

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLUSTER 4 MIDDLE GRADES PROJECT

February 12, 2009



Today's Handouts

Cluster 4 Middle Grades Project

Cluster 4 Middle Grades Project Program Description 2008 - 2009

Program Description
 Cluster 4 Middle Grades Project (C4MGP) is a pilot project designed to build 21st century skills in mathematics, science, reading, and writing for middle school students. It is designed for all Chicago CPS students in grades 5-8. The program includes high quality instruction and learning in science, reading, and writing. The program is designed to provide students with a rigorous and engaging learning experience while addressing their individual needs.

Program Goals and Objectives
 The goals of the program are to: 1) increase student achievement in mathematics, science, reading, and writing; 2) increase student engagement and motivation; 3) increase student self-efficacy and confidence; 4) increase student leadership and leadership skills; 5) increase student communication and collaboration skills; 6) increase student problem-solving and critical thinking skills; 7) increase student digital literacy skills; 8) increase student career and college readiness skills; 9) increase student civic and social responsibility skills; 10) increase student global awareness and understanding.

2008-2009 Program Goals/Outcomes
 The program will: 1) increase student achievement in mathematics, science, reading, and writing; 2) increase student engagement and motivation; 3) increase student self-efficacy and confidence; 4) increase student leadership and leadership skills; 5) increase student communication and collaboration skills; 6) increase student problem-solving and critical thinking skills; 7) increase student digital literacy skills; 8) increase student career and college readiness skills; 9) increase student civic and social responsibility skills; 10) increase student global awareness and understanding.

Assessment/Measurement
 The program will use a variety of assessment tools to measure student achievement, including standardized tests, classroom assessments, and student self-reports. The program will also use a variety of data sources to monitor student progress, including student work, teacher observations, and student feedback.

Program Partners
 The program is a partnership between Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Community Trust, and the McDougal Family Foundation.

C4MGP Program Description

Cluster 4 Middle Grades Project (C4MGP)

Cluster 4 Middle Grades Project, C4MGP, is a pilot project designed to build CPS capacity in understanding designing and implementing exemplary middle grades instructional programs. It was developed out of a Chicago Public Schools imperative to better prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Key to addressing high school success is improving students' middle grades experience. This project was envisioned to create a model for middle grades philosophy and practices that address the unique socio-emotional needs of adolescents while providing them with a rigorous academic experience, that can be replicated throughout the system.



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In 2006 Chicago Community Trust initially provided \$1M to help CPS implement a middle grades strategy in mathematics and science.

The goal's of the proposal are to:

- Provide comprehensive CMSI programs to select schools in one CPS elementary Area.
- Require middle grades departmentalization (6-8) for mathematics and science.
- Increase content knowledge and skills of middle grade mathematics and science teachers by providing tuition stipends to earn endorsements in at UIC and Loyola.
- Provide support in mathematics and science for all teachers in grades 6-8 to implement new instructional materials, including 4 FTEs for in-school support from Loyola and UIC.
- Increase the number of students completing algebra in the eighth grade.
- Provide assistance coupled with an additional \$75k from McDougal Family Foundation to develop 8th grade algebra classes, with a focus on teacher preparation.

Driving Question: How can we use these resources to establish a district-wide middle grades strategy for all subjects?

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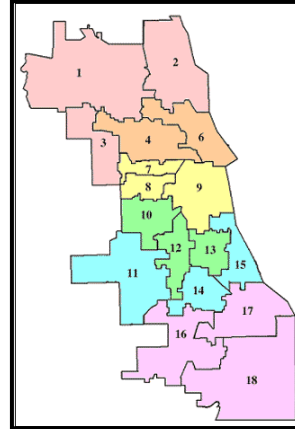
What is Cluster 4?

Chicago Public School district is divided into 6 clusters and within each cluster is 2-3 Areas.

Cluster 4 consist of 75 schools across the city divided into 3 smaller areas (Areas 10, 12 & 13 – green highlighted area)

Principals from Cluster 4 schools applied to participate in the project selections were made by the Office of Mathematics and Science along with input from the Cluster 4 Area Instruction Officers (AIO).

The 1st cohort was comprised of 24 schools. The following year 10 additional schools were added and formed Cohort II the following year. Currently, 29 schools remain the project.



CPS Elementary School Area Map

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The proposal has clear outcomes and measures for success.

