

RESCIND BOARD REPORT 25-1104-EX2 ESTABLISH CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AS A DISTRICT-MANAGED FINE & PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL AND ADOPT NEW RESOLUTION TO INVEST IN ARTS EDUCATION, SUPPORT THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND PRESERVE THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL ARTS TRAINING

WHEREAS, Contract Schools are established and defined by Section 34-1.1 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-1.1); and

WHEREAS, the Board's mission is to provide a high-quality public education for every child in every neighborhood, and the Board has laid out a vision for the future of Chicago's students, parents and communities by empowering every student to develop the creativity, empathy, curiosity, and confident self-expression that leads to bold and inventive artistic practice, active citizenship, professional success, and personal fulfillment; and

WHEREAS, major metropolitan cities across the nation have publicly funded arts conservatory programs similar to ChiArts and this school should be lauded for their accomplishments and for the breadth of talented artists it produces; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's vibrant arts scene is home to Broadway in Chicago, the Lyric Opera House, the Chicago Symphony Center, the Goodman Theater, the Steppenwolf Theater, the Joffery Ballet, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Black Ensemble Theater, Definition Theater MPAACT, Pulse Theater Chicago, Teatro Vista, Chicago Latino Theater Alliance, Lollapalooza, and countless other premier artistic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) Board of Directors notified the Board in the fall of 2025, that the ChiArts attendance center would be closed due to financial deficiencies at the end of the 2025-26 school year; and

WHEREAS, the district has proposed to reduce the number of professional teaching artists at ChiArts from 70 to 20 for the 2026-27 school year;

WHEREAS, the Board committed to preserving the ChiArts pre-professional arts training conservatory to the extent practicable in the interest of stabilizing the school and protecting arts education opportunities for CPS students during the school's transition to the district; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Board of Education supported keeping five Acero schools open in December 2024 and February 2025 to mitigate the harm to students and staff after Acero charter schools decided to no longer operate those schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO THAT:

1. The District will support the transition of ChiArts students, families and staff by providing additional funding sufficient to maintain the current arts and academic programming and staff for the 2026-27 school year.
2. The District's Chief Portfolio Officer and Talent Office are directed to make all reasonable efforts to retain the qualified teachers, teaching artists and staff at ChiArts for the 2026-27 school year for all vacant positions.