CHICAGO BUILDS

While providing challenging and intentional programming, Chicago Builds' mission is to provide students with pathways to the building trades after high school. Our passion is to inspire students to do incredible things. Chicago Builds serves as a model for specialized trade schools for high school students interested in pursuing a career in the building trades as a post-secondary option. Chicago Builds is an IL Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program site and offers the Master Builder program in collaboration with City Colleges of Chicago.

Who can apply?
Any 11th or 12th grader in good standing towards graduation is eligible to apply for a seat in Chicago Builds

When do students apply?
We encourage interested students to apply between February and May of their Sophomore or Junior year of high school.

Where do I get the application?
Applications can be completed online: CPS.edu/ChicagoBuilds

Is Chicago Builds an accredited course?
Students can earn up to 5 credits over the two-year span (1.25 credits/semester you attend the program)

What are the qualifications?
There are no minimum requirements to apply. However, students should be interested in construction, committed to attending the program each day, and willing to take advantage of work-based learning opportunities as they arise.

What time of the day is Chicago Builds run?
Chicago Builds offers two cohorts per day; AM cohort (8:30 am-10:30 am) and PM cohort (1:45 pm-3:45 pm). Students must work with their home school's counselor to determine which session fits into their schedule.

Chicago Builds offers students interested in a career in the building trades access to:

- High school credits in a hands-on class (up to 5 credits)
- Technical skills needed to start a career after high school
- Certifications required for a career in construction
- Preparation for union entrance exams
- Integration of Construction Math and Literacy skills in classes
- Dual Credit opportunities
- Access to marketable construction industry disciplines
- Entrepreneurship skill development
- Networking and Resume Writing Supports
- 6 Seasoned industry-trained instructors
- 5 Industry-specific training suites
- Paid Summer job placement/internships
- Dedicated post-secondary support teams
- Workplace and job shadowing opportunities

How does Chicago Builds Work?



Level 1 Students participate in four 10-week rotations between the construction pathways. During each rotation, students will learn from and network with industry experts in the construction field. After the four rotations are completed by year-end, students are encouraged to select one area of concentration (Electricity or Carpentry for Level II Curriculum).

Level 2: After students complete the Level I rotations at Chicago Builds, students are able to apply to return for Level II. During the Level II pathways, students' post-secondary plans begin to take a more defined shape. Along with concentrating on one specific curriculum area, students are trained daily in preparation for potential apprenticeship entrance examinations. The daily subject matter in Level II is designed to prepare each student to move easily into the construction workforce or pre-apprenticeship programs for the various construction trades. Level II admission is not guaranteed to students who have/have not participated in Level I.

Chicago Builds Application Process

The application for the Chicago Builds citywide construction training program is open to all rising 11th and 12th-grade (current 10th and 11th-grade) CPS & Charter students. Applications will be accepted beginning December 1st of each year.. While there are no minimum academic requirements for admission to Chicago Builds, priority will be given to rising Juniors entering the program.

Applications will be complete for students once they submit all associated application paperwork, including the Student & Parent Expectations and Consent Contract and the Recommendation Form.







Chicago Builds Information Sessions

Parents, students, and other interested stakeholders will receive an overview of the program, meet staff, and tour labs.

Check the Chicago Builds website for current dates and times.
cps.edu/ChicagoBuilds

(Both in-person and virtual sessions will be available.)

Step by Step Instructions

It is highly recommended that students and parents visit Chicago Builds, located at Dunbar Vocational Career Academy, 3000 S King Dr, Chicago, IL 60616.

Step 1 – Complete the **Chicago Builds Application**
Step 2 – Complete the Student and Parent Expectations and Consent Contract **[English | Spanish]**
Step 3 – Complete a Recommendation Form **[English | Spanish]** - (1 is required)
Step 4 – Return all documents to the Chicago Builds office via email at **ChicagoBuilds@cps.edu**

Visit our website for more information CPS.edu/ChicagoBuilds.

Chicago Builds is here to help! If you have questions, give us a call at 773-534-0909 or send us an email at ChicagoBuilds@cps.edu. We are happy to answer your questions or set up a time for you to see the program in action.