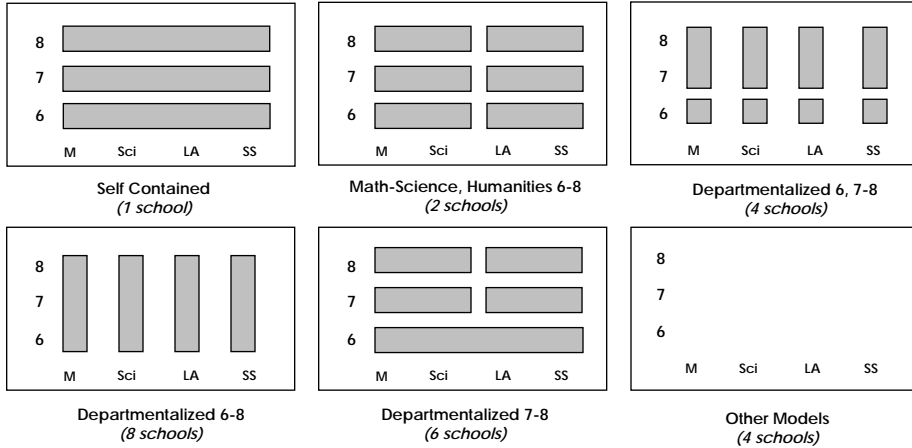
Outcome	Measures
All schools will move towards full departmentalization of grades 6-8 math/science classes.	Comparison of the number of classes departmentalized in math/science in grades 6-8 compared to the number of self-contained classes.
	The number of teachers who have middle grade math/science endorsements, as well as the number of teachers enrolled in approved university endorsement programs leading to middle grade math/science endorsements.
All schools will begin quality implementation of rigorous math/science curricula in grades 6-8.	Number of classes implementing CMSI designated instructional materials vs. number of classes implementing other materials; measures of teacher and principal participation in ongoing professional development related to designated CMSI materials.
	Quality of implementation of CMSI designated instructional materials at project schools. This measure will be composed of several data sources including analyses of external evaluation observations, surveys, participant logs, and focus groups.
At least one teacher in each school will have a CPS credential through the Algebra Initiative to teach a formal 8th grade algebra class.	The number of teachers who have a CPS 8th grade algebra credential, number of teachers enrolled in the Algebra Initiative to obtain a CPS 8th grade algebra credential, and the number of teachers who pass the CPS 8th grade algebra qualifying exam.

The PRAIRIE Group at UIC will provide evaluation services.

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Middle Grades Vision

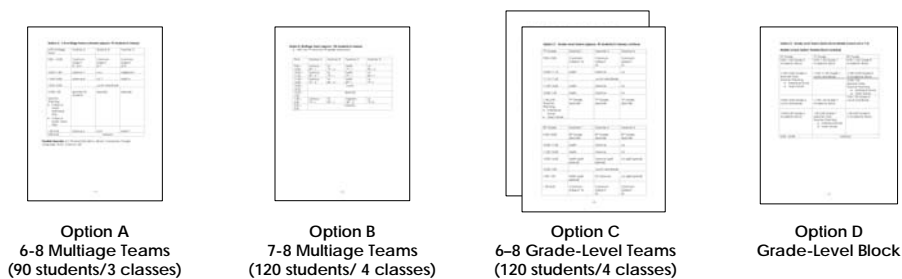
In Fall 2006, existing models of departmentalization were identified.



Data about teacher assignment and school size still needs to be connected.

Middle Grades Vision

By April 2007, with the assistance of The National Forum, four model schedules for middle grades were generated.



All schedules align with principles established at focus group meetings.

1. Students should receive instruction from teachers who know the content area.
2. Schedule must explicitly incorporate the unique social and emotional needs of middle grades students.
3. Schedules need to support the transition to high school.

Timeline 2006-07

C4MGP Leadership PD Strands

Focus:

- Leadership PD – Jim Spillane, Northwestern University focused on Distributive Leadership
- Mathematics – Lenses on Learning Instructional Leadership in Mathematics, Dale Seymour Publication – Pearson Learning
- Literacy – Donna Ogle, National Louis University focused on literacy in the middle grades

Participants included Central Office Staff, Area AIO's and Area Teams, along with C4MGP Principals. The professional development was managed through CPS Office of Mathematics and Science and was held on a monthly basis.

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Middle Grades Vision

Plans evolved around articulating the district's middle grades vision work for 2007-08.

CPS Middle Grades Policy Handbook was outlined. Focus group of Principals, AIO's and Area Staff was identified and meeting schedule was completed.

- Will be a "living document" and revised over 2007-08 school year.
- Focus groups will work to complete and articulate plans.
- Y2 Leadership work will build this out during the year.

Additional student engagement and support options were considered:

- Will *This We Believe* and *Turning Points* will be foundational?
- What's the right way to support an advisory program?
- What's the connection to AVID?

Middle grades scheduling work continued

- Schools articulated schedule choices.
- Work with Labor Relations on scheduling issues to ensure CTU support.
- Dr. Stacey Horn, UIC Professor, introduced philosophy & psychology of middle level education

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Timeline 2007-08

C4MGP Leadership PD: Cohort's I & II

Overall project goals remained the same and priority was given to:

- A designated strand for middle grades practices
- Science professional development
- Content area PD sessions to accommodate all disciplines
- Participant structure to include school identified leadership teams of 3-6 persons
- Implemented algebra in 6 of 29 schools (17 schools currently offer algebra)
- Team time each month
- Middle School Practices
- Departmentalization & Teaming
- Endorsement
- Advisory

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Timeline 2007-08

School Readiness Inventory

- Cohort I Schools (Principal and Leadership Teams)
 - Self-assessed for middle school implementation readiness and were assigned a support level needed during the 2008-09 academic year (low, moderate, and high)
 - Were grouped for differentiated support
- Cohort II Schools (Principal Only)
 - Participated in separate leadership professional development during half of the scheduled project time
 - Self-assessed for middle school implementation readiness and were assigned a support level needed during the 2008-09 academic year (low, moderate, and high)
 - Were grouped for differentiated support

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Timeline 2007-08

External Professional Development

- Funds were provided for principals and teachers to attend national and local conferences.
- 10 schools attended the National Forum Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, DC
- 9 schools attended the National Middle School Conference in Houston, Texas.

