

Chicago Public Schools (District 299) is a complicated network of 644 schools with about 362,000 students. Below are descriptions of different types of CPS schools. All CPS schools receive public funding and do not charge tuition. Schools that require an application have a December deadline (for the following school year)

TYPE OF SCHOOL	ATTENDANCE/ACADEMIC FOCUS	ACCEPTANCE
Neighborhood	Schools that have an attendance boundary. Generally, all students who live within this area may attend the school.	Acceptance based on student living in boundary area or application if there are open spots and students apply from out of boundary area. Can enroll at any time.
Magnet Cluster	Neighborhood schools that have an additional specialty area (e.g. math, science, writing, language, etc.)	If there is space after neighborhood students are enrolled, acceptance of students outside boundaries based on simple application and random lottery.
Magnet	Schools that specialize in a specific subject area (Montessori, Performing Arts).	Acceptance based on simple application and random lottery. Some preference given to siblings and proximity students.
Military Academy	High schools that utilize a military model to develop leadership and team-building skills in students.	Acceptance based on application, academic achievement, and interview.
Career Academy	High schools that promote a college-preparatory curriculum as well as career-focused education in different fields at each school.	Acceptance based on students' test scores. (Certain neighborhood high schools named career academy & have CTE programs but accept all students.)
Special Education	Schools for students with disabilities who reside in specified geographic locations.	Acceptance based on a student's Individualized Education Program.
Selective Enrollment (all SE schools require academic testing for entrance)		
<i>Classical</i>	Elementary schools designed to provide a challenging liberal arts course of instruction for students with high academic potential.	Acceptance based on application, NWEA MAP percentile, and entrance exam.
<i>Regional Gifted Centers</i>	Elementary schools that provide an accelerated instructional program that place an emphasis on thinking, reasoning, problem solving, and creativity.	Acceptance based on application, NWEA MAP percentile, and entrance exam.
<i>International Gifted</i>	Elementary school with admissions only middle school gifted program (6 th -8 th)	Acceptance based on application, NWEA MAP percentile, & entrance exam.
<i>Academic Centers</i>	Accelerated 7 th & 8 th grade program attached to a high school. Acceptance to 7 th guarantees high school acceptance	Acceptance based on application, grades, NWEA MAP scores, and entrance exam.
<i>SE High Schools</i>	Schools that offer a rigorous curriculum with mainly honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.	Acceptance based on application, grades, NWEA MAP scores, and entrance exam.
<i>High Schools with IB programs</i>	Some neighborhood high schools offer admissions only International Baccalaureate programs. <i>This is not the same as Wall to Wall IB</i>	Acceptance based on application, grades and NWEA MAP scores. Some require interview and additional assessments. Preference given to proximity students.

Most CPS schools are regular public schools that are operated by the CPS Board of Education, District 299, but some fall into the category of Charter or Contract schools, and are operated by private entities.

TYPE OF SCHOOL	UNION AFFILIATION	OPERATED BY	ACCEPTANCE
Charter	Nonunion	Open to all Chicago children, but operated by private entities and independently from the CPS BOE and each other.	Acceptance based on application and random lottery, if applicable. Some follow neighborhood boundaries or give preference to proximity.
Contract	Union	Operated by private entities under contract with Chicago Public Schools, usually used in “turnaround” schools.	Some are neighborhood schools. For some, acceptance is based on application or random lottery, if applicable.
Special Education Contract	Nonunion	Operated by private entities under contract with Chicago Public Schools to provide services to Special Education students.	Most are therapeutic day schools that serve low incidence students with Behavior IEPs.

CPS Demographics*

Student

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of students enrolled in CPS
Latino	46.7
African American	36.6
White	10.5
Asian	4.1
Multi-racial	1.2
Native American	0.3
Low Income	76.6
English Language Learners	18.7
Students w/disabilities	14.1
Mobility	11
Homeless	4

Teacher/Principal

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of teachers/principals working in CPS
Latino	21.0/16.2
African American	21.1/43.4
White	50.3/35.4
Asian	3.7/0.8
Multi-racial	1.5/1.4
Native American	0.4/0.4
Male	24.1
Female	75.9

*From <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/> (for City of Chicago SD 299) and [https://cps.edu/About CPS/At-a-glance/Pages/Stats and facts.aspx](https://cps.edu/About_CPS/At-a-glance/Pages/Stats_and_facts.aspx)