

The background of the page features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of Chicago seal. The seal is circular and contains a figure holding a book, with the Latin motto "VITA EXCO=LABOR" visible in the upper portion.

K-12 INITIATIVES EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

October 2023 | Version 1.0

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Introduction

The Office of the Provost provides resources to support University employees as they explore educational options for their families. This guide provides specific K-12 resources for University employees, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students. It also includes links and contacts for other resources, such as housing, dual careers support, health care, etc. You will find a number of links below to guide you to the best resource. We believe these links will be helpful and should answer most of your

questions. This resource offers information about University-affiliated schools, public schools, schools for diverse learners, and other helpful educational options for families.

Should you need further assistance, please contact the [K-12 Initiatives team](#) with any questions about the University's K-12 educational options. Please note that where useful and to ensure accuracy, some information has been copied from other websites and resources.

Note: The University of Chicago does not endorse nor promote any specific educational option listed here. All schooling options and resources mentioned on this website are for informational purposes only.

Childcare Resources

If you are seeking childcare resources, such as referrals to daycares, nannies, or other non-school-based childcare resources, please contact Sarah Diwan at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club. She can be reached at sdiwan@hpnclub.org and is available to advise families on childcare for children aged 0-5. You may also visit any of these links:

1. The [Office of Dual Careers and Faculty Relocation](#) partners with Sarah Diwan to help academic families find childcare information and resources.
2. The [Family Resource Center](#) offers an annual [New Parent Resource Guide](#).
3. The University Intranet offers [resources for parents and other caregivers](#), as well as information about the University's child development centers and other childcare resources available to University employees.

University-Affiliated Schools

The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

Founded by the renowned educator John Dewey in 1896 and located in Hyde Park, the Laboratory Schools provide an intellectually stimulating environment that promotes curiosity, inquiry, creativity, and complex problem-solving. The Lab Schools, a private school, are home to the University's youngest learners, from nursery through high school. The application for the 2024–2025 academic year became available in mid-September, and preliminary application materials are due on or before November 10, 2023.

For more information about the Laboratory Schools' admissions and application process, please visit their [Admissions site](#).

Eligible University employees may receive at least 50% tuition remission at the Lab Schools through the **University Laboratory Schools Benefit** outlined in the [University's Educational Assistance Plan](#).

UChicago Charter School

Serving approximately 1,500 students on Chicago's South Side, the UChicago Charter School (UCCS) is a public charter school within the Chicago Public Schools district. UCCS has three campuses that share a common goal to prepare 100% of its students for college acceptance and graduation through pre-kindergarten to 12th grade education that cultivates culturally aware critical thinkers and leaders. UCCS generally makes applications available in early October with a final due date in late February for the upcoming academic year.

For more information about UCCS's admissions and application process, please visit their [Admissions site](#).

Non-Affiliated Local Public Schools in the Hyde Park/University of Chicago Area

The following Chicago Public Schools are located in or near the University's Hyde Park Campus:

| SCHOOL NAME | GRADES | PRE-K | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|--|--------|-------|--|--------------|
| Kenwood Academy High School | 9-12 | No | 5015 S. Blackstone Avenue Chicago, IL 60615 | 773-535-1350 |
| William H. Ray Elementary School | K-8* | Yes | 5631 S. Kimbark Avenue Chicago, IL 60637 | 773-535-0970 |
| Bret Harte Elementary School | K-8 | Yes | 1556 E. 56th Street Chicago, IL 60637 | 773-535-0870 |
| Charles Kozminski Elementary Community Academy | K-8 | Yes | 936 E. 54th Street Chicago, IL 60615 | 773-535-0980 |
| Andrew Carnegie Elementary School | K-8 | No | 1414 E. 61st Place Chicago, IL 60637 | 773-535-0530 |
| Beulah Shoemith Elementary School | K-6 | Yes | 1330 E. 50 th Street Chicago, IL 60615 | 773-535-1764 |

*Please note that Ray can serve 7th and 8th grade students who live within certain boundaries while Ray can also serve PreK-6 students who live in a different set of boundaries. Please use the [CPS school locator tool](#) to confirm your neighborhood school attendance boundaries for your children's grade levels.

Local Public School Resources

The Chicago Public Schools's mission is to provide a high-quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, preparing each student for success in college, career, and civic life. Chicago Public Schools or CPS has 634 schools serving approximately 322,000 students. CPS schools offer diverse curriculum and programs with high academic standards, instructional supports, and extracurricular activities for every child in every neighborhood from Pre-K through 12th grade.

Please note that you will need to have a confirmed street address to confirm which CPS neighborhood schools your children are eligible to attend.

Chicago Public School Eligibility Requirements

In order to determine which CPS school your child is eligible to attend, you will need to confirm your neighborhood school attendance boundaries based on your address using CPS' school locator tool.

- [Locate your area Pre-K School](#)
- [Locate your area K-12 School](#)

Please note that you will need proof of your address and your Chicago residency to begin the enrollment process. Before signing a lease or purchasing a home, you can also call the school to confirm that your home address will be in the school's attendance area.

