

(Links updated 6.29.21.)

[Blocks Together](#) and RYH hosted a [1 1/2 day event](#) on Friday, July 12, and Saturday, July 13. We learned more about best practices in planning for school facilities and programming from local experts and from national expert [Mary Filardo, Executive Director](#) of the [21st Century School Fund](#). Below are the resources shared during the event and many more.

We are grateful to [Crossroads Fund](#) who supported this event! We also want to thank Alexios Rosario-Moore for all his work organizing the agenda, materials, and workshops!

CONTEXT OF THE EVENT:

In 2018 a new state law mandated planning for vacant and under enrolled schools. Through practical workshops guided by national experts and local practitioners, your school community will learn best practices for:

- the joint use of buildings.
- proposing new attendance boundaries.
- developing new programs to recruit students.
- potential school mergers.
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RESOURCES FROM THE EVENT:

[Agenda](#)

Schools as Anchors: CPS Facility Reform, Cecile DeMello, Blocks Together

- [Presentation slides](#)
- [Presentation video](#)
- [Blocks Together Fact Sheet, Public Act 100-0965](#)
- [Under-enrolled Schools Policy \(Adopted, October 24, 2018, Chicago Public Schools\)](#)
- [2018-19 Capacity Utilization methodology described \(Chicago Public Schools\)](#)
- [Blocks Together's Utilization Fact Sheet & Walk Through Sheet, 2012](#)

Community PK-12 Planning Practices that Support Pathways to Opportunity, Mary Filardo, [21st Century School Fund](#)

- [Presentation slides](#)
- [Presentation video](#)
- [Forum Guide To Facility Information Management: A Resource for State and Local Education Agencies](#)

The Guide above was mentioned by Mary as valuable for national definitions that you can use for facilities advocacy.

- [Boundary Planner](#)

Tool developed by 21st Century School Fund for attendance boundaries. (Note: There is one slide in Mary's presentation with a list of links for various tools produced by 21st Century School Fund. We will post them soon.)

- [PK-12 Public Educational Facilities Master Plan Evaluation Checklist, 1 pager](#)
- [PK-12 Public Educational Facilities Master Plan Evaluation Guide, 11 pager](#)

- [for generations to come. A leadership guide to renewing public school buildings](#)

Referenced during the event:

[A Policy Framework For Joint Use: Enabling and Supporting Community Use of K-12 Public School Facilities](#)

MORE RESOURCES:

How to find your school's facility assessment: [CPS Schools web page](#)

- Click "School Locator".
- Type in school name. Select it in the drop down menu, then click "More Info"- bottom left in the box. This takes you to your school's CPS web page.
- Click "Download" (in the rectangular box under school and address). There are many reports here.
- Scroll down to "Building". There are several reports here. Please note that there are two facility assessments available: "Summary Report" and "Detail Report". Facility Assessments are, by law, to be conducted every 2 years. Yes, the last facility assessments were conducted in 2014-15; 2016-17 was skipped; we're not sure about 2018-19. Also note that you can access your "Educational Facilities Master Plan" from 2013. (There is an updated version of the full EFMP from 2018- the link is below.)

[CPS Facility Standards web page](#)

There are many links to information and data here. It is worth checking out this CPS web page- and perhaps bookmarking it. Some content to note:

- Space Utilization
 - [2018-19 School Utilization and Enrollment Data](#)
 - [2018-19 Capacity Utilization methodology described](#)
- Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP)
 - [CPS Educational Facilities Master Plan \(October 2018 Release\)](#)
- Property Owned and Leased by the Board
 - [Properties Owned and Leased by the Chicago Board of Education Database](#)
- Capital Needs Review Process
 - [Understanding CPS' Capital Needs Review Process](#)
 - [Biennial Facility Assessments: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [CPS Guide to Biennial Facility Assessments](#)
 - [Self-Assessment Form - Sample](#)

[CPS School Transitions web page](#)

This page houses all information related to Community Submitted School Proposals, Guidelines for School Actions, School Actions, and School Transitions. See the tabs below for more information.

Illinois School Code

For the purposes of this resources page, we direct you to [prec. Sec. 34-200 - School Action and Facility Master Planning](#) (which is under [Article 34 - Cities Of Over 500,000 Inhabitants - Board Of Education.](#))

CPS School Data web page: Find the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) here.

UPDATED June 26, 2020: CPS now has a new web page for the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA)- [this is the direct link](#). You can also follow the below.

Click on the [CPS School Data web page link](#), then click on "Annual Regional Analysis" (ARA) to get a drop down menu. Scroll down to find the 2019-20 ARA, 2018-19 ARA and 2017-18 ARA. Yes, it is broken into many sections based on "regions" of the city and each region needs to be downloaded separately.

Below are some RYH links containing some concerns about the ARA and our posts about "community engagement" for both the ARA and the 2018 updated EFMP:

- [ARA report proposes a questionable process built on flawed set of premises](#), October 4, 2018

In response to the recent release of the [Annual Regional Analysis \(ARA\)](#), RYH wrote the linked statement with [Blocks Together](#) and [Generation All](#). This statement was included in this article by Chalkbeat Chicago: [Chicago schools chief urges principals to apply for enrollment-boosting programs](#).

- [What are these ARA meetings? Should I go?](#), November 6, 2018

UPDATED June 26, 2020: CPS is hosting meetings on the 2019-20 ARA. [You can find the schedule of meetings here](#).

In the above post we try to explain the ARA when it was first revealed to the public. There are many links where you can learn more.

- NEW POST! An Update: CPS "Outreach" Meetings for the 2018 Preliminary Draft Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP), June 11, 2018

The Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) is unnecessary. There's already an Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) required by law, as noted in the link above. CPS should embark on an overarching, citywide authentic community engagement process to prepare a real, genuine EFMP that can be implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In the above post we document the Summer 2018 "Outreach" meetings for the EFMP which was eventually released in October 2018.

Archived web page of the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force (CEFTF)

PA 96-0803 established the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to ensure that school facility-related decisions are made with the input of the community and reflect educationally sound and fiscally responsible criteria. The task force, with the help of independent experts, will analyze past Chicago experiences and data with respect to school openings, school closings, school consolidations, school turnarounds, school phase-outs, school construction, school repairs, school modernizations, school boundary changes, and

other related school facility decisions on students; consult widely with stakeholders, including public officials, about these facility issues and their related costs; and examine relevant best practices from other school systems for dealing with these issues systematically and equitably. This archived web page includes links to resources as well as agendas and minutes from their meetings.

Press coverage of the Schools as Anchors event

Chalkbeat Chicago: [Are there alternatives to closing schools? Chicago parents consider options.](#)