

ILLINOIS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

profiles



profiles

Grades: 7–12

Community: West Garfield Park,
Chicago

Opened: 1997

Students: 340

Teachers: 24

Contact: www.actcharter.org,
773.626.4200

Academy of Communications and Technology Charter School

A pioneer charter started by two former Chicago public school teachers, ACT has a college preparatory curriculum that incorporates a strong focus on communication arts and technological literacy, including partnerships with institutions like Columbia College. Students must defend a portfolio of work every two years before moving to the next “division” within the school.

Grades: 9–12

Community: Washington Park, Chicago

Opened: 2004

Students: 500

Teachers: 35

Contact: www.acetechnical.org,
773.548.8705

ACE Technical Charter High School

The Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical Charter High School was created by a group of Chicago’s construction industry leaders to prepare qualified inner-city youths for employment in the industry and to serve as a model for the next generation of vocational education programs. Students participate in a rigorous curriculum and are exposed to the technical, managerial and professional aspects of the industry, preparing them to make informed decisions about their future careers and providing them with life skills for sustained professional and personal success.

Grades: pre-K–8

Community: Garfield Park, Chicago

Opened: 1999

Students: 550

Teachers: 41

Contact: www.alainlocke.org,
773.265.7230

Alain Locke Charter Academy

With a focus on early literacy and enrichment activities to keep the children engaged in the learning process, Alain Locke operates with an extended year and extended day to provide more time for students to learn. Professional development is a continual, integral part of the school culture, with writing workshops, weekly sessions and an expectation that teachers will work with their colleagues on training. Alain Locke was born out of the work of the Inner-City Teaching Corps. Their investment in students does not end at graduation but continues with support through high school.

Amandla Charter School

Founded by Chicago public school teachers, Amandla Charter School is committed to providing a college preparatory education in a safe and structured environment. Amandla students will benefit from an extended school day, double periods of math and English, tutoring, and consistent discipline. The school-wide goal is to ensure that every student who graduates from Amandla is ready to enter *and succeed* in college. The school will ultimately serve grades 5 through 12.

Grade: 5

Community: Englewood, Chicago

Opened: 2008

Students: 125

Faculty and Staff: 12

Contact: www.amandlacharterschool.org,
773.396.8022

Aspira of Illinois

Aspira's original school, the Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School, was created to bridge the "digital divide" by providing a rigorous and comprehensive high school education focusing on computer science.

Practical and advanced instruction in the latest computer technology gives students opportunities to attend college, continue into advanced vocational training or find meaningful employment. The newer middle school campus houses both a Math and Science Academy and a Computer Science and Technology Academy.

3 Campuses: Aspira Early College High School, Aspira-Haugan Middle School, Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School

Grades: 6–12

Communities: North Park, Albany Park and Logan Square, Chicago

First campus opened: 2003

Students: 1,099

Teachers: 67

Contact: www.aspirail.org,
773.252.0970

Beardstown Charter Learning Academy

The Beardstown Charter Learning Academy was created out of the need for drop-out prevention in the community. The school focuses on nourishing employment opportunities for students, because today's economy requires of the labor force increased literacy, enhanced technological skills and lifelong learning. Located in central Illinois, with a 60% white and 30% Latino student population, the Beardstown Charter Learning Academy is a place for credit-deficient students and alternative education-needs students to have a second chance in their educational lives. The academy features courses in life skills and include a work-for-credit requirement.

Grades: 9–12

Community: City of Beardstown

Opened: 2008

Students: 20

Teachers: 3

Contact: 217.323.4529

profiles

Grades: K–12

Communities: Grand Crossing,
Bronzeville and Ashburn/Gresham,
Chicago

First campus opened: 1999

Students: 937

Teachers: 58

Contact: www.bsics.net, 773.651.1221

Betty Shabazz International Charter School

The Afro-centric focus at Betty Shabazz International Charter is apparent from the start of every day when the whole school gathers for an African Unity Circle that helps students focus on concentration and success for the day. The elementary school links students to resources in the local community and across the globe — including South Africa, Brazil and Ghana — and incorporates parental



involvement into the school culture. Betty Shabazz operates two other schools on the South Side, the DuSable Leadership Academy for students in grades 9–12 and Barbara A. Sizemore Academy, an elementary and middle school.

