

Providing A Better Education For All Students *Williams Elementary, Williams Middle and Drake Elementary*

As Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Barbara Byrd-Bennett is committed to ensuring that every child in every neighborhood receives a high-quality education that prepares them to succeed in college, career, and life. Right now, the reality is that too many of our children are being cheated of the quality education they deserve because they are trapped in underresourced and underutilized schools. Rather than fund half-empty buildings that are costly to maintain and repair, the District will redirect those funds for investments that parents, CTU and CPS agree children need to thrive, such as, air conditioning, a library, counseling and social work supports and technology and science upgrades.

CPS proposes closing Williams Elem. and Williams Middle, and welcoming those students at Drake. Drake will relocate to the current Williams Elem. & Williams Middle building.

Williams Elementary

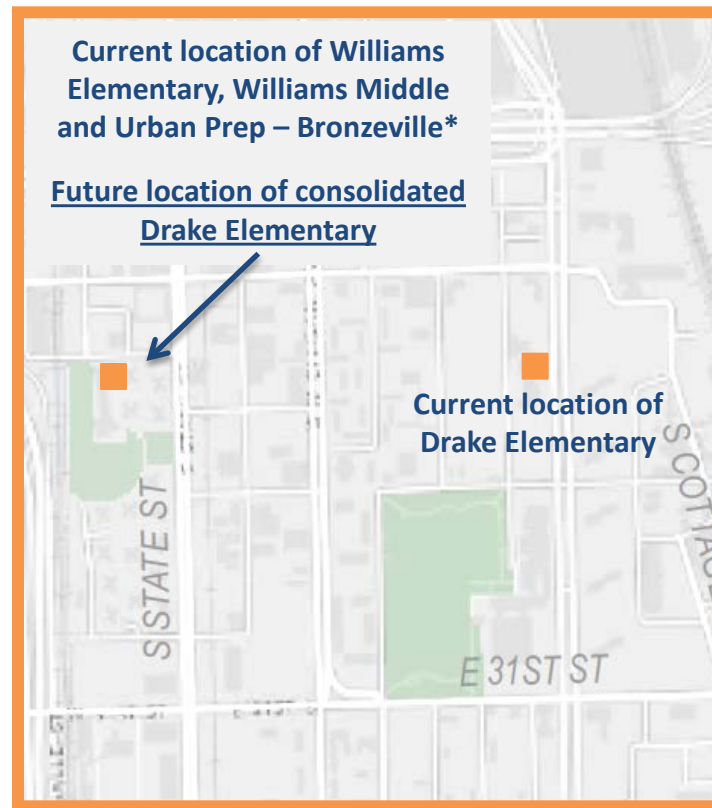
Why CPS recommends to close this school:

- Enrollment has declined by 22% over the last 9 years
- Building is 66% utilized
- Future school will offer a full K-8 grade continuum with cohesive vision & curriculum

Williams Middle

Why CPS recommends to close this school:

- Low overall enrollment, less than 130 students
- School is one-half full
- Future school will offer a full K-8 grade continuum with cohesive vision & curriculum



Drake Elementary

As a welcoming school, Drake will offer:

- A higher performing school with almost 70% of students meeting or exceeding ISAT standards
- A PreK program
- A school safety plan to provide a smooth and safe transition for all students

Drake will be relocated to the Williams Elementary and Middle building, which will offer:

- Air conditioning in every classroom
- Upgraded computer lab
- A building that has received \$6.8 million in recent facility investment including ADA accessibility and other upgrades

CPS has heard your concerns and after a thoughtful, rigorous engagement process, we have looked at every individual school and our decision incorporates the feedback we received from more than 20,000 of you – parents across the city and community members in every neighborhood. A series of supports will be provided so that our students have a safe and seamless transition to a higher performing academic environment at their welcoming school in fall 2013. Please call **311, City Services**, with questions or visit cps.edu/qualityschools.