

Chicago Public Schools has confirmed that it intends to turn **NATIONAL TEACHERS ACADEMY** into a high school for the South Loop, erasing NTA as a public neighborhood elementary option. **THIS ILL-CONSIDERED PLAN WAS MADE WITH THE COMPLETE EXCLUSION OF THE NTA COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP.**

CPS HAS NOT PROPERLY WEIGHED ALTERNATIVES AND IS IGNORING THE IMPACT OF THIS PROPOSAL ON NTA'S PREDOMINANTLY LOW-INCOME STUDENTS. Our thriving community believes there's a way to accommodate high school needs *without* destroying our **Level 1, Title I** school and **Regional Gifted Center**.

A BETTER PLAN? 5 IDEAS

Expand available seats at Jones High School.

There are currently 120 unused seats available at Jones High School, according to CPS. Starting with these and expanding from there would allow more residential-area students to access Jones.

Invest in new programming for existing neighborhood high schools, such as Phillips, Tilden, and Dunbar.

Developing IB programming or adding selective enrollment seats at these neighborhood high schools would racially and economically integrate educational options at the high-school level.

Cultivate integrated selective enrollment + neighborhood programs at Jones, Phillips, Tilden, and Dunbar.

Moving 60% of Jones selective enrollment seats in equal portions to Phillips, Dunbar, and Tilden and expanding the neighborhood seats at Jones would lift up ALL of our schools and communities. It would also drive down the unhealthy competition our children face when selecting a high school. Additionally, it would financially benefit the district because Jones does not currently qualify as a Title I school, as not enough low-income students attend. By integrating selective enrollment and neighborhood programs, CPS would receive additional federal funding for low-income students.

Require community benefit agreements to develop new schools.

There are 6 new developments within 1.5 miles of NTA: DePaul Stadium, "Rezkoland," the Ickes Redevelopment, high rises on Roosevelt, Riverline, and the Michael Reese Hospital site. Working as a community, as is happening with the Obama Presidential Library, we can influence developers to invest in the communities they are crafting and selling. This would benefit current children and new residents to come.

Move South Loop's RGC to National Teachers Academy and use the already purchased new building site for a high school.

NTA and South Loop Elementary will be at optimal capacity in a few years when the ongoing transfer of the Regional Gifted Center to NTA is complete. This will reduce SLES overcrowding by 120 students, bringing the total enrollment from 767 to 647 — under the designated capacity of 690 for the existing infrastructure. This would allow CPS to turn the new construction site at 16th and Dearborn into a high school, a far more cost-effective solution that alleviates overcrowding, builds a new high school, and does NOT create a 3-campus multiplex elementary school that will be overcrowded when new residents arrive. And that site *isn't* too small for a high school: For comparison, Walter Payton College Prep sits on 1.5 acres — the same size as the lot at 16th and Dearborn.

Your Voice Is Powerful! Your Voice Matters! Make It Count!

If you want to help NTA, speak out in the community and on social media! Tweet with #WeAreNTA @AldPatDowell3rd, @JaniceJackson, @ClaypoolCPS, and @Chicagosmayor

CPS: YOU MUST ANSWER...

What other plans have you considered for a South Loop high school?

Have you considered making the new building at 16th and Dearborn into a high school and shifting the attendance boundaries to ease overcrowding at South Loop? Have you considered working with Jones, Dunbar, and Phillips to strengthen their programs and open additional spaces at each school? Have you considered building a new high school on some of the land at Riverline, "Rezkoland," or the Michael Reese site? The Reese site was sold for less than \$2 million per acre and is blocks from NTA. Jones College Prep sits on a site 2.5 acres in size. Could CPS acquire land to build a high school the size of Jones for \$5 million without displacing the students of NTA? To compare, the lot purchased for the new South Loop Elementary is 2.8 acres and cost \$9 million.

Does CPS agree Phillips is not a viable option for the South Loop?

If so, why do they consider it a viable option for Bronzeville? Of the 47 neighborhood high schools in Chicago, 17 are Level 2 and 5 are Level 3 on SQRP. What plans are being made to develop higher quality neighborhood high options for these communities?

If the issue is distance, what plan does CPS have for Hyde Park Academy, whose students live up to 6.5 miles away from campus?

Roosevelt is 3.1 miles from Phillips Academy, and 63rd St. (the southern boundary) is 3.2 miles from Phillips. If distance is a consideration, what plans are there to alleviate travel for students at the southern edge of Phillips' boundary? Taft, Wells, Washington, Tilden, Steinmetz, Morgan Park, and others are high schools that have boundaries that are more than 3 miles from their schools, just like Phillips. Is there a plan to alleviate travel for students at the far edges of *all* high school boundaries?

CPS Chief Education Officer Janice Jackson made the argument at the town hall meeting on April 19, 2017, that the boundary between South Loop and NTA should be shifted south so that more students could attend the state-of-the-art new building.

Currently, NTA is a state-of-the-art new building compared with South Loop, so why hasn't the boundary been shifted north?

Please share with us the exact or preliminary boundaries for the proposed change between South Loop and NTA.

Please share with us the exact or preliminary boundaries for the proposed high school if it were to be located on NTA's campus.

Why has CPS's Janice Jackson debuted these plans in conversations with reporters and not contacted principals of the schools affected?

Specifically, Principal Isaac Castelaz at NTA?

How will these plans impact former Harold Ickes Homes residents?

They were promised during the Chicago Housing Authority transformation that NTA would *always* be their school and home.

How has CPS worked with the Chicago Housing Authority to serve residents in the neighborhoods affected by these issues?

How has CPS worked with city planners to determine the future school-age population of these areas?