

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE AND EDUCATION COALITION  
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AT RICHARDS VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Approve the establishment of the Peace and Education Coalition Alternative School Program (PECASP) as an alternative high school program by combining the Second Chance alternative program ("Second Chance") located at 5114 South Elizabeth and the Dugan alternative program ("Dugan") located at 4541 South Wood to create a single alternative school program with two campuses, PECASP-East and PECASP-West. The new PECASP will become an alternative program administered through Ellen H. Richards Vocational High School, located at 5009 South Laflin Street.

**HISTORY:**

Second Chance has operated as a program of the Chavez Multicultural School and Dugan has operated as a program of Seward Elementary. Both Second Chance and Dugan offer drop out retrieval programming for students aged 17 through 20 who wish to obtain a high school diploma. The programs were both founded through the efforts of local community leaders and educators in response to the rising violence among youth in the Back of the Yards community during the late 1990s. Both programs have a strong track record of success with their students.

CPS believes that it is in the best interest of students to join, effective beginning in September 2006, the Dugan program and Second Chance program to create a single alternative school program, with its own teaching and administrative staff. Both programs share the same mission but serve different neighborhood student populations and therefore will continue to be located in separate facilities for safety and security reasons.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

**Curriculum**

PECASP will provide under-served students with an educational program that prepares them for success in their future educational, career, community, and social spheres of life. PECASP shall provide high quality alternative instructional programming to serve the educational needs of its students through an innovative curriculum, personal guidance, mentoring and other student support systems. The curriculum established shall be aligned with the Illinois State Standards.

PECASP will operate on the year-round, Track E schedule, and the school hours of operation will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

**Facilities**

PECASP will continue to operate at two separate campuses: (1) the Second Chance campus located at 5114 South Elizabeth shall become PECASP-East and (2) the Dugan campus located 4541 South Wood shall become PECASP-West.

**Enrollment**

Anticipated combined enrollment for the 2006-07 school year is approximately 100 students at both campuses. PECASP will have the capacity to serve up to 250 students. Since PECASP serves a highly mobile student population, actual student enrollment may vary.

Enrollment will be citywide and open to any student between the age of 17 and 20 who has dropped out

of school without obtaining a diploma and who indicates a willingness to participate in the program and comply with all program rules. It is anticipated that the majority of the students enrolled will be from the Back of the Yards community and the New City area.

**Accountability**

PECASP shall be held accountable for performance on the following metrics:


1. Attendance: PECASP shall maintain an average monthly student attendance rate of 80 percent or higher.
2. Academic Progress: PECASP students shall obtain at least six months of growth during the school year using the Test of Adult Basic Education or another test approved by the Office of High School Programs.
3. Graduation Rate: PECASP shall maintain a graduation rate at or above the district-wide average,
4. Post-secondary Placement: PECASP shall annually increase the number of graduating students that enroll in two-year or four-year post-secondary programs.

**FINANCIAL:** All campuses of PECASP will be funded in accordance with funding formulas used in other alternative school programs.

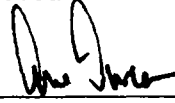
**LSC REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** None.

**Approved for Consideration:**

  
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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
 Chief Education Officer

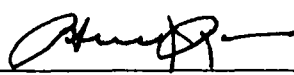
**Approved:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
 Chief Executive Officer

**Noted:**

  
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**John Maiorca**  
 Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

  
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**Patrick Rocks**  
 General Counsel