*3 Campuses: Betty Shabazz
International Charter School,
DuSable Leadership Academy,
Barbara A. Sizemore Academy*

Grades: K–7

Community: Bronzeville, Chicago

Opened: 2006

Students: 415

Teachers: 20

Contact:
www.lighthouse-academies.org/BZLCS.htm,
773.535.1460

Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School

One of ten Lighthouse Academies in five states and Washington, D.C., Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School hews to the network's ideal of how a lighthouse symbolizes hope and security. The school offers small class sizes, an extended day of instruction and a rigorous arts-infused program that helps emphasize the school's "organizational virtues" of self-discipline, humility, intelligence, nobility and excellence. Lighthouse Academies has a national partnership to place Teach for America alumni in school leadership positions in the charter schools.

Cambridge Lakes Charter School

Cambridge Lakes utilizes the Core Knowledge Sequence, with supplemental information in the core subjects and other topics such as art and music. Each child has a Personalized Learning Plan that addresses their learning needs, areas they excel in and their learning goals for the entire year. The school boasts a new state-of-the-art campus including specialized classrooms for art, science and technology courses in the six classroom buildings, each of which houses two grade levels, which helps foster the feeling of a small school.

Grades: pre-K – 8
Community: Village of Pingree Grove
Opened: 2007
Students: 500
Teachers: 42
Contact: www.cambridgelakescharterschool.org, 847.464.4300

Catalyst Charter School – Howland Campus

The back-to-basics educational program at Catalyst Charter has a heavy emphasis on reading and mathematics, with a longer school day and structured parental involvement. The school's teaching team approach offers two certified master teachers and one volunteer aide for every class of 30, for a 10:1 student/teacher ratio. Designed by San Miguel Schools Chicago, which has operated two successful middle schools in Chicago's inner-city neighborhoods, Catalyst is committed to developing highly educated, concerned, committed citizens of character who understand their role as agents for change within their communities.

Grades: K – 7
Community: North Lawndale, Chicago
Opened: 2006
Students: 354
Teachers: 30
Contact: www.catalystschools.org, 773.534.1753

Chicago International Charter School

The nonprofit Chicago Charter School Foundation was created to build a collection of schools that serve neighborhoods throughout Chicago and a variety of grades but are linked with a common commitment to a rigorous, college preparatory program. Today, the twelve CICS schools have many corporate, nonprofit and educational partners. The schools in the CICS family each chose a creative and diverse management system that best matches the strengths and needs of the school's community of scholars, while all share a commitment to a strong focus on meeting state standards.

12 Campuses: CICS Avalon-South Shore Campus, CICS Basil Campus, CICS Bucktown Campus, CICS Irving Park Campus, CICS Longwood Campus, CICS Loomis Primary, CICS Northtown Academy, CICS Prairie Campus, CICS Ralph Ellison Campus, CICS Washington Park Campus, CICS West Belden Campus, CICS Wrightwood Campus

Grades: pre-K – 12
Communities: Avalon/South Shore, Englewood, Logan Square, Irving Park, Washington Heights, Northtown, Roseland, Washington Heights, Washington Park, Austin/Belmont Cragin and Ashburn/Ashburn-Gresham, Chicago
First campus opened: 1997
Students: 7,500
Teachers: 500
Contact: www.chicagointl.org, 312.455.7890

profiles

Grades: 6–12

Community: Rogers Park, Chicago

Opened: 2004

Students: 400

Teachers: 35

Contact: www.cmsaonline.net,
773.761.8960

Chicago Mathematics and Science Academy

CMSA provides a rigorous college preparatory education in science, mathematics and technology with a focus on the global perspective. The school is part of Concept Schools, a Chicago based nonprofit educational management and consulting organization that operates similar programs in five other Midwestern cities, all using an educational model that emphasizes small class size, a high level of student participation and a positive relationship between students, teachers and parents.

