

Additional areas of CPS budget spending to examine:  
Contracts, vendor payments and departments

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**Jacobs Project Management \$55M, 2019-2022.** This company was flagged five years ago by the [Sun-Times](#), but has had contract after contract renewed. CPS pays these companies for hourly labor costs and then also adds on a multiplier for "fringe benefits, overhead, profit". CPS also covers office expenses (desk, computers, telephone, equipment) and mileage. The multipliers on the labor costs vary from 2.18-2.37 by contract. By returning these functions in-house, these positions could be reduced to a 1.3 multiplier (salary + benefits).

At least five of the subcontractors on the current agreement ([19-0522-PR6](#)) were in the [the 2014 Sun-Times story](#): d'Escoto, DSR, Comprehensive Construction Consulting, Ardmore Associates, SP Murphy). (In that article, some of the subcontractors were doing work under URS and Lend Lease, but recent contracts have been entirely through Jacobs.)

Some of the other subcontractors have clout connections as well:

[Kristine Fallon Associates](#):

"TMAC, a joint venture that includes: URS Corp.; Turner Construction; Mota Construction; McKissack & McKissack; Brown & Momen, and Kristine Fallon Associates. Turner's lobbyist is Al Ronan, whose political maneuverings at McCormick Place are reportedly under federal investigation. URS is represented by Daley's former Washington lobbyist Steve Schlickman, who ran the now-defunct downtown circulator project that spent \$59 million of taxpayer funds but never turned a single shovel of dirt."

[Cotter Consulting](#): Former group manager [John Plezbert was collecting a pension for his Daley-appointed job while employed at the Public Building Commission](#). Plezbert is now at Primera, another subcontractor on this Jacobs agreement. (And Cotter is also [mentioned here](#) as partnering with Bechtel who was being represented by Victor Reyes. [And in this other Daley-era scandal involving Victor Reyes and Cotter.](#))

**Standardized assessment vendors, FY2019 payments >\$20M**

Note that these payments are *not* for federal/state required testing because the IL State Board of Education purchases those tests. CPS could use those state-funded tests for the purposes of compliance with [105 ILCS 5/34-8.3](#) and PERA. Selective schools could do admission by lottery, by grades or using state test scores.

ACT  
American Institutes for Research  
Amplify/Wireless Generation  
Brookes Publishing

College Entrance Examination Board DBA The College Board  
ECRA  
Educational Testing Service  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Sanford Systems DBA Key Data Systems  
Lakeshore Learning  
NCS Pearson  
Northwest Evaluation Association  
Pearson Education  
Riverside Publishing  
Scantron  
Teaching Strategies  
The Princeton Review (TPR Learning)

### **Ed tech vendors, FY2019, >\$13M**

This total includes products that are part of the district-level pooled contract for pre-qualified ed tech vendors ([19-0626-PR3](#)) and other which is likely school-level spending decisions. List available [upon request](#).

**Curriculum contract, \$135M** [Reported on in Chalkbeat \(May 2019\) when it was passed](#).

### **Central office spending, \$279M**

[From Chalkbeat Aug 2019](#):

“The district’s proposed central office budget will increase by 14% to \$279 million, and increase from about 900 people at the end of last school year to 1,060 people. Experts say the relative size of Chicago’s education bureaucracy, about 5% of the district’s operating budget, is bigger than other large urban school districts, even as the city has moved toward a more decentralized approach to governing and funding schools.”

For example, the **Law Department** in [FY2012](#), the Law Department was about 70 positions and \$12M. By [FY2020](#) it has ballooned about 1/3 to 90 positions and \$16M.

Other departments to examine (total of **\$58.8M** for FY2020):

**Office of School Quality Measurement and Research:** \$2.6M

**Network Support and Networks 1-17:** \$25.6M

**Department of Personalized Learning:** \$15.3M

**Office of Portfolio Management:** \$300K

**Family & Community Engagement Office** \$5.8M (Some of this is Title I dollars which must be spent on Title I school programming; some is for LSC support, which should in fact be increased.)

**Innovation and Incubation Office** \$3.4M

**Assessment** \$5.8M (Some of this is likely contracts mentioned above in assessment vendor payments)