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**CPS NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TO OFFER EDUCATION
PROGRAMS; ACTIVITIES TO THE COMMUNITY**

Parents, Community Residents, Students to Benefit from After-Hour Programs

Chicago – Chicago public school officials announced today at Monroe Elementary School, 3651 W. Schubert Ave., the roll out of 20 new community schools to expand instruction and offer extracurricular activities to students and the community beyond the normal school day. Monroe Elementary, for example, stays open as late as 9 p.m.

CPS Chief Executive Officer Arne Duncan said, “We see our schools as the anchor of the community. The Community Schools Initiative is one way to improve student achievement, increase parental involvement and create opportunities for the community to support our schools.”

Fourteen community schools will begin this fall with Phillips High School, Little Village Academy and Burnham Academy starting this month and Sabin, Goldblatt, Herzl, Mayo, Swift, Gale, Brown, Frazier, Stockton and Beethoven elementary schools as well as a yet-to-be-determined school that will roll out over the next two months. Next month, CPS will issue a Request For Proposal for the remaining six schools scheduled to roll out in January 2003.

Each school will have a community organization as a partner and will feature academic and extracurricular programs such as tutoring for students, adult education/GED preparation, sewing, technology training, health services, homework support and childcare. A parent/teacher advisory committee will be organized at each school to assist in planning the school’s activities and programs.

Duncan added that it is critical for the community schools to support instruction for students and involve parents. As such, each school is required to include an educational and parental involvement component in their community school plan. Studies have shown that the community school concept helps decrease mobility rates, improve student attendance, decrease truancy rates and increase test scores.

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“Since I became CEO, I have committed to providing our students with more school options; advocated for a longer school day; and touted the importance of more parental involvement. Community Schools accomplishes all of these objectives, and as a result we see better academic performance in our students.”

Each school will receive \$130,000 to support their community school plan, of which \$65,000 will come directly from CPS and the remaining \$65,000 from private funders. The goal is to create 100 community schools over the next five years.

Private funders that have already committed include, Polk Bros. Foundation, Bank One, Woods Fund, Seabury, The Community Trust, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, The Field Foundation, Circle of Service and the McDougal Family Foundation. Community Organizations that are partnering with our schools include, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Centers for New Horizons, Alivio Medical Center, Youth Guidance, Columbia College, O.N.E., and the Boys & Girls Club of Chicago.

The Chicago Public Schools is the nation’s third-largest school district with 600 elementary and high schools serving more than 437,000 students.

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