Chicago Public School Enrollment

Students in grades K-12 have a guaranteed seat at the general education program in their neighborhood school. While many local schools also offer Pre-K, the CPS Pre-K process is separate from enrolling your child in a neighborhood school.

Please review the [Pre-K Schooling](#) section for specific information about applying to CPS Pre-K.

CPS highly recommends contacting your neighborhood school directly and/or visiting the school in person. The documentation you will need for each school varies, so we recommend both reviewing the [suggested documents on this site](#) and speaking directly with your neighborhood school. Tell the relevant school(s) that you are seeking to enroll or register your child and ask what documents you need to bring to the school and when you should visit in person.

For information about the health care requirements when applying to CPS, please visit the [CPS health and wellness site](#).

Pre-K Local Public Schooling

This section provides information about in-school Pre-K options for children at least 4 years old. For childcare resources that are non-school-based, please see [Childcare Resources](#).

Chicago Public Schools have high-quality early learning programs in every Chicago neighborhood. CPS Pre-K Programs offer free full-day programs for every four-year-old, while Community-Based Preschool and Early Learning Programs, including Head Start and Early Head Start, serve children from prenatal to age 5. When you apply to CPS Pre-K, you rank your preferences, and you will receive offers to a Pre-K program based on your address and your preferences. Pre-K programs can take children from outside of their neighborhood area if seats are available.

Pre-K Enrollment

The CPS website provides five clear [steps required to enroll in a CPS Pre-K program](#). Families who have questions can also view the CPS Early Learning [FAQs](#) or call the Family Support Hotline at 312-229-1690.

Pre-K Enrollment (UChicago Charter Schools)

The UChicago Charter School also accepts applications for Pre-K. Additional information can be found on their [Admissions site](#).

Additional Local School Options

Two local Hyde Park private schools also offer school-based Pre-K programs:

- [The Ancona School](#), rooted in the Montessori tradition, is a child-centered school that builds a strong academic foundation and a joy of learning in Pre-K through 8th grade students.
- [Akiba Schechter Jewish Day School](#) is a private Jewish day school that serves a wide range of students from across the Chicago area. Students who do not identify as Jewish are welcome in their Pre-K/Nursery programs.

K-12 Local Public Schooling

All children from birth to age 21 who live in Chicago are eligible for enrollment in a Chicago Public School.

CPS provides a wide range of high-quality educational programs and engaging learning environments that meet the individual needs of all students and prepare them for success in college, career, and civic life. Chicago students can either attend the general education program of their neighborhood school or apply to attend nearly any school in the city that they are eligible for and that has available seats.

Families can utilize the [School Profile Search](#) to find the school or program that's right for their child(ren). The School Profile Search tool provides detailed information on a school's programs and admissions requirements, afterschool activities, family support services, and school performance reports, among other helpful information.

[Chicago School Options](#) is a resource site created by local parents¹ about private and public schools in the Chicago area with information about a diverse range of schools, enrollment, and parent tips and experiences.

Enroll in Your Neighborhood School

Students in grades K-12 have a guaranteed seat at the general education program in their neighborhood school. No GoCPS application is required. After identifying your [local school based on your home address](#), please reach out to the school directly if you wish to enroll or have questions for the school.

The [CPS Eligibility Requirements](#) section in this guide provides information on how to search for and find your neighborhood school.

Applying to Any CPS School

The Chicago Public School system offers the ability for students to apply to other schools within the city, regardless of where they live. Please see [Applying to Nearly Any School in Chicago with GoCPS](#) for more information.

¹ Chicago School Options is not affiliated with the University of Chicago and the opinions expressed on the site are not promoted nor endorsed by the University.

Applying to Nearly Any School in Chicago with GoCPS

[GoCPS](#) allows families to explore and apply to nearly any CPS school and program through one online platform. Research all of your school and program options, submit your application, and then receive your offers the spring after you submit your application. [GoCPS](#) is the Chicago Public Schools' site that allows both current and new families to explore and apply to nearly every CPS school and program through one online platform.

Visit the [GoCPS school search tool](#) to research CPS schools.

Each year in mid-September, CPS opens their [GoCPS application](#), which allows families to apply to send their students to schools anywhere within the CPS system.

As of **September 13, 2023**, the [GoCPS](#) application window for the 2024-2025 school year is open and now accepting applications. The application closes on **November 9, 2023, at 5:00pm**. Applications are NOT processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Students will have the same chance of being accepted to their selected programs whether they apply early or by **November 9, 2023**. Please see the "Important CPS Application Dates" section below for more key application and testing dates.

The Rolling Waitlist

In addition to being able to apply to other schools throughout the city for the following school year, families have the option to apply to a school's Rolling Waitlist. The Rolling Waitlist is for families who did not originally apply in the Fall and would like to transfer sooner or who want to add additional programs to their application.

