

Charter School Amendment Voluntary Campus Closure

November 18, 2020



CICS - ChicagoQuest Background

Background

ChicagoQuest is one of fourteen charter school campuses operated by Chicago International Charter School (“CICS”), and is located in the Old Town (New City) community. The ChicagoQuest campus opened in Fall 2011, serving grades 6-7, planning to add one grade per year until reaching a 6-12 continuum.

Prior to this decision, in December 2015, CICS contemplated closure of the campus due to the school’s placement on the Academic Warning List and its declining enrollment. Instead, CICS took a smaller action and voted to phase out grades 6-8 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The Chicago Board of Education ratified this action at the December 7, 2016 Board Meeting.

The school currently serves 114 students in grades 9-12.

Voluntary Closure of Charter Campus

Closure Overview

In September 2020, CICS formally approached CPS with their desire to voluntarily close the ChicagoQuest campus, due to several factors including:

- continued annual enrollment declines,
- varied academic performance, and
- inability to continue to financially sustain campus operations & essential services to students.

Later that month, the CICS Board of Directors voted to close the campus at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

CPS held a virtual public hearing to solicit public feedback regarding the closure on November 10, 2020. While CICS has determined to voluntarily close ChicagoQuest, the contract between CICS and Chicago Board of Education requires mutual consent to do so.

School Year	SQRP Rating	Enrollment
2015-2016	Level 2	225 (Grades 6-10)
2016-2017	Level 2+	288 (Grades 7-11)
2017-2018	Level 2+	262 (Grades 8-12)
2018-2019	Level 2+	236 (Grades 9-12)
2019-2020	Level 2	143 (Grades 9-12)
2020-2021	(Inability to rate)	114 (Grades 9-12)

Student Transition Supports

Following the Board's decision, CPS will take the following steps to ensure students' successful transition:

Family Communications. CPS will send letters, robocalls and emails to families regarding the Board vote following CICS' decision to close the campus, including the date for an initial virtual meeting and contact information for key CPS departments and transition supports.

Educational Options for Students. CPS is currently identifying multiple high-quality school options that are near to students' homes and close to CICS-ChicagoQuest to best meet each students' individuals needs and priorities.

Virtual Informational Sessions for Families. CPS will host an initial information session in early December 2020 for families to present high-quality school options and provide points of contact within CPS to serve as student transition support coordinators. Additionally, monthly virtual sessions will be held for families regularly through September 2021.