

For more information contact:  
Celeste Garrett  
CPS Office of Communications  
Telephone: 773-553-1620  
Telefax: 773-553-1621  
Website: cps.k12.il.us

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Nov. 18, 2004

**CPS Chinese World Language Program Expands**  
**With Gift from People's Republic of China**

Chicago Public Schools' internationally recognized Chinese World Language Program will expand to more schools in January, thanks to a generous donation of Mandarin textbooks from the Chinese Ministry of Education, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced Thursday.

The mayor made the announcement at McCormick School, 2712 S. Sawyer, in the heart of the Little Village neighborhood, where about 690 students from kindergarten through fourth grade participate in the Chinese World Language Program. Schools CEO Arne Duncan accepted 1,000 Mandarin language books from the Honorable Xu Jinzhong, consul general of the People's Republic of China.

China's National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language has pledged to make this the first of an annual gift to CPS to support its unique language program, designed to connect students with relevant language and culture skills and prepare them to be premier players in the world's future marketplace.

"I am excited to be here today to announce the expansion of our Chinese World Language Program," said Mayor Daley. "We must continue to expand as global markets expand and become more and more competitive, and I want to thank the National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and the Chinese Ministry of Education for working with Chicago over the years to make these programs possible."

The Chinese World Language Program now is being offered at 12 CPS schools across the city, seven high schools and five elementary, and to 2,320 students. In January, the program will be offered at three additional schools—Howland and Alcott elementary and Madero Middle School—adding more than 1,000 new slots for students.

Expansion of the language program also means greater opportunities for professional development of teachers, Duncan said.

“The Chinese World Language Program is part of our mission to help prepare children to be productive and enterprising world citizens,” he said. “And this expansion represents yet another learning opportunity available to more of our students.”

The Chinese World Language Program was established at CPS in 1998 and has grown each year under the leadership of the district’s Office of Language and Cultural Education. CPS is one of the few school districts in the country offering Chinese language studies to non-Chinese speaking students. The Chinese Ministry of Education, which has appointed a separate education consulate for the Midwest located in Chicago, has identified CPS as having the model Chinese World Language program in the United States.

The Chinese National Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOTCFL) also has identified CPS as having a model program and uses CPS materials for designing education literature for other North American students learning the language and culture of China.

“I believe that this partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Education will be a model program and will act as a great motivation in the development of teaching Chinese in the USA,” said Professor Zhu Hongqing, consul for education at the Education Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago. “The program will help the younger generation in the U.S. have a better understanding of the real China and its language, culture and history.”

Chicago Public Schools is the nation’s third-largest school system. It includes more than 600 schools and serves about 431,000 students.