the CEO will consider the criteria specified below when recommending any of the following school actions:

A school may be considered for closure, consolidation, reassignment boundary change or phase-out if:

- A school is underutilized or overcrowded based on CPS' Space Utilization Standards and student enrollment numbers recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup> attendance day for the 2012-2013 school year; or
- If two elementary schools, sharing some part of each other's attendance area, individually offer less than kindergarten through eighth grades and can be reconfigured to a single K-8 school.

Schools may only be considered:

- For closure, consolidation or reassignment boundary change if:
  - Impacted students have the option to enroll in a higher-performing school; and
  - The resulting school will not be overcrowded as defined by CPS' Space Utilization Standards.
- For phase-out if:
  - The resulting space utilization after considering a closure, consolidation, or reassignment boundary change would lead the contemplated receiving facility to be overcrowded as defined by CPS' Space Utilization Standards.
- For co-location of two schools within the same facility if:
  - The combined projected enrollment is within the facility's enrollment efficiency range, as defined by CPS' Space Utilization Standards; and
  - The facility can support the academic programming of both schools.

The guidelines permit the CEO to consider additional information in determining proposed school actions, including:

- Safety and security,
- School leadership,
- School culture and climate,
- Quality of the school facility,
- School type and programming,
- Family and community feedback received throughout the school year,
- Analysis of transition planning costs,
- Neighborhood development plans,
- Whether the school has recently been affected by any school actions or
- Proximity, capacity and performance of other schools in the community.

Some changes from last year's guidelines were prompted by community feedback. Changes include:

- Differentiating criteria for school consolidation, reassignment boundary change, closure, or phase-out from criteria for co-location;
- Removing academic performance criteria, to focus on the District's space utilization challenges; and
- Adding space utilization criteria.