

Greater Humboldt Park “Community as a Campus” Executive Summary

CAAC Shared Values

Schools as safe and inviting places to explore the world

Teachers as intellectuals

Teachers as Listeners

Parents and youth as engaged citizens in their schools and community

Educational process of understanding the world transforming the world

Success re-defined as increased social responsibility and as transformative engagement

Creating a community of engaged and fulfilled learners that speaks to the citizenship of the 21st Century, embracing everyone from pre-birth to the twilight years

The Humboldt Park “Community as a Campus” (CAAC) initiative was adopted by the Community Action Council of Humboldt Park Chicago and is an organic community plan conceived in 2009.

The CAAC initiative will create an educational environment framed within the precepts of the International Baccalaureate academic standards, and transform all the schools within the designated area into, “safe and inviting places to explore the world”. The centerpiece of this initiative is the revitalization of the local high school Roberto Clemente Community Academy and the satellite feeder schools with the participation of community and institutional partners. The initiative has garnered community wide support as well as the backing of both the CEO and the Board of Education of the Chicago Public Schools. Mayor Rahm Emmanuel has also given his support to the initiative.

The CAAC will respond to and address the specific needs of all learners and their families to ensure academic success and prepare 21st century citizens who will shape the future of their communities and world. The CAAC has identified the following outcomes over five years that not only promote student and family success, it will also address the high cost of the dropout rate to our local economy.

- Increase graduation rates at the elementary and high school levels
- Increase the number of graduating students entering post-secondary institutions
- Increase youth participation in civic leadership, violence prevention and in promoting a culture of excellence through college and career pathways and pipelines initiatives
- Increase the level of parent participation by in their children’s learning (i.e. engaging in afterschool programs, public library, and park district activities)
- Increase parent participation in continuing education and workforce training development
- Enhance educational options for all students (i.e. International Baccalaureate, STEM, Fine Arts, Dual Language, Montessori, 6-10th grade Lab School), wrap-around services and career-to-work programs

In order to meet this charge the CAAC strategic planning committee seeks to harness the social capital of our community to support this education endeavor and by integrating both the public and the private sectors participation in the following action plan across the designated area:

- Implementation of a Pre-K-16 curriculum that is both vertically and horizontally aligned across all area schools
- Development of an academic pipeline infused with career pathways in the area of technology and informatics, health, engineering, manufacturing, and the trades and aligned with “*Skills for Chicagoland’s Future*”.
- Coordination of wrap-around services throughout the CAAC for parents, educators and students, to address both their social/emotional and social economic needs provided by a network of community-based social service agencies.
- Expand opportunities for early engagement of learners in pre-schools and full-day kindergartens aligned with the “*Governor’s Early Learning Council*”.

- Create thematic options at the elementary and high school levels to include STEM, Montessori, Fine Arts and Culture, Dual Language, Culinary Arts and Dual Enrollment programs that build on classroom learning which are aligned with Common Core and International Baccalaureate standards and outcomes.
- Provide alternatives for students who dropout of school and need programs that will fit their learning and provide intense social emotional support and workforce development opportunities.
- Coordinate and expand post-secondary career pathways into health, teaching, engineering, technology, manufacturing and urban agriculture with retention services provided in collaboration with college and university partners and aligned with *“Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Services”*.
- Address issues of violence with programs that focus on prevention such as restorative justice and peace circles with the support of institutional partners.
- Create three institutes that will inform and implement the CAAC concept and shared vision with support from university and community partners. The Teacher Administrative Leadership Institute will support school improvement across the sub-network in collaboration with university partners. The Parent Popular Education Institute will promote parental participation in their child’s learning, governance and adult education programming. The Youth Leadership Institute will promote youth leadership development through civic engagement and community building activities.
- The development of a Community Engagement office to harness community, institutional and business resources to augment the work of the sub-network office in the areas of wrap around services to families and teaching opportunities for schools.

