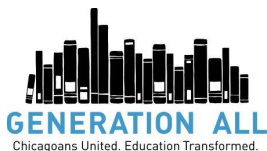


STRONG NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS FOR A STRONGER CHICAGO



THE GENERATION ALL ACTION PLAN

APRIL 2016

**CHICAGOANS ARE
UNITING TO REVITALIZE
NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOLS SO THAT ALL
STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS
TO A TOP-QUALITY EDUCATION.**

Generation All was founded as a partnership of The Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union, with generous support from the Ford Foundation.



WE ENVISION ONE CITY UNITED IN SUPPORT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

Chicago is a city divided. It is divided by income. It is divided by race and ethnicity. It is divided by access to opportunity. Those divisions keep individuals, communities and the city itself from reaching their full potential.

But we have a vision for a city united. A city in which every neighborhood is bound together by strong social ties and brimming with economic vitality. A city in which every resident and every community contributes to and benefits from a shared and growing prosperity. A city in which all students graduate and are prepared to become engaged, educated and capable adults.

The key to realizing that vision is revitalizing Chicago's neighborhood public high schools.

NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMMUNITY VITALITY.

Almost 50 percent of Chicago public high school students attend neighborhood high schools, and neighborhood public high schools are the only ones open to all students living within their attendance boundaries. Yet an outdated, inequitable system of funding and managing public schools has resulted in neighborhood public high schools that are woefully under-resourced, and this leaves many students—regardless of their ability or their work ethic—unprepared for our complex and rapidly changing world.

Strengthening neighborhood public high schools can disrupt these disparities by providing high-quality learning opportunities for students both in and out of the classroom, grounding them in their communities and connecting them to the wider world. By supporting the educational and professional success of *every* student, we help guarantee the ongoing economic and social vitality of the city.

Strong neighborhood public high schools can be powerful catalysts for community development, attracting families and businesses, building neighborhood cohesion and raising the economic prosperity of a neighborhood.

It's time for a sustained, coordinated, citywide effort to give all of our young people the chance to reach their potential and to contribute their skills and talents to the life of our city.

WE'VE HARNESSSED THE WISDOM AND ENERGY OF STAKEHOLDERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY TO REALIZE OUR VISION.

Our mission—to unite Chicagoans in revitalizing neighborhood public high schools—is guided by a steering committee that includes students, parents, educators, researchers, and city and community leaders.

Our guiding principles are based on research in education and adolescent development and supported by the experience of experts in the field.

- Community vitality and school success go hand in hand.
- Equitable, adequate and sustained investment is essential to the success of our neighborhood public high schools.
- Young people thrive when they feel they are part of a safe and supportive community.
- Students benefit from learning environments that welcome everyone.
- Learning takes place anytime, anywhere.
- Educational improvement efforts must be grounded in research and practice.

WE'VE COMPILED OUR IDEAS INTO AN ACTION PLAN FOR REVITALIZING THE SYSTEM OF NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

Generation All has developed an Action Plan that envisions neighborhood public high schools as charging stations that power up our young people and communities, setting them up for success. The plan's solutions—which address practice, policy and public engagement—are informed by the latest research on what works in classrooms and education systems worldwide. The city, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union have committed to work with us as we pursue the implementation of the plan.

PRACTICE SOLUTIONS: MAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND EXCITING PLACES TO LEARN.

High-quality neighborhood public high schools offer supportive, exciting learning environments buzzing with skilled teachers and engaged, enthusiastic students. From broad and deep learning experiences to resources for teachers and principals, the Practice section of the Action Plan recommends specific actions that will make neighborhood public high schools more vibrant, innovative and effective places of learning where all students graduate prepared for the future.

Practice solutions:

- Strengthen teaching and learning.
- Invest in teachers and principals.
- Make neighborhood high schools centers of their community.
- Offer comprehensive college and career advising in all neighborhood high schools.
- Make schools safe and supportive for students and adults.

