

Center for Urban Education and Assessment DePaul University School for New Learning

Mission

The Center for Urban Education and Assessment, School for New Learning, is a support unit for Chicago Public Schools. All the Center's work is dedicated to expanding the capacity of Chicago public schools serving students in poverty-area communities. The emphasis of the Center's work is on the enhancement of teachers through preparation and in-service education.

The Center for Urban Education was established in 1990 through funding from AT&T. This funding was designed to support the development of a new school-based certification program, the Urban Teacher Corps, and to establish an infrastructure that would enable the Center to work with Chicago Public schools on a comprehensive and continuing basis. The Annenberg Foundation, Citibank, the Joyce Foundation, Kraft General Foods, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Polk Bros Foundation, and the US Department of Education have provided grants for initiatives that have developed five components that provide school development support through the Center:

- Comprehensive School Partnerships
- Core Curriculum for Schools, K-12
- Parent Involvement Programs
- Teacher Leadership Network
- Urban Teacher Corps

Teacher Development

Teacher development is central to the work of these initiatives. Teachers from a network of Chicago public schools take active roles in teacher workshops within schools and at the inter-school level. Within each school, the Center works with a team of teachers and administrators who are dedicated to increasing the capacity of their school. The Center provides support for that development through workshops, teacher collaboration, demonstrations, and instructional resources. The Center follows the principles of Collective Efficacy in developing the capacity of schools.

Research

The Center has received grants for research in teacher preparation and retention. Currently the Center has a major grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to collaborate with the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Center to determine the effectiveness of algebra courses and the application of writing in assessment to strengthen student achievement in mathematics at grades 5-8.