



WHAT SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED BY THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

A FACT SHEET FROM NCBG's *REBUILD OUR SCHOOLS TASK FORCE*
Jan 2007

The following is a chronology of neighborhood public schools that have undergone closing since 2001. These closings have been guided by school closing policies of the mayorally-controlled Chicago Public Schools administration headed by CPS CEO Arne Duncan and former Board President Michael Scott and current Board President Rufus Williams. Contact NCBG for more information on our Rebuild Our Schools Task Force reform proposals and on the effects of school closings on students, communities, and the "receiving Schools" that have tried to absorb the children forced to transfer under CPS' policies and the RENAISSANCE 2010 Initiative.

2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR:

1. **Jacob Riis Elementary School, 1018 S. Lytle** – Historic building now threatened with demolition. Closed by CPS for "under-utilization" (declining enrollment and because it needed \$6 million in capital repairs).
2. **Near North Metro HS** in Cabrini Green – CPS sold the site (land) to a developer. Closed because CPS claimed the foundation was sinking.

2001-2002 SCHOOL YEAR:

3. **Dodge Elementary, 2651 W. Washington**, near CHA's now-demolished Rockwell Gardens housing project – closed for academic failure, re-opened the following year under REN2010 ("Contract School").
4. **Williams Elementary, 2710 S. Dearborn**, also near CHA public housing – closed for academic failure, re-opened a year later under REN2010 as a K-12 "Contract School" (KIPP) with "small schools within the school." In 2005 KIPP announced it was closing its program at Williams.
5. **Terrell Elementary** – permanently closed for very low enrollment numbers and academic failure - also in a CHA public housing project on the near south side.

2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR:

6. **Munoz-Marin, Humboldt Park** – CPS designated Munoz-Marin as "under-utilized" - even though enrollment was at 143% of its official "design capacity" – generally considered overcrowded - and forced it to consolidate with nearby Lowell Elementary, 3320 W. Hirsch. The only school in a predominantly Latino community that has been closed.
7. **Arts of Living Alternative School, 1855 Sheffield Avenue**, closed due to underutilization. Originally opened to serve expectant mothers but CPS determined that this particular student population could be adequately served at other existing schools.
8. **Donoghue Elementary, 707 E. 37th Street**, closed due to underutilization.
9. **Zenos Colman Elementary, 4655 S. Dearborn Street**, closed due to underutilization.
10. **Lucy L. Flower Career Academy, 3545 W. Fulton Boulevard**, closed for the purpose of changing its educational focus.
11. **Nikola Tesla Alternative School, 6657 S. Kimbark Avenue**, closed due to the underutilization of the School. Nikola Tesla was opened to serve expectant mothers and CPS determined that this population could adequately be served elsewhere.

2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR:

12. **Byrd Elementary School, 363 West Hill Street**, closed for underutilization.
13. **Doolittle West, 521 East 35th Street**, closed for underutilization.
14. **Douglas Elementary, 3200 South Calumet Avenue**, closed for underutilization and demographic reasons.

15. **Jefferson Elementary, 1522 W. Fillmore Street**, closed for low building utilization. In September 2001, CPS transferred students from the closed Riis School to Jefferson. Both schools served the families in the ABLA public housing project.
16. **Raymond Elementary, 3663 S. Wabash Avenue**, closed for low building utilization.
17. **Spalding Elementary, 1628 W. Washington Boulevard**, closed due to costly capital renovations and poor building condition.
18. **Spalding High School, 1628 W. Washington Boulevard**, closed due to costly capital renovations; CPS to provide greater inclusion of special education and special needs students in non-specialized schools.
19. **Suder Elementary, 2022 W. Washington Boulevard**, closed due to low building utilization, high facility repair cost assessments.
20. **Truth Elementary, 1443 N. Ogden Avenue**, closed due to low building utilization. Truth, located in Cabrini Green, accepted student from NCLB "failing" schools over the past two years.
21. **Wright Elementary School, 627 North Harding Avenue**, closed due to poor building condition.

2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

22. **Howland Elementary, 1616 S. Spaulding Avenue**, closed due to academic failure. CPS reports that the School has been on probation for the past year and is performing poorly on the ISAT.
23. **Bunche Elementary, 6515 S. Ashland Avenue**, closed due to academic failure.
24. **Grant Community Academy, 145 S. Campbell Avenue**, closed due to academic failure and poor performance on the ISAT test.