Community as a Campus Concept: Vision and Shared Values

With the establishment of the three institutes, the CAAC initiative will transform education within the Humboldt Park community schools by aligning curriculum from Pre-K to 16 and coordinating wrap-around services to broaden learning opportunities for all family members and engage youth in real life community building.

The CAAC concept is an outgrowth of the more than forty years of organizing and planning undertaken by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and committed stakeholders of the Humboldt Park Community, i.e. West Town Leadership United, Aspira, Near North Neighborhood Network, Humboldt Park Empowerment Project and Casa Central. Along with various faith-based organizations, believe viable communities exist within the fabric of their ecosystems.

All public and private spaces need to work together with the residents to create and reinforce shared values. For too long the Humboldt Park community, has not reached its full potential. Too often important aspects of the life of the community live in isolation; there is too little dialogue and connectivity. It will take deliberate action on the part of residents and institutions as they identify the intersection of personal, cultural, political, and social beliefs and goals. The force of such work will transform a community. The following shared values guides the work of the CAAC and the institutes in particular:

- Schools and community as safe and inviting places to explore the world
- Teachers as intellectuals
- Teachers as Listeners
- Parents and youth as engaged citizens in their schools and community
- Educational process of understanding the world about us, acting responsibly upon that world, and transforming the world
- Success re-defined as increased social responsibility and as transformative engagement
- Creating a community of engaged and fulfilled learners that speaks to the citizenship of the 21st Century, embracing everyone from pre-birth to the twilight years
- Promotion of cultural diversity as it relates to the Humboldt Park community and historically defined by Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and African-American residents

Implementation: Phase 1

The CAAC concept sees educational excellence and success as an outcome of a fully integrated community ecosystem responding to the needs of its learners and preparing citizenry of the 21st century. The CAAC has, at its core, three Institutes: Parent Popular Education, Youth Leadership Institute, and the Teacher/Administrator Leadership Institute. The institutes will lay the foundation for the education pipeline in the areas of school wide improvement, learning opportunities for all family members and youth engagement in real life community building.

- The **Parent Popular Institute** is the linchpin of the triad since parents directly influence school policy, governance and the students who attend them, while also forming the base of the adult population in Humboldt Park. Through a set of initiatives at the community level, parents will take on roles of advocacy and leadership in the schools and in the lives of the youth. Providing educational and career opportunities to parents will influence the entire community in a positive way.
- The **Youth Leadership Institute** works collaboratively with the parent group in building stronger schools and school-school as well as school-community bonds through self-advocacy, relationships with peers and with employers, educators, and post-secondary institutions. Youth experience the community not as disparate parts but as a unit composed of all residents, businesses, and workers as they articulate common goals. They see themselves as having the power to transform their community over time into an evolved space that meets the needs of the people. This understanding comes largely from participation in whatever influences their lives.
- The **Teacher/Administrator Institute** brings in educators and administrators as partners in creating an education pipeline framed by IB to take students from pre-school to post-secondary and into the workforce. The institute will support in the development of thematic options across the CAC and will develop grow your own teacher and administrator programs. The institute will collaborate with the parent and student institute to facilitate top performance for all children and a real opportunity for community members to reach their full potential as learners and participate in the development of the Humboldt Park Community.

1. Establish Three Institutes

- The Teacher Administrative Leadership Institute will support school improvement across the sub-network in collaboration with university partners.
- The Parent Popular Education Institute will promote parental participation in their child's learning, governance and adult education programming.
- The Youth Leadership Institute will promote youth leadership development through civic engagement and community building activities.

2. Structure

- All CAAC Elementary schools moved into an education hub within Network 5 so that they can share instructional practices and resources.
- The creation of an education hub office to support the elementary schools, Roberto Clemente Community Academy and the implementation of the three education institutes.
- Creation of a Community-wide Enrollment Center to provide parents with options to place their child in the school that best meets their individual learning needs. Families will have a variety of choices of schools and programs for their children.
- The development of a Community Engagement office to harness community, institutional and business resources to augment the work of the education hub office in the areas of wrap around services to families and teaching opportunities for schools.