Grades: K–10

Community: City of Chicago

Opened: 2006

Students: up to 600

Teachers: more than 13

Contact: www.chicagovcs.org,
312.267.4486

Chicago Virtual Charter School

Serving a variety of youth, the Chicago Virtual Charter is a public virtual school that gives parents the curriculum, tools and support they need to deliver a high-quality, well-rounded education to their children. In partnership with certified teachers, parents use a curriculum developed by leading education experts and extensive educational materials—from a computer to science equipment—provided by the school. Chicago Virtual Charter is the first such school in Illinois.

Grades: 2–8

Community: Fuller Park, Chicago

Opened: 2001

Students: 200

Teachers: 12

Contact:
www.choiracademycharterschool.org,
773.285.0752

Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago

Using music as an organizing focus, Choir Academy integrates musical concepts into courses ranging from math to history. Inspired by the Choir Academy in Harlem, the school provides students with the foundation for success in school and life by offering an in-depth academic and social development program. The school's events are regularly covered in local media, and the students have been able to perform with and be supported by professional musicians from diverse musical styles, including opera, rap, Broadway musicals and choral.

Erie Elementary Charter School

Erie Elementary is a community where students, parents and educators work together to develop children who are confident in their culture and ethnic origin, bi-literate in Spanish and English, achieving academic excellence, and firmly placed on a path to higher education. Each student has an individual learning plan and an adult advocate and mentor, and students loop with the same teacher for two years to increase meaningful relationships. The school was started in conjunction with Erie Settlement House, a 137-year-old Chicago settlement house, and partners with institutions such as the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Erickson Institute and Casa Providencia.

Grades: K–4

Community: Humboldt Park, Chicago

Opened: 2005

Students: 196

Teachers: 10

Contact: www.eriecharterschool.org, 773.486.7161

Fort Bowman Academy Charter School

Sponsored by Educating for the Future, a group founded by parents to create the charter school as an educational option, Fort Bowman Academy focuses on a foundation of reading and mathematics mastery for grades K–5, with college prep work starting in the junior high years. Classes are small—typically about 20 students in a classroom—and the school offers a seven-hour school day, with an extra hour available for remediation and tutoring for students who need a boost. Of the three graduating classes Fort Bowman has produced to date, only three students have not attended college after graduation.

Grades: K–12

Community: Village of Cahokia

Opened: 2005

Students: 300

Teachers: 35

Contact: 618.332.7404

Galapagos Charter School

With a goal of preparing students to succeed in post-industrial America, where students must have the ability to evolve and adapt to new demands, Galapagos Charter School mixes a strong foundation of core knowledge, including extended daily reading and accelerated instruction and curriculum, with analytical thinking skills. Galapagos' instruction includes foreign language acquisition, economic literacy and leadership ethics during its extended school day.

Grades: K–7

Community: Humboldt Park, Chicago

Opened: 2005

Students: 269

Teachers: 20

Contact: www.galapagoscharter.org, 773.384.9400

profiles

Grade: 9

Community: North Lawndale, Chicago

Opened: 2008

Students: 112

Teachers: 7

Contact: www.powerhousehigh.org,
773.553.7600

Henry Ford Academy: Power House High

Power House High is modeled on the highly successful Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, Michigan. At Power House High, creative school design and an innovative curriculum that incorporates questions and themes associated with environmental sustainability and green technology will extend learning beyond the formidable brick walls of the Power House. Lessons will incorporate local experts, unique opportunities, and the abundant resources of North Lawndale and the City of Chicago. Like all successful Chicago high schools, Power House High will require students to master science, math, language arts, and social studies; foreign language, technology, art, and health will all be core requirements. To graduate, every Power House High student must demonstrate

accomplishment in each of five important developmental areas: Academic Content, Technology, Communication, Thinking and Learning, and Personal Development.



