



HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE AT A GLANCE



6x

Students enrolled in a best-fit high school like those recommended by HSB are up to six times more likely to earn a college degree than students enrolled in their neighborhood CPS schools.*

OUR APPROACH

All Chicago students have the right to a well-resourced high school education. With over 200 schools to choose from, the placement process is difficult to navigate alone. High School Bridge exists to empower students and families in this important transition.

After studying the post-high school outcomes of 10,000 students, the High School Bridge (HSB) Team found that very few organizations are working with students to find their best-fit high schools, particularly students who live in disinvested from communities who will be the first in their families to attend college.

HSB accompanies these students as they find and succeed in their best-fit high schools, defined by factors including location and commute, class size, academic rigor and social-emotional supports. Our team advocates for 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders and their families as they build the foundation for success in high school, post-secondary education and the start of their careers.

For more than a decade, we have supported Chicago Jesuit Academy alumni through these transitions and have seen the transformative impact of deep, committed relationships with trusted adults. When students and families are accompanied by someone who knows them well and remains consistently present during the foundational high school years, it fosters stability, confidence and guidance that carry into postsecondary success and beyond.

*Data from the University of Chicago's To&Through Project Milestone Tool tracks longitudinal educational outcomes including high school graduation, college enrollment and degree attainment for students who attend CPS public, public charter and selective enrollment high schools.

A SCHOOL FOR EVERY STUDENT

High School Bridge Counselors build strong, long-term relationships with students, working with them from 7th grade through 11th grade. Counselors support families and students as they apply to, enroll in and thrive at best-fit high schools that:

- Are geographically and financially accessible
- Have strong academic and post-secondary outcomes
- Nurture students' interests and social-emotional wellbeing



High School Bridge students will:

7th
Grade



Research the high-school landscape and start identifying their best-fit schools with their HSB Counselor.

8th
Grade



Meet 1:1 with HSB Counselors about high school placement, test prep, applications, financial aid packages, scholarships and interviews.

9th
Grade



Work with HSB Counselors to ensure they are adjusting and well-connected to their school communities and resources.

10th
Grade



Continue in-person and virtual HSB check-ins to continue to build on academic success and self-advocacy skills.

11th
Grade



Create connections to college counselors or outside organizations who support next steps post-graduation.

PARTNERING FOR GOOD



Partner
Outsmarting poverty

High School Bridge partners with the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) to study the impact of HSB's one-on-one intervention on student outcomes. LEO is using a randomized control trial to track all HSB students for six years after high school graduation. They will compare post-secondary outcomes, like college enrollment and degree completion, between students who received support from HSB and those who did not. Early outcomes show HSB students not only persisting at their best-fit high schools, but actively engaging in their school communities and strengthening key academic and executive function skills.

High School Bridge Partner Schools

We partner with public, private and Catholic schools which are chosen based on two criteria: (1) Neighborhood demographics including income and (2) School stability. Providing students and families with clear data and tools to thrive socially and academically supports informed high school choices, higher graduation rates and stronger communities.

Catholic Schools

- > Academy of St. Benedict the African
- > Augustus Tolton Academy
- > Maternity BVM
- > St. Angela
- > St. Ann
- > St. Catherine-St. Lucy
- > St. Genevieve
- > St. Malachy
- > St. Philip Neri