- Development of a safe transportation infrastructure where students are picked up and bussed to their schools so parents can safely and efficiently get their children to and from school. The gradual implementation of bike routes for middle and high school students with bike safety promoted to younger students, parents and school staff.
3. **Expansion of pre-school seats** - including full day kindergarten
- Two of the schools in the CAAC will focus on providing more pre-school seats to area families.
4. **Kindergarten through Fifth Elementary**
- Several campus schools will emphasize K-5 grades, following the precepts of the Common Core and International Baccalaureate standards as well as providing specialized curriculums in STEM, Fine Arts, Dual Language, Special Needs and Montessori.
5. **Middle School Options**
- A 6-10 specialty Lab School for off-track youth at risk of dropping out.
A middle school program connecting to a 7-14 High School by aligning the middle school program to the four-tiered IB program at Roberto Clemente Community Academy.
6. **Phase One Proposal for CAAC Network Schools**
- Roberto Clemente High School: Full implementation of wall to wall International Baccalaureate Program
 - Von Humboldt Child Parent Center becomes CAAC main office and registration center.
 - Development of a specialty lab school to support off track students from 6th grade to 10th grade in partnership between the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and the Youth Connection Charter School with support from the Alternative Schools Network of Chicago and a College of Education partner. The school will occupy the remainder of the Von Humboldt/Ana Roque de Duprey structure.
 - Jose de Diego Elementary: International Baccalaureate Program and 6-8th upper grade center
 - Chopin Elementary: Remains open as a level one school
 - Moos Elementary: Remains open, Aspira Mirta Ramirez Charter closed and Wright College's Humboldt Park Vocational Educational program expands to that space.
7. **Blend of Charter and District Schools**
- Existing charter schools that need to expand will be allowed to move into under-utilized CPS buildings
Alternative schools that are part of YCCS will participate in dropout retrieval.
8. **Community Engagement Plan**
- A marketing plan to explain and promote the CAAC concept to all stakeholders in the community to gain support for the implementation of phase 1, as well as the subsequent phases until fully implemented.
9. **Fund Raising**
- Convene Local and National Foundations to solicit support for the CAAC institutes and community engagement.

CAAC Boundaries



Participating Schools, Institutional and Community Partners

These partners have already contributed to the Initiative, and are committed to the CAAC vision.

Community High School:

- Roberto Clemente Community Academy

Alternative High Schools:

- Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School
- Association House - El Cuarto Año
- West Town Academy

Elementary Schools:

- Frederic Chopin
- Erie Charter
- James Russell Lowell
- Jose De Diego
- Bernhard Moos
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Richard Yates
- Cameron
- Sabin
- Mitchell
- Pablo Casals
- Columbus
- Esmeralda Santiago
- Salem Christian

Pre-Schools:

- Centro Infantil
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Association House
- Casa Central
- Centro Nuestro
- Trinidad Lutheran

Community Social Service and Faith Based Programs:

- Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness
- Block-by-Block Diabetes Empowerment Center
- Erie Neighborhood House
- National Latino/a Education Research Project
- West Town Leadership United
- Near Northwest Neighborhood Network
- New Life Covenant Church
- Alternative Schools Network of Chicago
- Youth Connections Charter School

Institutional Partners:

- Northeastern Illinois University
- University of Illinois Chicago
- Illinois College
- Wilbur Wright Community College's Humboldt Park Vocational Center