Grades: 5–8

Community: Lawndale, Chicago

Opened: 2003

Students: 330

Teachers: 17

Contact: www.kippascend.org,
773.533.1770

KIPP Ascend Charter School

One of 52 KIPP schools nationwide, KIPP Ascend is modeled on the Knowledge Is Power Program, which makes high demands on students and staff with results that provide the knowledge, skills and character needed to succeed in top quality high schools, colleges and the competitive world beyond. Students who attend KIPP sign a Commitment to Excellence agreement, attend for longer and more days—nearly 70 percent more time in school than a typical CPS student—and are motivated with a focus on results and high expectations. In 2007, 100% of KIPP 8th graders were accepted to college preparatory high schools, earning over \$1 million in scholarships.

Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School

L.E.A.R.N. Charter School provides a rigorous academic program using the Core Knowledge curriculum, a low student/teacher ratio, multi-grade classrooms and year-round classes in a nine-week on, two-weeks off schedule. With parent outreach activities and an emphasis on civic engagement and the value of community service, the school has strong connections in the neighborhood's African-American community, including partnerships with local institutions such as the Terrace Senior Center, the Lawndale YMCA and the International House of Blues.

2 Campuses: L.E.A.R.N., L.E.A.R.N. Excel Campus

Grades: pre-K–8
Community: North Lawndale Medical Village, Chicago
Opened: 2001
Students: 394
Teachers: 23
Contact: www.learncharter.org,
773.826.6330

Legacy Charter School

In a small, personalized learning environment, Legacy's teachers are dedicated to creating a safe, engaging and rigorous educational experience. The college-preparatory curriculum is designed to develop enthusiasm for learning, independence, resilience, competence and global awareness. Legacy was founded by Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, a major Chicago law firm that continues to be involved in Legacy and the lives of its students. Legacy also has an active relationship with the Erikson Institute.

Grades: pre-K–5
Community: North Lawndale, Chicago
Opened: 2005
Students: 296
Teachers: 22
Contact: www.legacycharterschool.org,
773.542.1640

Namaste Charter School

Namaste, the Sanskrit word for “I salute the inner light in you,” operates on a holistic belief that to achieve in school, students must be healthy, active, responsible and engaged in regular physical activity, and that adults should model the healthy lifestyle and positive attitude that the students will hopefully embrace. The school incorporates nutrition, athletics and inquiry-based learning into its rigorous curriculum to ensure literacy, numeracy and a lifelong love of learning. To accomplish all these goals, Namaste operates year-round, with extended school days.

Grades: K–5
Community: McKinley Park, Chicago
Opened: 2004
Students: 250
Teachers: 32
Contact: www.namastecharterschool.org,
773.715.9558

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Grades: 9–12

Communities: Grand Crossing, Humboldt Park, West Town, Hermosa/Logan Square, Noble Square, West Humboldt Park and University Village, Chicago

First campus opened: 1999

Students: 2,614

Teachers: 165

Contact: www.noblenetwork.org,
773.278.6895

Noble Network of Charter Schools

With a strong emphasis on discipline and character, the Noble Network of Charter Schools stresses commitment to educational excellence, civic responsibility and respect for the community, the environment, and others. Operated in partnership with the Northwestern University Settlement House, the school includes a daily Advisory class, which assists students with everything from study skills to college preparation to nutrition. The school also requires students to do 20 hours of service learning per year. In 2008, 100% of their students graduated and U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has recently put Noble in the national spotlight as a leader in the field, showcasing best practices in high school education.



