

PURE perspectives

Top 10 reasons why R2010 is a failure

1. R2010 doesn't work!!! Mayor Daley and former CPS CEO Arne Duncan promised "dramatically better" schools under R2010, BUT....

- "Daley School Plan Fails to Make Grade" (*Chicago Tribune headline, January 17, 2010*)
- "Because most displaced students transferred from one low-performing school to another, the move did not, on average, significantly affect student achievement."
Consortium on Chicago School Research report on R2010, "When Schools Close," 10/09
- "The overall performance of Chicago's charter schools in raising student test scores is approximately on par with that of traditional public schools in Chicago."
Abstract, RAND Corporation report, 2008

2. Overall, R2010 schools serve **fewer special education, low-income and English-language learner students**, and/or report large achievement gaps between their white and Asian students and their African-American and Latino students.

3. **Students are being displaced and discarded.**

- Research on mobility across many cities, many studies, is conclusive that it *sets students back academically* which is why school districts try to *limit* mobility.
- Stability is not just about being in the same school building; it's about having *the same adults* around, yet CPS fires all or nearly all staff in a turnaround.
- Reports exist all over the city, including in charter school board minutes, of students in R2010 schools being pushed or "counseled out" of these schools, or not accepted in the first place. R2010 schools serve almost no Limited English Proficient students and fewer special education students than regular schools.

4. **Violence has increased in and around schools affected by R2010.**

- Closing schools and combining students from different ethnic, racial and gang affiliations has led to an *increase in violence* centered on our schools (see PURE fact sheet, Violence and R2010).

5. **R2010 schools do not have LSCs, accountability is poor.**

- PURE report shows two-thirds of the R2010 schools *failed to respond* to Freedom of Information Act requests for basic information about their governing bodies in 2008. Information from the schools that did respond showed that *only 5%* of their governing body members were parents.
- A *lawsuit* against CPS for disbanding LSCs in small and alternative schools has been moving forward in Cook County Circuit Court.
- R2010's Transitional Advisory Councils and Alternative LSCs are appointed by CPS. They have no real power and members can be removed by CPS for virtually any reason.

6. R2010 schools get an unfair share of resources.

- CPS provides special resources to R2010 schools, which also receive \$500,000 in start-up funds for two years and additional private funding.
- A May 2007 Catalyst analysis showed that “Nearly \$50 million of \$265 million in renovations now underway are being done in Renaissance and charter schools, according to April reports from area offices. That’s about 19 percent of renovations taking place in buildings that house just 4 percent of students.”
- Many R2010 schools have significant numbers of additional adults in the building, essentially lowering class size, a perk regular schools cannot afford,
- It’s common sense that most regular schools would have done better if they had such resources.

7. Teachers are not fairly evaluated.

- Highly qualified certified teachers and staff are being displaced by this non-education plan, including National Board Certified teachers.
- Data from ISBE shows that the percentage of African-American teachers has *declined 5%* since the beginning of Renaissance 2010 in 2004, while the percentages of all other racial groups has increased.

8. The hearing process is fraudulent.

- CPS changes the school closing, etc., criteria every year, so that the schools they want to close that year will “fit” the criteria.
- Board members do not attend hearings, *do not even read the hearing reports*, yet they have voted to approve every recommendation.
- Only one hearing is held in the school community, with very short notice given. School supporters who miss that hearing must go to downtown CPS headquarters, pay \$25 for parking.
- Hearing officers are *highly-paid consultants* to CPS, not independent.
- The Data and Democracy Report 2008 demonstrates that the CPS formula for underenrollment does not account for educationally appropriate use of space. Many AMPS schools fit CPS underenrolled category. This raises questions about why CPS is using this category with these schools.

9. CPS has **failed to prepare or make public the 2007-08 or 2008-09 R2010 reports on the impact of R2010 on affected students** which are required under CPS’s own Renaissance 2010 policy. In addition, the existing report, covering 2002-2007, only deals with whole school impact, not individual student impact.

10. Renaissance 2010 is not an education plan – it’s a business and real estate developer plan.

- This is Mayor Daley’s plan to push poor African American and Latino residents out of the city.
- Schools to be closed/etc. have over last 5 years mapped onto areas gentrified or adjacent to gentrified/gentrifying areas, according to the Data and Democracy Report 2008 (*Lipman, UIC*).

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100 S. Morgan Street Chicago, IL 60607 pure@pureparents.org www.pureparents.org