POLICY SOLUTIONS: PROVIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS WITH DEDICATED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THOUGHTFUL, LONG-TERM PLANNING.

High-quality neighborhood public high schools need equitable, consistent funding; transparent planning; and collaborative evaluation and problem-solving. The Policy section of the Action Plan focuses on fair, democratic strategies for school funding and planning that don't force schools into competition with one another for students, teachers and resources.

Policy solutions:

- Put a hold on the closing and opening of public high schools until there is an inclusive, citywide planning process.
- Make school evaluation less punitive and more focused on problem-solving and growth.
- Adopt a more equitable funding formula for Chicago's public schools.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SOLUTIONS: GENERATE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS

The news media often overlook the successes of neighborhood public high schools. Parents and neighbors, as well as the city at large, need more opportunities to learn about all that is happening at their neighborhood high schools and how they can help to make those schools even better.

The Public Engagement portion of the Action Plan focuses on initiatives that encourage families, elected officials, local business leaders and other community stakeholders to connect with and advocate for neighborhood schools. Ideas include attending CPS board meetings, joining community organizing groups and building strong “Friends of” groups.

Public Engagement solutions:

- Create opportunities to learn about neighborhood public high schools directly from staff, students and families.
- Raise the profile of neighborhood public schools.
- Design innovative and practical ways for community groups, businesses and residents to support neighborhood high schools.

WE INVITE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO JOIN US.

We stand with public high school educators. Your knowledge and skills, your judgment and your participation are essential to revitalizing our neighborhood public high schools and to the future of our city. You understand the vital role neighborhood public high schools play in our communities, as well as the difficult challenges they face. As such, we need you at the table.

Be our partner. As we move forward, we will collaborate with teachers, principals, the Chicago Teachers Union and CPS administrators as we seek to implement the ideas in the Action Plan. We will call on you to help us shape new ideas, and to share with us what works and what doesn't. We ask that you rally your peers around this vision and help hold all of us responsible for making our system of neighborhood public high schools great.

WE INVITE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN US.

Good neighborhood public high schools benefit the whole community. To function at their best, they need the participation of the whole community.

Get involved, and encourage others to get involved. Visit your neighborhood school. Attend school board and local school council meetings. Talk with principals and teachers about which policies make their work easier and which get in the way. Speak up when issues affecting your neighborhood high school are in the news. Collaborate with others advocating for neighborhood schools. We're all in this together and everyone has a role to play.

Choose your neighborhood public high school. Not only may the overall experience be as good as that of other options, but by attending a high school closer to home, students have more time for enrichment activities that are critical to their development, like athletics, leadership programs, music or even after-school employment. They'll also be closer to family and neighbors who can serve as mentors and protectors.

WE INVITE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO JOIN US.

Neighborhood public high schools connect, energize and stabilize the whole community. When schools are engaged with their neighborhoods, they create opportunities and momentum for social and economic development community-wide. As elected officials, you have an important responsibility in ensuring that the city's neighborhoods—and especially the city's neighborhood schools—have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Use your leadership. The Action Plan puts forth many proven ideas for revitalizing neighborhood public high schools. The most effective catalyst for that revitalization would be the mayor's office, members of the City Council and other civic leaders loudly and publicly proclaiming that neighborhood public high schools are central to vibrant healthy neighborhoods and will therefore be an important policy priority.

Bring people to the table and break down silos. The challenges faced by neighborhood public schools aren't just educational. They are inextricably linked to economic development, public safety and other issues that all neighborhoods wrestle with. The mayor's office and other civic leaders must use their convening power to engage the public in creating comprehensive solutions to the challenges that are holding back our schools and neighborhoods.

WE INVITE BUSINESS LEADERS AND DONORS TO JOIN US.

The state of neighborhood schools has a ripple effect on critical issues facing our region today, from public safety to employment and economic development. To ensure that all students have access to a top-quality neighborhood public high school, our schools need equitable and adequate resources to support a deep and broad array of learning opportunities in and out of the classroom.

