



Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Parent,

At Chicago Public Schools, we are committed to providing every student in every community with access to a high quality education, and one of our key efforts toward achieving this mission is our transition to a full school day district-wide in school year 2012-13.

Today, we released Full Day guidelines that will assist both our elementary and high school leadership as they work with their teachers, students – and you, our dedicated parents – to design a full school day that meets the unique needs of their student population.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide schools with additional tools they can use to prepare their students for college and career. By adopting a 7.5-hour day, which includes 90 additional minutes of instructional time in elementary schools and 46 additional instructional minutes in high schools, and a 180-day school year, we will move from the shortest school day and year to getting on par with the national average on instructional time in elementary and high school as well as length of the school year. The extra time will ensure students get the time they need with teachers to focus on core subjects such as math, reading and science.

In fact, this year's full school day Pioneer Schools – which have already added 90 minutes to their school day – have used 71% of their additional instructional time on core subjects such as math, science and reading, while using the additional time to focus on art, music, physical education and other subjects.

The extra time can also ensure that students receive individualized instruction and targeted support where they need it. The Full Day also will provide elementary students with time for recess and structured play, giving them a chance to re-boot, release their energy and return to the classroom ready to learn.

We created these Full Day guidelines with input from the Full Day Community Advisory Committee, which includes numerous organizations throughout Chicago representing multiple stakeholders, including parents, community leaders, elected officials, faith leaders, teachers, principals and students who regularly meet to help shape the District's implementation of the Full Day initiative.

It is important to note that the Full Day guidelines are just that – guidelines. Schools will continue to welcome your feedback and that of teachers and students to design a day based on the specific needs of students. The full school day is not a one size fits all approach.

If you are interested in learning more about the specific guidelines, as well as sample formats of what the Full School Day could look like in our schools, visit www.cps.edu/fullday.

My team and I are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead with the Full School Day and your students, and we want to thank you for your continued support. As always, your input is critical to the success of all our students and the district as a whole, and we thank you for working with us to ensure all our children attain the knowledge and skills they need to graduate college- and career-ready.

Sincerely,

Jean-Claude Brizard
CEO | Chicago Public Schools