

Conversation Guide

Education

It has been found that thousands of Chicago Public School students have not received the tools they need to be adequately prepared for higher education or to be competitive in the workforce. According to [Illinois Policy](#), they attend schools that fail to prepare them for life. With Chicago under new leadership, how will this change?



Trends in
Chicago's
schools in an
era of change

In selecting this topic, your *Table* will discuss Chicago's current educational system. Keep these points in mind:

- Chicago Public Schools serve 361,000 students in over 600 schools; CPS is the nation's third largest school district.
- Chicago Public Schools' current budget is \$5.46 billion as of 2016.
- Chicago is the only city in the state that doesn't have an elected school board.
- In CPS schools today, black and Latinx enrollments are about four times the size of white enrollment. These numbers flip when in private schools.
- According to census data, about half of the city's school-age white youth attend private school, compared to 11% for black youth and 13% for Latinx youth.

Here are some [resources](#) to assist you as you prepare to discuss education in Chicago.

- [A conversation on education in Chicago](#)
- [A close look at CPS's interesting relationship with underperforming schools](#)
- [An analysis of how Lori Lightfoot might handle Chicago's public education crisis](#)
- [A report on the long-term effects of the massive closure of Chicago Public Schools](#)
- [A breakdown of Chicago Public Schools' budget for the next five years](#)
- [A report on the \\$23 billion racial funding gap between white and minority schools](#)
- [A report explaining why top-performing students aren't choosing colleges and/or universities in Chicago or Illinois](#)

Here are some [suggested questions](#) for your *Table* discussion:

1. How do you think national education racial funding disparities have affected Chicago
 - a. Do you believe that racial education funding disparities even exist?
2. What do you think Mayor Lightfoot can do to address Chicago's inequitable educational system?
3. What are your thoughts on charter schools? Neighborhood schools?
4. Should we be more concerned about the state of private and parochial schools?
5. Should everyone attend college?