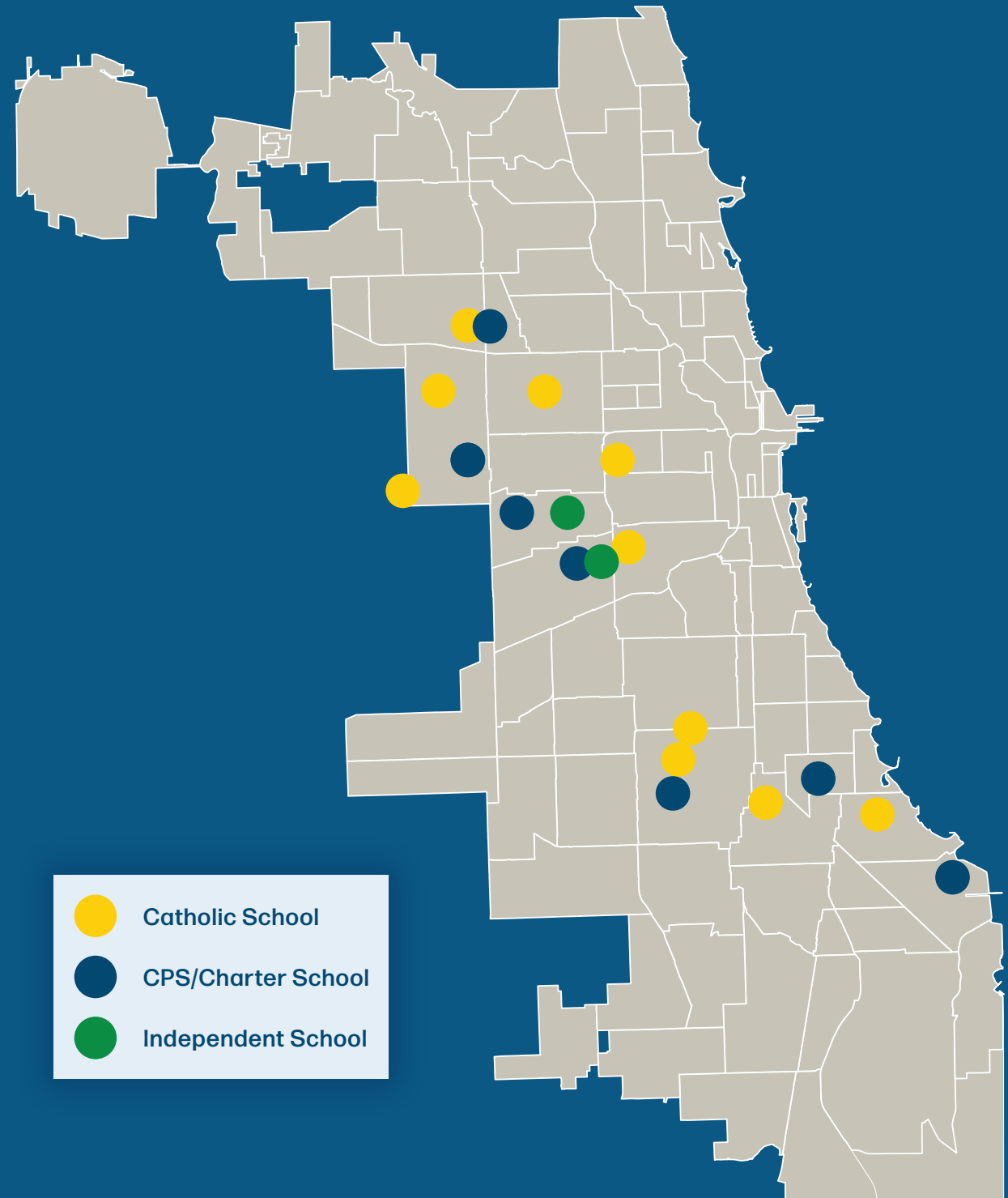
Independent Schools

- > Altus Academy
- > Holy Family

CPS/Charter Schools

- > Chavez MAC
- > Daniel Webster Elementary School
- > Great Lakes Academy
- > Hammond Elementary School
- > Morton Elementary School
- > Providence Englewood
- > Spencer Elementary
- > Wadsworth STEM

Current and Future Partner Schools



YOUR SUPPORT AS WE GROW

In school year 2026-2027, we will serve 1,800 students across 17 schools. By school year 2027-2028, we will partner with 19 elementary schools, accompanying nearly 2,000 students as they enroll and thrive at their best-fit high schools. This gives each student up to a 6x greater chance of graduating college compared to their peers enrolled at their neighborhood CPS schools.

We intentionally partner with schools in neighborhoods impacted by systemic disinvestment. **We provide our HSB program at no cost to our partner schools or their families thanks to our generous benefactors** who believe in the promise of the students we serve.

High School Bridge is funded entirely through donor support. If you are **interested in learning more about how you can support** this critical work, please **contact Caroline Bourjaily, bourjaily@cjacademy.org**

2,000

By 2027-28, HSB will serve nearly 2,000 students across 19 partner schools.





WHAT OUR PARTNERS ARE SAYING

“I didn’t even think I could have support like this. Trust the guidance of those that know the process. Seek out that support, because you guys are here to help. You were very thorough and made sure that I took the initiative.”

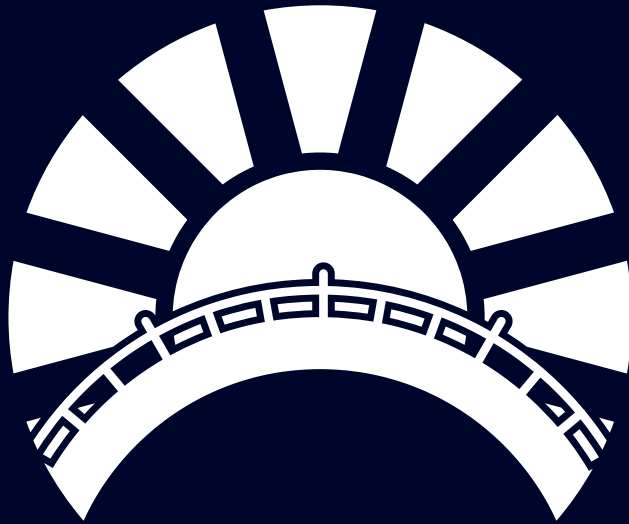
- HSB Student

“Our school counselor is now actually able to do counseling! So much has been taken off of her plate because CJA is able to invest the time needed in our students’ high school transitions.”

- HSB Partner School Principal

“It’s a relief knowing High School Bridge goes with our students to high school, because otherwise they walk out of our doors and we can’t support them like we did.”

- HSB Partner School Guidance Counselor



HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE

Mission

High School Bridge (HSB) helps students attending elementary schools in communities impacted by systemic disinvestment find and succeed in their best-fit high schools.

Phone: (773) 638-6103

Fax: (773) 638-6107

hsb@highschoolbridge.org

www.highschoolbridge.org