

# Revitalizing Chicago Public Schools Curriculum Through Localization



## Case Study

### The Client

Chicago Public Schools

### The Project

Skyline K-12 Curriculum

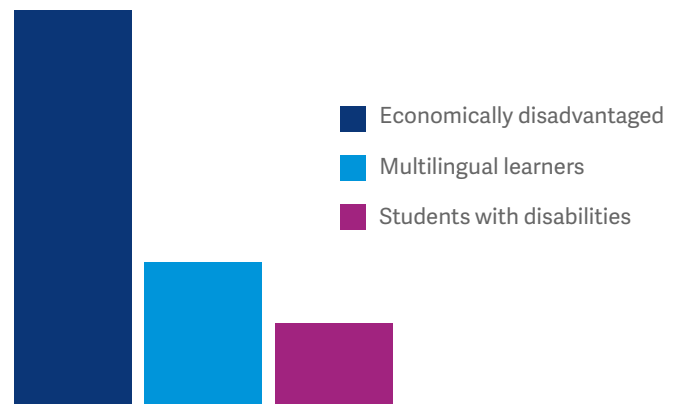
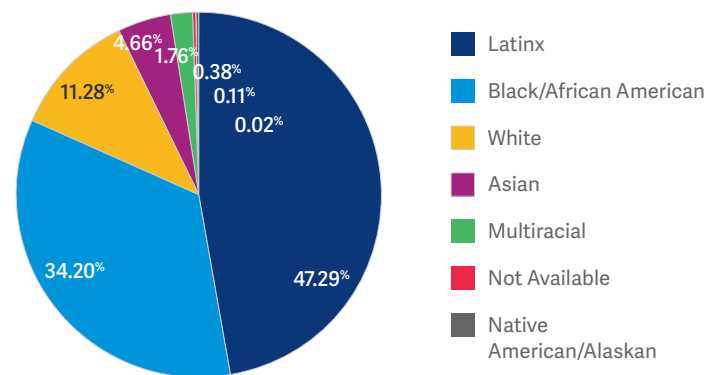
## The Need

In 2019, Chicago Public Schools surveyed teachers and learned that over half reported not having adequate curricular resources, and over 85% wanted the district to provide unit plans, lesson plans, and resources. At the same time, the district identified several gaps in existing approved curricular materials and texts: lack of textual diversity, CR-SE guidance and modeling, and alignment to the district's literacy framework; and a disconnect between foundational reading programs and the core ELA programs.

## The Opportunity

CPS determined that their assets were their district literacy team, which had the capacity to guide and review custom development. They also had a conceptual and budgetary commitment to improve instructional equity. The challenges included the need to train staff on new material, limited time and structures available for teacher material development, and the need for capacity building in CR-SE instructional practices. CPS determined their key priorities to be equity at the curriculum's core, texts that reflect district communities, materials based on CR-SE asset-based practices, and curriculum that builds knowledge through connections to science, social studies, and the arts.

## District Demographics



## The Solution

CPS determined the district goals would best be met by developing a completely new, custom ELA and foundational skills curriculum for PreK-Grade 12 and selected PCG to help them achieve this vision. To meet their priorities, the district:

- Developed an instructional equity rubric and worked with EdReports to build a district-specific ELA curriculum quality rubric.
- ELA leaders established goals for text diversity, collaborated in the selection of every text, and worked with over 200 teachers and leaders across the district to establish a set of requirements for each unit and lesson.
- Used multiple texts from the existing curriculum anthology to maintain cost efficiency.
- Collaborated with Public Consulting Group to develop new customized curriculum and a multi-pronged, three-year professional learning effort.

## The Outcome

Our approach with CPS allowed them to bring SOR-aligned materials and CR-SE-aligned text and instructional practices into a single district product, which has been voluntarily adopted by over 90% of district schools. The components included:

- Custom SOR-aligned, CR-SE embedded localized knowledge-building curriculum for K-2 ELA
- 111 English language arts units, each with a full year of instruction including unit outlines, lesson plans, common assessments, and teacher and student materials
- Three years of in-person, virtual, and self-paced professional learning and implementation support

In 2022-23, the district was first in post-pandemic reading recovery in Grades 3-8. From 2019-2023, the district led the nation in overall reading growth for Black and Latino students.

**To learn more about PCG's work, contact us today!**



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