Local Elected Officials

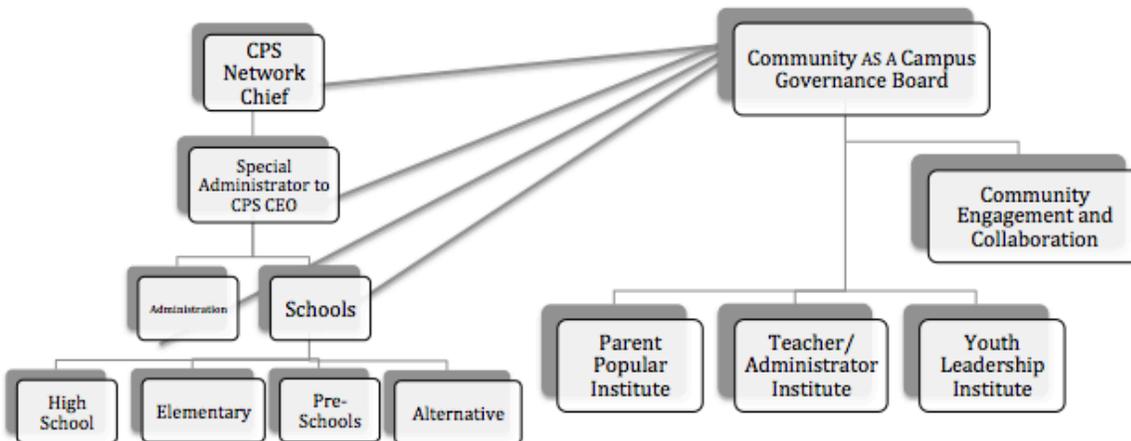
- State Representative Cynthia Soto
- Alderman Joe Moreno
- Alderman Roberto Maldonado

CAAC Over-Site and Structure

The schools within the CAAC boundaries would all be part of an education hub of the Chicago Public School's Network 5. The education hub will have a staff that will create a central enrollment center for parents to obtain information about school types and enroll their child in a school that they believe will best serve their learning styles. The education hub office will also coordinate safety and transportation throughout the CAAC and ensure the resources and the services of three institutes are maximized and that wrap around support services are coordinated in behalf of families to augment learning.

The CAAC will establish a board to make critical decisions concerning school consolidations and or closings based on low performance and or low student population. This board will also work closely with the institutes, the local school councils and representatives of the Teachers Union. The office will also ensure wide representation, bring key decision-makers, provide information about existing programs, models and practices, a common place to register, monitor progress, identify potential obstacles, and problem solve and build and maintain a common vision, mission, set of beliefs and a plan of action that will serve to keep the CAAC unified.

Community As A Campus Organizational Chart



All Schools will have:

Aligned Curriculum
 IB Framework
 Common Core

School Focus:

Dual Language
 Arts Integration
 STEM
 Montessori
 Career Pathways

Responsibilities of CAAC Governance Board

1. Hire, supervise, and evaluate Directors of the Education Institutes and Community Engagement
2. Raise Funds for Institute work
3. Provide input and evaluation of the Special Administrator to CPS CEO
4. Pull together all LSCs for school improvement planning
5. Development of safe passage routes/Safety Network

CAAC Strategic Planning Committee

1. Bill Gerstein, Family and Community Engagement, CPS – CAAC liaison to the CEO
2. Jose Lopez, Executive Director, PRCC
3. Militza Pagan, Deputy Director, PRCC
4. Idida Perez, Executive Director, West Town Leadership United
5. Eliud Medina, Executive Director, Near Northwest Neighborhood Network
6. Marcey Sorenson, Principal, Roberto Clemente Community Academy
7. Jessica Fuentes, Clemente, Batey Urbano
8. Judy Vazquez, Chair, Local School Council, Roberto Clemente Community Academy
9. Karime Asaf, Moos Elementary
10. Ivis Garcia, UIC
11. Veronica Ocasio, New Life Covent Church
12. Kristen Edigar, Humboldt Park Montessori
13. Maria Concepcion, Humboldt Park Vocational Advisory Board
14. Cindy Hallums, Teach For America
15. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Latino Policy Forum
16. Celena Roldan, Erie Neighborhood House
17. Maureen Hellwig, Erie Neighborhood House
18. Marvin Garcia, Director, ASN of Chicago Praxis Project
19. Cynthia Soto, Illinois State Representative