7 Campuses: Gary Comer College Prep, Golder College Prep, Noble Street College Prep, Pritzker College Prep, Rauner College Prep, Rowe-Clark Math and Science Academy, UIC College Prep

North Lawndale College Prep Charter High School

Grades: 9–12

Community: North Lawndale, Chicago

First campus opened: 1998

Students: 680

Teachers: 80

Contact: www.nlcphs.org,
773.542.1490

From the first day of freshman year, NLCP students are prepared to be accepted to college and then succeed in post-secondary education. The school integrates high academic expectations with community service, work experience, and technology education, offering block scheduling and “inter-session,” where students can pursue larger projects. Students are offered opportunities to visit and take courses at colleges around the country, and school counselors provide “fifth-year” support for graduates during their freshman year in college to help them successfully transition.

2 Campuses: North Lawndale College Prep Christiana Campus, North Lawndale College Prep Collins Campus

Passages Charter School

While Passages welcomes all Chicago public school students to their learning community, one of their primary missions is to provide immigrant and refugee children and their families with educational programming geared toward high achievement standards and the needs of immigrant learners. The school operates as an English Immersion program, with many staff members trained in English as a Second Language strategies that are integrated throughout the curriculum. Operated by American Quality Schools, Passages offers a longer school day and school year, with small class sizes compared to traditional CPS schools and comprehensive social service support services.

Grades: pre-K–5
Community: Edgewater, Chicago
Opened: 2001
Students: 275
Teachers: 29
Contact: www.passagescharterschool.org,
773.549.1052

Perspectives Charter Schools

To achieve its mission of providing a rigorous education that will prepare students to be caring and ethical people en route to a lifetime of meaningful work, Perspectives utilizes A Disciplined Life, a program that focuses on creating positive self-perceptions, building strong communication techniques and helping students recognize their responsibility to make a valuable contribution to the community. Students experience internships, community service and one-on-one mentoring travel programs. The Rodney Joslin Campus (formerly South Loop) has been featured in *Business Week* and *U.S. News and World Report* articles about how to fix public schools.

5 Campuses: Rodney Joslin Campus, Calumet High School Campus, Calumet Middle School, Calumet School of Technology, IIT Math and Science Academy

Grades: 6–12
Communities: South Loop and
Auburn-Gresham, Chicago
First campus opened: 1997
Students: 1,869
Teachers: 133
Contact: www.perspectivescs.org,
312.604.2200

Polaris Charter Academy

Pairing rigorous academic content and real-world projects with active teaching and community service, Polaris Academy is an Expeditionary Learning School (ELS), part of a national network of more than 140 schools created by the Outward Bound program. With an emphasis on an active, hands-on pedagogy, Polaris Academy offers many opportunities for in-depth field work, partnerships with other schools and a literacy-centered curriculum. Students are in multi-age classrooms, spending two years with a teacher—one as the younger children in the class and the next as the “veterans.”

Grades: K–3
Community: Humboldt Park, Chicago
Opened: 2007
Students: 200
Teachers: 12
Contact: www.pcachicago.org,
773.534.0820

profiles

Grades: K–8

Community: Village of Grayslake

Opened: 1999

Students: 360

Teachers: 44

Contact: www.pccs.ws, 847.543.9722

Prairie Crossing Charter School

Prairie Crossing uses an ecological, integrated, experiential approach to learning, with environmental stewardship as a school theme. The small school serves students from two Lake County districts and is located at Prairie Crossing, a new residential community that has earned national recognition for its preservation of open land and environmental principles. Students learn through daily experiences in the community's prairies, wetlands, lakes and woodlands, or at the Prairie Crossing organic farm.

Grades: K–7

Community: Englewood, Chicago

Opened: 2006

Students: 500

Teachers: 20

Contact: www.pecs.k12.il.us,
773.434.0202

Providence Englewood Charter School

The mission of Providence Englewood Charter is based on the “miracle of hard work,” with an emphasis on academic excellence, order and discipline. The elementary school replicates the model of the founding school, Providence St. Mel, a successful institution on Chicago's West Side for more than 25 years. Providence Englewood Charter places a strong value in the partnership between school and parents/guardians to build bridges, overcome obstacles and increase performance.

