About Aspen SIS

Aspen™ Student Information System (SIS) is an application that will roll the features of SIM, CIM, Gradebook, Parent/Student Portal and Verify into a single system for our users. By consolidating multiple systems, Aspen SIS will provide information in real time and streamline processes.

Quick Access to Student Data

Aspen SIS simplifies your processes – from reporting student data to merging your instructional plans with your grade book and more!

Chicago Public Schools is excited to partner with Follett, the leading provider of K12 education technology, content and services, to bring their Aspen SIS to the District.

Why Aspen SIS?

We started evaluating new systems due to several of our core IMPACT systems being retired by their vendors. One of the key reasons we chose Aspen was for its ability to centrally host and manage student data. Here are just a few of the many reasons why Aspen is the best choice for CPS schools and families:

• Intuitive user interface
• Quick and timely access to data
• Robust reporting features
• Mobile-friendly modules

How We Chose Aspen

• Approached the process with the goal of finding a unified SIS based on user feedback
• Developed an RFP with input from 114 school-based, network and Central Office staff members
• Reviewed seven proposals with a nine-person selection committee comprised of school-based and Central Office staff
• Had overwhelming agreement that Follett’s Aspen was the right choice for CPS
How is the District preparing to transition from IMPACT to Aspen?

Soliciting feedback from users

Our system users are key to the success of this project, and we are regularly meeting with focus groups and a project steering committee to get their critical feedback.

Focus Groups
We have 16 focus groups in place for all functional areas of the system. Members include educators, administrators and district representatives. The core users of each area are reviewing the system and making process and design recommendations.

Project Steering Committee
A collaborative group of school-based staff, network chiefs and senior leaders throughout the District meet monthly to ensure the project stays focused on the mission and vision.

Providing multiple training opportunities

We are creating a comprehensive training plan to ensure our users are familiar with the system before it goes live. Here are two strategies that we will use to implement our training program.

School-based Change Champions
We will work with principals to identify leaders at each school to help facilitate the transition to Aspen SIS. These Change Champions will be heavily trained in the system and will serve as a valuable and easily accessible resource to staff.

“Sandbox” Period
The sandbox period will provide school-based staff with an opportunity to “play” in the system before it goes live. During this time, many training opportunities and resources will be available to help users navigate the various features.

Questions?
Please fill out this form to send your questions to us. We will provide answers to your most frequently asked questions in our next update to staff at the beginning of SY 17-18.