2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

25. **Joan F. Arai Middle School, 900 W. Wilson Avenue**, closed for phase out process and for alternative use of school facilities. Under the Renaissance 2010 plan UPLIFT Community School has been utilizing the Arai campus since September 2005 and under the phase out plan Arai was scheduled to completely the transition by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.
26. **James. H. Bowen High School, 2710 East 89th Street**, closed for phase out process and for alternative use of school facilities. In 2003, Bowen stopped accepting incoming freshman in order to complete the school's phase out by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Currently, four new Bowen campus schools are sharing the facility with Bowen HS and they will continue to operate as planned after the phase out.
27. **Carver Military Academy, 13100 S. Doty Avenue**, closed for conversion to an alternative military academy school. In July 2000, Carver Military Academy began the process of converting to become a full Military Academy school. Since then, Carver has enrolled a new cadet of freshmen each year and began to complete the final step in the transitional phase of dissolving the LSC of Carver and establishing a Military Board of Governors.
28. **Jean Baptiste Point Dusable High School, 4934 S. Wabash Avenue**, closed for alternative use of school facilities. Three new smaller schools will operate on the DuSable campus.
29. **Farren Elementary, 5055 S. State Street**, closed due to chronic academic underperformance and was consolidated with Ludvig Von Beethoven Elementary School, located at 25 West 47th St.
30. **Frazier Elementary School, 4027 W. Grenshaw Street**, closed for poor academic performance.
31. **KIPP Chicago Youth Village Academy, 2710 S. Dearborn**, closed for alternative use of school facilities. In September 2003, KIPP was one of four new schools that opened in the Williams Multiplex serving grades 4-5. KIPP Foundation partnered with CPS for the operation of the school under a unique educational model. KIPP Foundation believed that the school model was best suited to the charter school environment and thus has proposed to end the school partnership.
32. **Robert Lindblom College Prep High School, 6130 S. Wolcott**, closed for poor building condition and need for major physical repair. CPS determined that Lindblom College Prep would phase out, and the Lindblom building would undergo renovation. In 2005, Lindblom Math and Science Academy – a citywide selective enrollment school opened at this facility.
33. **Morse Elementary, 620 N. Sawyer**, closed for poor academic performance.

Is There an Alternative to School Closings?

Case Study: Sherman Elementary - 1000 W. 52nd St. (“New City” Community Area)

For the last several years CPS has steadily increased the number of school closures guided by a controversial school closings policy. The public has protested the nebulous process with which CPS announces and proceeds with school closures and how CPS’ school closings policy are negatively impacting many students, families, and communities. The public’s primary concern is that CPS’ school closures are oftentimes reshuffling students into other low-performing schools causing disruption in student learning without improving their educational environment. CPS’ strategy has largely focused on shutting school facilities down and uprooting and dispersing students to other schools. Yet, early last year, as detailed in a CPS press release (January 26, 2006), CPS outlined a range of strategies to address underperforming schools that offer an alternative to closing schools. One alternative measure is the reconstitution or conversion of schools. Conversion allows a school to remain as an asset to the neighborhood community while minimizing student mobility and instructional disruption. The conversion strategy is to focus on improving the academic environment through recruiting better teachers, administrators, and revamping curriculum.

Sherman Elementary

Sherman Elementary, 1000 W. 52nd St, was slated as a conversion school and serves as a model example of what CPS is capable of doing when they focus on policies and strategies that seek to improve the learning environment rather than merely moving students around. Sherman Elementary had been struggling with chronic academic problems for over five years and many of the students had failed to meet state educational standards. Sherman Elementary in Chicago’s “New City” community opened its doors in the Fall of 2006 with a new cadre of school staff, including new hand-picked teachers and a new principal. The philosophy behind the conversion process is that Sherman Elementary students can learn as well as any other kids if given the right tools and environment. Backed by the “Academy of Urban School Leadership,” Sherman Elementary is setting its sights to improve student performance by bringing quality school instruction to the students in their neighborhood public school.

The reconstitution of Sherman Elementary maintains the importance of the school as a footprint in the community while seeking to transform the learning environment without shuffling kids to other schools. Although it is too early to measure the degree of Sherman Elementary students’ academic improvements, this alternative strategy serves as a promising option available to CPS to minimize instructional disruption and student displacement. Therefore, the Sherman Elementary conversion is an important alternative model to school closings. This alternative school conversion strategy focuses on improving the quality of public school education while striving to assure that it is accessible and beneficial to all students.

Note: The Academy of Urban School Leadership is a Chicago based organization whose mission is geared toward improving student achievement in Chicago Public Schools by attracting, training, mentoring and retaining Chicago’s next generation of exceptional teachers and school leaders. The program consists of a full year campus-based residency in Chicago Public School classrooms that include training, education, certification, and intensive mentorship.