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Timeline 2006-07

C4MGP End of Year Celebration – June 2008

All schools presented success stories

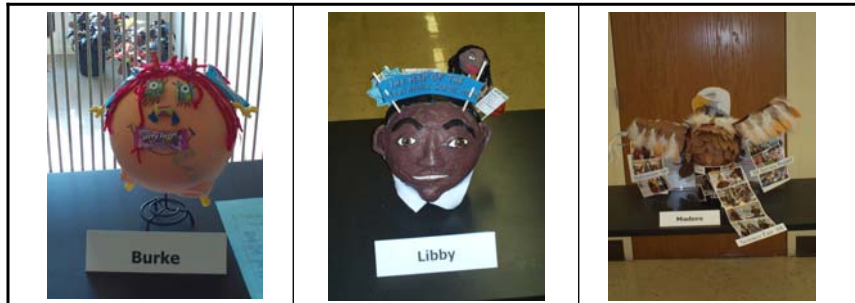


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Timeline 2008-09

Internal Professional Development

- C4MGP celebrated the Month of the Young Adolescent in October 2008



- A well planned and well attended Resource Fair was held Saturday, January 24, 2009
- Practices in Middle Level Education with a focus on exploratory classes and scheduling will be held Saturday, March 21, 2009

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Timeline 2008-09

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Timeline 2008-09

C4MGP Resource Fair – Saturday, January 24, 2009



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Administration

Illinois Horizon Schools to Watch PD Session – December 5th

The following low and moderate support schools attended training:

- Evergreen
- Daley
- Carter
- Graham
- Madero
- Little Village
- McCorkle
- Saucedo
- Libby (M)
- Princeton (M)

These schools have designees trained to participate in the Illinois Horizon Schools evaluation process. They are also encouraged to participate in the application process during the 2009-10 academic year.



Illinois Horizon Schools
Team Training
 December 5, 2008
 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 1326 West 14th Place
 Chicago, IL

SCHOOLS TO WATCH

Training Goals

1. Participants will gain an understanding of and will hold themselves accountable for a commitment to the National Forum's vision and criteria for high-performing middle-grades schools as these components apply to Illinois.
2. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and materials for implementing the Illinois Horizon School evaluation with a team facilitated by AIMS/ISU chairperson.
3. Participants will have a clear expectation of their role within the Illinois Horizon School program.

Participant Agenda

8:00 - 8:15	WELCOME <i>(Light breakfast provided by CPS)</i>
8:15 - 8:40	OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTIONS
8:40 - 9:10	STW ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY
9:10 - 10:40	WHY THE MIDDLE WORKS? <i>Facilitated Conversation on Grade Configuration (60 minutes)</i> <i>Research in Action Presentation</i>
10:40 - 12:00	ILLINOIS HORIZON SCHOOLS TO WATCH CRITERIA <i>STW Rubrics</i> <i>Rubric Application #1</i>
12:00 - 12:45	LUNCH <i>(provided by CPS)</i>
12:45 - 2:00	GROUP ACTIVITY REVIEW <i>Case Study Application #2</i>
2:00 - 2:40	EXAMINE ILLINOIS MATERIALS
2:40 - 3:00	WRAP-UP and REFLECTION

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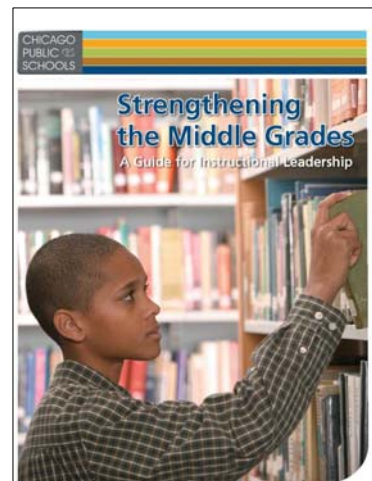
Changes in C4MGP

- Schools were removed from the project due to school closings and a designation as a turnaround school
- 29 schools remain in the project
- 18 schools are implementing Advisory which ranges from 15-60 minutes per week
- Leadership PD includes a focus on examining student work
- All schools have moved to or are moving towards teacher specialization in all content areas.
- C4MGP has received approval for year 4 of the grant.

C4MGP in Print



<http://catalyst-chicago.org/news/index.php?item=2291&cat=23>



http://www.cps.k12.il.us/AboutCPS/Departments/OIDA/middle_grades.shtml