“Another Reality”

"You are destroying a family for many children who don't always have the easiest family situations in their homes...A school is a community and a family and that is what is being destroyed here.” Simone Clark, a retired teacher.

"You know we need to look at every single detail and not just on a report card that's half done, missing data, missing information to make a critical decision like this. This is impacting people's lives, people's future, people's children.” Nakia Mosby, teacher.

Source: Eve L. Ewing
“This number is below the enrollment efficiency range, and thus the school is underutilized.”

The idea that the most important aspects of the educational enterprise can easily be captured in no-nonsense, nondebateable numeric facts.

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**Performance Level**
Is the school indicator of school quality based on a formula that uses ISAT Test scores and attendance rates.

**Probation Status**
Each year CPS evaluates schools to determine if they should be placed on probation and targeted for improvement measures.

**Enrollment Trend**
The number of students attending the school, taken on the 20th day of each school year. CPS will only consider the past three years of enrollment trends in their school closings.

**Mobility Rates**
When a school has a high mobility rate it is difficult to tell whether a school is making progress.
How Schools Are Supervised For Good Behavior

Results in: (1) New local school council elections. (2) Replacing the principal. (3) Replacement of faculty members (4) Reconstitution of the attendance center and replacement of all employees of the attendance center. (5) Intervention under Section 34 8.4. (Turnaround) (6) Closing of the school.

It awards points based on the number of gains, rather than simply the “absence of improvement”. Making consecutive points from test scores will still risk you for probation.

99% of schools placed on probation with no additional review had at least 3 out of 4 students designated as low-income.

Of the schools placed on probation, 98% had more students of color than the CPS average, and only 30% of schools placed on the highest level (Level 1) had more students of color than the CPS average.
“Through a neoliberal lens, rather than ‘citizens,’ with rights, we are consumers of services.”

Any enterprise dealing with care and nurture of children are likely to be inefficient at times. Have to sacrifice care, patience, and flexibility for efficiency. Competing against others in a non-leveled playing field due to poverty, homelessness, and varying identities.

Focuses solely on winners and abandoned students who might lead to inefficiencies.

Source: Eve L. Ewing
Lifespan of Policies & Reform

CPS is a historical entity that exists in a historical context that was made and constructed by human people. These policies have history and should continue to make history for future generations—for the good.
Those Fighting

**Bronzeville Community Development Partnership:**
A partnership working to develop Bronzeville as a sustainable international heritage tourism destination.

**Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization:**
Membership-based black community founded in 1960's participating in hunger strikes.

**Creative Grounds:**
A collaborative with the community to explore future potentials of school closings.

**Chicago United for Equity:**
Activating communities to find solutions to the cities greatest inequities.

**Teachers for Social Justice:**
Organization of educators working towards classrooms that are anti-racists and multicultural.

**Coalition to Revitalize Dyett:**
A collaborative of partners protesting for the closing of Dyett.

**Possibilities**
Prototype for Future Potentials

Anthony Overton Elementary

Probable Trend

Anthony Overton Elementary

Source: Schoolcuts.org
Anthony Overton Elementary

Closed in 2013, it was sold to Ghian Foreman, with the original plan to turn it into Live Work apartments. It is now planned to turn into a business & technology incubator, a prime example of what these schools can be transformed into for the community. The building was designed by an architect from Perkins + Will and was the last of three postwar prototypes for modernist schools.

Paola D. Aguirre
Careless Consequences

Crispus Attucks Elementary

- 99% Low Income
- 99% Black
- 43% Homeless

Probabtion Trend

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Source: Schoolcuts.org
Crispus Attucks Elementary

Transferred to Beethoven
275 students, 96.9% are low-income, 131 or 43% identify as homeless. Added to Beethoven Elementary three blocks north with 75 students homeless = ⅓ of students will be homeless.

Purchased in 2005 by the city the vacant building entered a lease agreement with the African-American Museum. This 20-year lease also gives the museum directors first right of refusal if the city decides to put the building up for sale. In total, the city, state, and museum contributed about 230,000 to secure the building. Since then no further official conversation by the council has been made.
Marginalized Transformations

Near North Elementary

Probation Trend

Source: Schoolcuts.org

HDA: Homeowner Association
Near North Elementary

Sold for $5.1 Million to Developer Svigos Assets, who also snatched another school Peabody for 3.5$ in October as the first CPS sale from the school closings. Near North Residential is already zoned for residential and will be used for mixed-use residential and commercial development.
You're just stupid women. Shut up and do what we tell you to do. That's the attitude that comes from downtown and comes from the mayor's office.

You know, I think we tried to put a nice face on it... 'You'll have new teachers, but I'm sure those teachers are going to care about you as well.' Amanda Ross, teacher

...I mean, maybe they thought it was, because they thought we're so ignorant.

....So you're closing schools in these areas that have been, like, harmed by institutionalized racism and white supremacy.

They don't care. They get their $150,000 or $160,000 a year to enforce things.

He's just trying to collect his money, he's just trying to get this. And whoever is in on it, they get theirs.

We already know what we're going to do, but we're giving you a chance to feel good about talking.

But this government is the worst example of interrogating and railroad ing the people, and gangsters. We don't have nobody.