Please see CPS' [Understanding the Rolling Waitlist](#) for more information. Families may also contact [GoCPS via email](#) or phone (773-553-2060) with additional questions about the Rolling Waitlist.

Apply by Grade: PreK

Please visit the [Pre-K Schooling](#) section above for information about applying to CPS Pre-K, and visit [this site](#) for answers to frequently asked questions about the GoCPS Pre-K and Early Learning process.

Apply by Grade: Elementary (K-8)

Elementary schools focus on allowing children to develop social skills as well as cognitive and thinking skills. CPS is home to more than 470 elementary schools that offer a wide variety of program options to meet the academic interests of students. Elementary schools serve children who live in Chicago from kindergarten through 8th grade. Students can either attend the general education program of the neighborhood school in the attendance boundary of their primary home address or apply to attend any elementary school in the city that they are eligible for and that has available seats. Visit [this site](#) for more information about the CPS elementary school process.

[Elementary School FAQs](#): Find answers to frequently asked questions about the GoCPS Elementary School application process.

Apply by Grade: High School (9-12)

High schools offer rigorous curriculum, extracurricular activities, and counseling resources that help students plan and prepare for success in life after graduation. CPS is home to more than 160 high schools that offer a wide variety of program options to meet the academic interests of students.

Students can either attend the general education program of the neighborhood school within the attendance boundary of their primary home address or apply to attend any high school in the city that they are eligible for and that has available seats. High schools serve children who live in Chicago from 9th through 12th grade. CPS students use the GoCPS enrollment tool to apply to 9th grade. Students applying or transferring to grades 10-12 should contact the school directly.

- [Apply to Grade 9](#)
- [Apply to Transfer to Grades 10-12](#)

[High School FAQs](#): Find answers to frequently asked questions about the GoCPS High School application process.

Educational Resources for Diverse Learners

Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit

The [Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit](#) (“Diverse Learners Benefit”) is a taxable tuition benefit available for eligible employees whose child attends one of three eligible schools: [City Elementary](#), [Hyde Park Day School](#), or [Wolcott College Prep](#). The Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit Application form becomes available each spring.

Please contact [Dillan Siegler](#) with any questions about this benefit.

Please note that this benefit is only available to UChicago employees who are eligible for the Faculty Children’s Scholarship Plan.

Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services

The Chicago Public Schools’ [Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services \(ODLSS\)](#) provides the tools and resources to ensure that all diverse learners receive a high quality public education that prepares students for success.

The [Special Education Process](#) outlines the processes for identifying a child as possibly needing special education and/or related services.

Additional Resources Available at UChicago

Faculty, Other Academic Appointee, and PostDoc Resources

Dean's Office

Contact your area Dean's Office or your local Associate Dean for questions as you transition to the University of Chicago or for ongoing support or resources.

You can use UChicago's [Online Employee Directory](#) to find up to date contact information for your local dean's office.

Dual Careers and Faculty Relocation

Faculty may visit the [Office of Dual Careers and Faculty Relocation site for](#) more information about resources and support for new and prospective faculty and their partners who are relocating to Chicago.

Graduate Student Resources

[Area Dean of Students](#)

Your area dean of students can be your main point of contact for almost any question regarding academic life and support.

[UChicagoGRAD](#)

UChicagoGRAD is your resource for academic support, career development, student life, and graduate student resources.

Other Graduate Resources

- [Family Resource Center](#)
- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Housing Resources](#)
- [Student Health Insurance \(USHIP\)](#)

Important Resources and Contacts

Important Resources

Chicago Public Schools

- [Apply to CPS](#)
- [Early Learning FAQs](#)
- [Elementary School FAQs](#)
- [Enrollment Requirements](#)
- [High School FAQs](#)
- [K-12 School Locator](#)
- [Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services](#)
- [Pre-K School Locator](#)
- [School Profile Search](#)
- [Special Education Process](#)
- [Understanding Special Education \(CPS Support Services\)](#)
- [Understanding the Rolling Waitlist](#)
- [Understanding Waitlists](#)

University of Chicago

- [Diverse Learners Tuition Portability Benefit](#)
- [Online Employee Directory](#)
- [Office of Dual Careers and Faculty Relocation](#)
- [UChicago Charter Schools](#)
- [UChicago Laboratory Schools](#)

Important Contacts

| Name | Title | Office | Email |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Dillan Siegler | Associate Provost (K-12 Initiatives) | Office of the Provost | dsiegler@uchicago.edu |
| Kara Kuligowski | Assistant Director (Academic Affairs + Initiatives) | Office of the Provost | kuligowski@uchicago.edu |
| Liv Leader | Director, Dual Careers + Faculty Relocation | Office of the Provost | lleader@uchicago.edu |
| Sarah Diwan | Childcare Advisor (Ages 0-5) | Office of the Provost | sdiwan@hpnclub.org |
| Sheila O'Connell | Manager, University Benefits | Benefits Office | soconnell1@uchicago.edu |
| Irene Reed | Director of Admissions + Financial Aid | Lab Schools | ireed@ucls.uchicago.edu |