Grades: K–8

Community: City of Decatur

Opened: 2001

Students: 230

Teachers: 15

Contact: www.rcs61.com,
217.428.7072

Robertson Charter School

To provide more resources to an underserved population, this school has a focus on at-risk students. Robertson offers smaller classes (typically about 25 students), and all students learn Spanish as a second language. A rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum and highly individualized program prepare all students for college or career placement within the global economy of the twenty-first century.

Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter School

The East St. Louis Charter School’s instructional philosophy and programs are designed to meet the needs of at-risk learners and students who are currently out of the traditional school system and seeking the opportunity to return to school and attain high school diplomas. The school is a partnership between the district and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, which provides a wide range of health and social services.

Grades: 9 – 12
Community: City of East St. Louis
Opened: 1999
Students: 110
Teachers: 20
Contact:
www.siu.edu/eslc/charterschool/,
618.482.8370

Springfield Ball Charter School

With a theme of literacy and numeracy, Springfield Ball serves as high-quality school of choice for students and families in the capital city of Illinois. Ball Charter offers Spanish language instruction for all grades as an integral part of the curriculum. Students at the school are in two-year, multi-aged classrooms, and teachers create their own research-based curriculum to engage students and meet their learning needs, following a standards- and skill-based continuum developed by Bonnie Campbell Hill.

Grades: pre-K – 8
Community: City of Springfield
Opened: 1998
Students: 418
Teachers: 47
Contact: www.springfieldballcharter.org,
217.525.3275

Tomorrow’s Builders YouthBuild Charter School

Through the Tomorrow’s Builders Charter School, youth who have either been expelled or have dropped out from East St. Louis School District #189 can re-enter high school and earn their diploma. In association with YouthBuild USA, the school helps students rebuild their lives through education, counseling and leadership development while they are rebuilding the community by renovating abandoned buildings and constructing new units for low-income housing. The school serves the entire family unit of students, connecting them to services offered in the community.

Grades: 9 – 12
Community: City of East St. Louis
Opened: 2002
Students: 150
Teachers: 12
Contact: www.emersonpark.org/cs.htm,
618.874.1671

profiles

Grades: pre-K–11

Communities: Bronzeville,
North Kenwood/Oakland and
Woodlawn, Chicago

First campus opened: 1998

Students: 1,300

Teachers: 72

Contact: www.usi-schools.org,
773.834.2865

University of Chicago Charter School Corporation

The U of C Charter School Corporation operates four campuses on Chicago's South Side, affiliated with the university's Center for School Improvement. The North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School, for example, has a curriculum based on the most current research in literacy and mathematics, with technological infrastructure that supports the curriculum. The school also serves as a school development center for urban teachers.

4 Campuses: Carter G. Woodson Campus, Donoghue Campus, North Kenwood/Oakland Campus, Woodlawn High School Campus

Grades: K–9

Communities: Pilsen, Logan Square,
Lawndale, Brighton Park, Gage Park
and Archer Heights, Chicago

First campus opened: 1998

Students: 3,276

Teachers: 186

Contact: www.unocharterschools.org,
312.432.6301

UNO Charter School Network

With a highly structured curriculum based on the Direct Instruction method, The UNO Charter School Network uses repetition, reinforcement, and mastery to improve student achievement and provide a disciplined environment, high academic standards, and intensive English instruction. The school is affiliated with the United Neighborhood Organization, serving a diverse student population from Pilsen and the Near West Side. The network now operates eight schools in Illinois.

