

**Christopher House Elementary School Achieves Level 1+ Status, Ranks in Top 1% of Chicago Public Schools**

*Christopher House is Closing the Opportunity Gap through a Continuum of Personalized Education with Immersive Family Support that Starts at Birth*

**CHICAGO, October 26, 2017** – Christopher House has tied for fifth place out of the 473 elementary schools rated by Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The school has earned the district's top rating with Level 1+ status, according to the CPS School Quality Rating Policy ([SQRP](#)) report for the 2017-2018 school year. After just two years of being eligible, and four years since opening their doors in the underserved Belmont Cragin neighborhood, this ranking places the school in the top 1 percent of all Chicago Public Schools.

Level 1+ is defined as a “nationally competitive school with opportunity to share best practices with others,” which fits perfectly with the organization’s mission to create a replicable model. The elementary school is one arm of a continuum of education that Christopher House offers and it serves a diverse population with high-needs; for example, 100 percent of students are eligible for free-lunch and 51 percent are English Language Learners. Administration and teachers work together and with parents through goal setting, intervention (MTSS), and pioneering social-emotional tracking to keep the school at a high-performance level despite facing budget issues the past three years.

“We’re thrilled to be recognized with Level 1+ status and a ranking in the top one percent of schools, but above all we’re incredibly proud of our scholars for their outstanding academic accomplishments,” said Lori Baas, Chief Executive Officer for Christopher House. “As an organization with more than 100 years of experience in serving Chicago’s low-income population, one of the very first Head Start providers in Chicago and now a top-rated elementary school, we are continuing to effectively close the opportunity gap in Chicago.”

Christopher House is creating a national model for helping low-income, at-risk children and their families achieve success in school, the workplace, and life. In addition to the elementary school in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood on the city’s Northwest Side, Christopher House has locations in Logan Square and Uptown. Through all three locations Christopher House is able to provide a family of schools: infant & preschool, after school, and parent school. The organization’s innovative approach combines a continuum of high-quality education that starts when students are just six weeks old, personalized learning that focuses on academic growth as well as social and emotional development, and immersive family support that ensures students go home to healthy environments that help them succeed.

While the CPS SQRP rating provides a valuable indicator of school quality and student growth, this standardized metric is one of many data points that Christopher House uses to measure progress and inform advances to ensure the success of its scholars and their families. Across all aspects of its unique model, Christopher House maintains high standards for tracking, using and sharing individual, classroom and community data to continually improve operations, increase effectiveness and extend its impact. Strengthening this approach and focusing on creating a replicable model, Christopher House also leads the award-winning Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative: a partnership of seven well-established education and human services agencies in Chicago dedicated to sharing data, refining best practices and capitalizing on each other’s strengths to tangibly improve outcomes for the low-income children and families they collectively serve.

Outcomes from the 2016-2017 school year for Christopher House include:

- 100% of students receive a personalized curriculum that focuses on both academic growth as well as social and emotional development
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are within the 99<sup>th</sup> national growth percentile for reading and 97<sup>th</sup> for math
- On average all grades K-4 met or exceeded the national norm in reading
- 84% of After School students improved their GPA or maintained a B average
- 93% of parents reached 2/3 goals towards their child's healthy growth and development
- 1,540 hungry children and their families were provided support through the school's food pantry

"We have been with Christopher House since 2010 when my kids were in the Head Start program," said Sabrina Ramirez, parent of a Christopher House 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader. "We were here when the elementary school opened, and Christopher House knows how to best support my kids and help them grow to be their best selves, both academically and emotionally."

For more information about Christopher House and its innovative approach to closing the opportunity gap for at-risk students and families, visit [www.christopherhouse.org](http://www.christopherhouse.org).

#### **About Christopher House**

Founded in 1906, Christopher House is closing the opportunity gap through a continuum of personalized education with immersive family support starting at birth. Through this innovative approach, Christopher House is creating a national model for helping low-income, at-risk children and their families achieve success in school, the workplace, and life. In the 1960's, Christopher House was one of the first Head Start locations in Chicago. Today, with locations in Uptown, Belmont Cragin, and Logan Square, Christopher House serves thousands of children and their families across its Infant School & Preschool, Elementary School, After School, and Parent School. [www.christopherhouse.org](http://www.christopherhouse.org)

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