Get to know and support Chicago's neighborhood schools. The investment, expertise and advocacy of business, philanthropic and community leaders are essential to achieving the Action Plan's goals. Visit your neighborhood school. Learn about the policies that make their work more effective. Look for opportunities to lend your expertise to advance policies that strengthen Chicago's education system across the city. Stay attuned to proposals and decisions that affect the city's high schools. Join the conversation, and invite your colleagues to share their voices.

Partner with Generation All. We can help you maximize your investment and achieve real impact. Our ability to bring diverse stakeholders to the table puts us in a unique position to develop the integrative solutions our neighborhood public high schools need. Businesses, philanthropic organizations and private and corporate donors have a real opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Chicago students and their communities by sponsoring neighborhood public high schools and the community organizations that support them.

JOIN GENERATION ALL



To download the full Action Plan and tell us what you will do to support neighborhood public high schools visit genallplan.org.

Share the Action Plan with colleagues and friends on social media using **#GenAllPlan**.

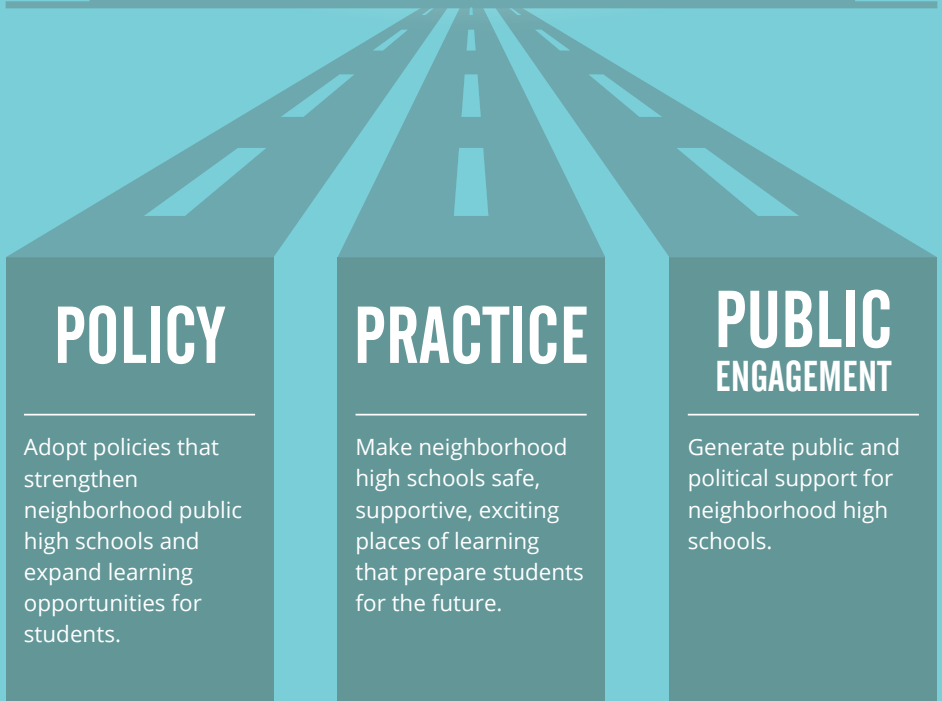
Like us on **Facebook** and follow us on **Twitter**.

Learn more about Generation All at generationallchicago.org.



FOR CHICAGO TO THRIVE, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS MUST BE ANCHORED BY TOP-QUALITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

The Generation All Action Plan focuses on three ways to get there: **Policy, Practice, and Public Engagement.**



POLICY

Adopt policies that strengthen neighborhood public high schools and expand learning opportunities for students.

PRACTICE

Make neighborhood high schools safe, supportive, exciting places of learning that prepare students for the future.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Generate public and political support for neighborhood high schools.

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