8 Campuses: Bartolomé de Las Casas Campus, Carlos Fuentes Campus, Octavio Paz Campus, Officer Donald J. Marquez Charter School, Rufino Tamayo Campus, Veterans Memorial Elementary Campus I, Veterans Memorial Elementary Campus II, Veterans Memorial High School Campus

Grades: 9–11

Community: Englewood, Chicago

Opened: 2006

Students: 460

Teachers: 50

Contact: www.urbanprep.org,
312.276.0259

Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men – Englewood Campus

Chicago's only charter public school for boys, Urban Prep was founded by a group of African-American education, business and civic leaders to provide a comprehensive, high-quality college preparatory education for young men to succeed in college. Urban Prep's tailored curriculum is based on the developmental stages and learning styles of boys as well as the unique challenges facing urban youth. Urban Prep utilizes four connecting arcs to support student achievement — academics, service, activities and professional, providing opportunities for students to spend one day a week in a professional setting.

Young Women's Leadership Charter School

The only all-girls public school in Chicago, YWLCS is a replication of the Young Women's Leadership School of East Harlem and one of seven such schools nationwide. The school focuses on a rigorous career and college preparatory curriculum, emphasizing math, science, and technology, leadership, and personal and social development. In grades 9–10, students participate in internships in a variety of Chicago businesses and organizations, and more than 80 percent of graduates stay in college.

Grades: 7–12
Community: Bronzeville, Chicago
Opened: 2000
Students: 350
Teachers: 52
Contact: www.ywlcs.org,
312.949.9400

Youth Connection Charter School

Youth Connection Charter School students often enroll after months, and sometimes years, of being out of school. This alternative high school program operates at multiple community-based sites throughout Chicago, each with an educational environment that emphasizes skills, life skills, social development and job readiness. Each of the schools reflects the community in which it is housed, and offers programs that help students overcome obstacles that kept them from succeeding in school the first time, such as a lack of English, early parenthood and homelessness.

24 Campuses: Jane Addams Alternative High School, Aspira - Antonia Pantoja Alternative High School, Association House - El Cuarto Año High School, Austin Career Education Center, Bronzeville Blue Gargoyle Alternative High School, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School, Community Service West - Community Christian Academy, Community Service West - Academy of Scholastic Achievement, Chicago City Colleges, Olive Harvey Middle College High School, Truman Middle College High School, Community Youth Development Institute, Howard Area Alternative High School, Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy, Latino Youth Alternative High School, Ada S. McKinley - Lakeside, Prologue Alternative High School, Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School, Winnie Mandela Alternative High School, Sullivan House Alternative High School, Westside Holistic Alternative High School, West Town Academy Alternative High School, Youth Connection Leadership Academy, The Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps)

Grades: 9–12
Communities: 24 sites throughout Chicago
First campus opened: 1997
Students: 3,200
Teachers: 200
Contact: www.yccs.org,
312.328.0799

YouthBuild McLean County Charter School

The YouthBuild McLean County Charter School focuses on drop-out recovery and will serve a unique population of very low income young people, age 17–21 who have had educational problems in the public or other school systems they have attended. The educational goal of the YouthBuild Academy is to provide rigorous and relevant educational training in core subjects in alignment with ISBE standards in order to quickly bring a disadvantaged population of students in educational and vocational alignment with their graduating peers. This goal is met through: intensive core-based curriculum, extensive vocational education, competency-based teaching and assessment. The school has a mandatory vocational component which includes both classroom and applied instruction. Current vocational tracks include residential carpentry, and property maintenance.

A health component is in the planning stage.

Grades: 9–12
Community: City of Bloomington-Normal
Opened: 2008
Students: 20
Faculty and Staff: 15
Contact: www.youthbuildmcleancounty.org,
309.827.7507

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools supports and advances high quality charter public schools by direct work with its members and by building bridges with public education stakeholders and decision-makers. We serve as the collective voice of the Illinois charter school movement.



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Note to our readers: The data herein is for the 2008-09 school year, updated or estimated as of September 2008. The communities are listed in the order of campuses.