

"We're not worrying about our kids going to high school—that's a given. We're not worrying about them graduating from high school—that's a given. Our goal is to get them all into college so that they can build a strong life for themselves."

Loretta O'Brien, Curriculum Director,
Wrightwood campus



"The CICS network has put a comprehensive accountability framework in place that is making it possible for data to drive performance across the entire organization."

Tory Read on behalf of Charter School Growth Fund

Chicago International Charter School's mission is to provide, through innovation and choice, an attractive and rigorous college-preparatory education that meets the needs of today's students.



Chicago International Charter School

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Chicago International CHARTER SCHOOL



"The vast majority of Chicago's elementary and high schools do not prepare their students for success in college and beyond."

Still Left Behind, report of the Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago, June 2009

What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are public schools open to all students. Enrollment is determined by lottery, not entrance exams.

Business Model

A publicly funded, privately managed charter school, Chicago International takes a portfolio approach to operating schools. The Board contracts with four different Education Management Organizations (EMOs: Victory Schools, EdisonLearning, Civitas Schools and American Quality Schools) to provide education services.



The portfolio model has proven highly effective. To ensure

that instructional time is used efficiently, responsibilities are divided among the Chicago International Charter School (CICS) central administration, EMO staff, and campus staff. With each team focusing on its area of expertise, students can focus on learning.

"We use the data to inform our decisions, both at the teacher level using individualized lesson-planning, and at the administrative level, assessing EMO and campus performance." Erin Lanoue, Associate Director

Driving Academic Success

Chicago International expects the best of every student and, in turn, provides the support each student needs to achieve their best.

Our Students are Achieving

	Chicago International	Chicago Public Schools
High School Graduation Rate	83%	54%
Post-Secondary/ College Enrollment Rate	85%	52%
2008 ISAT Scores: % Meets/Exceeds in Math	75%	59%
2008 ACT Scores (average)	19	17



Chicago International remains committed to its academic model:

- **Accountability** for student performance
- **Rigorous** core curriculum
- **Disciplined** learning environment
- **Development of broad skills**
- **Longer school day & year**
- **Extracurriculars** (e.g. art, P.E., mentoring)



"If I hadn't gone to [CICS] Longwood, I'd probably be on a very different path. Parents I know in my neighborhood are trying to get their kids into Longwood because they see the difference in me."

CICS alumnus and current college student

Who We Serve

Chicago International serves over 8,000 Pre-K through 12th grade students across thirteen neighborhood campuses.

- 71% African American
- 23% Latino
- 6% Asian, Indian and Caucasian
- 80% qualifying for the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program
- 14% children with disabilities



Scalability

Since its founding in 1997, Chicago International's model has proven educationally sound, financially efficient and scalable, as evidenced by its average growth rate of approximately one campus per year.

Growth and Vision

Within the next five years, Chicago International plans to serve over 11,000 students on 19 campuses.

CICS aims to fulfill its mission of a rigorous college preparatory education, by achieving at least:

- 90% four-year H.S. graduation rate
- 85% college enrollment
- 70% five-year college graduation rate

Funding

Chicago International is proud of its reputation for fiscal responsibility. CICS's 82% per-pupil allotment from Chicago Public Schools covers 100% of instruction costs incurred during the school day.

"We are providing a better education at a lower cost." Beth Purvis, Executive Director

Expenses beyond instruction costs must be covered by private donations. The generous support of institutional and individual donors has funded initiatives such as out-of-school programming, facilities acquisition, playground construction and more.

Over the next three years, Chicago International is undergoing a strategic fundraising plan to raise \$10 million. Reaching this goal will make continued high achievement possible and will allow the organization to successfully meet its growth plans.