

Petition to Renew YCCS's Charter and Invest in Chicago's Future

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We, the undersigned, demand a full renewal of Youth Connection Charter School's (YCCS) charter and a significant increase in investment to further our impact. For over 27 years, YCCS has been a lifeline for Chicago's most vulnerable youth, bridging gaps left by traditional education systems and building a foundation of equity, opportunity, and resilience across our communities. This renewal must come without any limitations or barriers that restrict YCCS from advancing its mission—barriers that effectively deny our youth access to essential educational opportunities. Limiting YCCS's reach constitutes a civil rights violation against our parents, our communities, and the future of Chicago's most vulnerable students.

PROBLEM

Chicago's young people, especially those aged 16-21, face mounting risks—crime, drug use, and lack of opportunity—without the right support. Historical inequities, resource shortages, and systemic barriers have created a gap that YCCS uniquely fills, providing not just education but critical structure and purpose. Without YCCS, thousands of vulnerable youth would be left without pathways to stability and success.

UNDENIABLE IMPACT

For nearly three decades, YCCS has stepped in where traditional schools have fallen short, providing transformative support that goes beyond education:

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Over 27,000 graduates and 15 years as a top-performing charter school reflect YCCS's commitment to excellence and Chicago's underserved communities.

COMMUNITY BASED IMPACT

With 17 community-based campuses, YCCS is a vital support system, offering alternatives to dropout, job training, and reducing youth involvement in crime.

PRESSURE-TESTED PERFORMANCE

YCCS maintains a high performance status as recognized by CPS demonstrating demonstrating resilience, adaptability, and academic rigor.

