



## News Release

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### **CPS to Transform Three Elementary Schools Into New International Baccalaureate Feeder Schools**

*Curriculum at Three Neighborhood Elementary Schools Will Be Reshaped to Deliver High-Quality IB Programming to Prepare Students for High School*

**CHICAGO** – To further expand the nation’s largest IB network and bring additional IB options to Chicago schools, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) leadership today announced that Byrne, Kinzie and Lavizzo Elementary schools will become IB feeder schools beginning next year. The new feeder schools will prepare students for IB coursework in high school, helping move the District closer to Mayor Emanuel’s goal of having 50 percent of graduating seniors earning college and career credit by 2019.

“Chicago’s students are breaking academic records every year, thanks in part to investments in world-class programs like IB,” said Mayor Emanuel. “We are committed to investing in our neighborhood schools through IB to give our families confidence today that their child will receive the high-quality education that will help them to excel in high school and college tomorrow.”

CPS will begin implementation of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) next school year at Byrne, Kinzie and Lavizzo, which have previously not offered any IB programming. All of the nearly 600 students in grades 6-8 at the new feeder schools will be exposed to high-quality IB programming, creating pathways for students to transition to IB programmes offered at neighboring high schools. The MYP curriculum is structured around eight subject areas designed to prepare students for future success: science, mathematics, language acquisition, language and literature, individuals and societies, physical and health education, art, and design

Implementation of the IB programmes at Byrne, Kinzie and Lavizzo will occur over a three-year period, during which teachers will be trained to offer IB courses, new coursework will be integrated and the school will go through a full IB authorization process. By focusing on critical thinking, conceptual analysis and writing skills, the globally-focused MYP will leave students well-prepared for the rigors of IB at the high school level.

“IB at the elementary level has helped us better prepare students for a successful transition to high school and a bright academic future,” said CPS Chief Education Officer Dr. Janice K. Jackson. “I am eager to see the new heights these schools will reach with IB, and I am proud of the commitment CPS and the City of Chicago have made to expanding access to rigorous instruction that allows our students to realize their potential.”

The strategic addition of new IB programming at Byrne, Kinzie and Lavizzo Elementary Schools will facilitate a continuum of IB with the hope that more students will matriculate into the proven IB pathway for high school. With these investments, CPS will expose more students to IB before they reach high school and give more students the confidence to take on academically challenging courses of study.

Last month, Mayor Emanuel and CPS leadership announced that new IB Career-Related Programmes will be added to four CPS high schools. These programs will allow schools to accept an additional 200 students into IB courses by 2019.

CPS is investing in IB programming throughout the city because it has led to improved academic outcomes for students in a variety of ways. Under Mayor Emanuel’s administration:

- The number of students taking IB exams has nearly doubled, growing from 740 to 1405 students;
- The number of IB exams taken increased by 68 percent; and
- The success rate on IB exams – scores of “4” or above, triggering college credit – has increased from 51 percent to 63 percent.

As participation in IB has grown, so too has student success. Recently finalized data also shows that students in IB programmes have rates of graduation (96.2 percent), college enrollment (81 percent), and college persistence (71.6 percent) that far exceed state and national averages. IB has been a critical lever in helping more CPS graduates earn college and career credit by 2019. Last year, more than 40 percent of CPS graduates earned one or more college or career credentials through IB or another rigorous program in CPS, up from 30 percent of students earning credits just two years ago.

CPS is home to the nation’s largest IB network, with 43 schools (22 high schools and 21 elementary schools) currently serving 15,000 students enrolled in IB coursework citywide. Next year, that total will grow to 46 schools when the three new IB feeder schools begin implementing IB coursework.

Chicago Public Schools serves 381,000 students in 652 schools. It is the nation’s third-largest school district.

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