

Abstract
Distributed Leadership in Opportunity Schools (DLOS)

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the nation's third largest district (Local Education Agency), serving more than 380,000 students across more than 650 schools. This project, *Distributed Leadership in Opportunity Schools (DLOS)*, will serve 50 hard-to-staff schools within CPS. Each of these schools, called Opportunity Schools, are considered high-needs under grant guidelines. This application addresses Competitive Preference Priorities 1 and 2.

In recent years, Chicago has seen dramatic and undeniable improvements in student performance. Last year in 2016, the district recorded all-time-high graduation rates and academic achievement. In fact, since 2011, district graduation rates have increased 16 percentage points to 73.5 percent, and average ACT scores have increased from 17.2 to 18.4. This success, in the face of so many challenges, is a testament to the hard work, talent, and resilience of the district's more than 37,000 employees, nearly 21,000 of whom are teachers. But today, too many CPS students still do not have equal access to this talent, or to high-quality, rigorous instruction. This project seeks to fulfill the district's mission of preparing all students for success in college, careers, and community, especially those students in Opportunity Schools.

Over the five year grant period, CPS will (1) build pipelines of high-quality educators prepared to teach in CPS' Opportunity Schools, (2) provide more intensive support to new teachers in Opportunity Schools, (3) develop and leverage teacher leadership to enhance professional learning for all Opportunity School teachers, and (4) advance the competence of school leaders to empower teacher leadership as a source of strength and stability in Opportunity Schools.