

Notice regarding the temporary relocation of 7th and 8th grade students at Josephine C. Locke Elementary School, located at 2828 North Oak Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634, to Charles P. Steinmetz College Prep, located at 3030 North Mobile Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634.

During a comprehensive replacement of Locke's roof, the structural engineer overseeing the renovation identified extensive concrete deterioration following the removal of the masonry. The concrete deterioration is structurally significant and potentially compromises the capacity of the beam that supports the mansard roof framing of the second floor classrooms of the west side of the school. The structural engineer determined that relocating the west side second floor classrooms is appropriate and in the best interest of student safety.

On September 11, 2019, upon notification from the structural engineer that the west side second floor classrooms would need to be evacuated, Locke administration relocated students to alternate locations within the school on a temporary basis.

To ensure the continued safety of students and staff, starting Monday, September 16, 2019, all 7th and 8th grade students will move to an interim facility, Steinmetz College Prep, which is less than one mile from Locke Elementary School. It is expected that 7th and 8th grade students will return to Locke on January 6, 2020. More information regarding this emergency relocation is detailed in the notice letter to parents and guardians of students.

The district is unable to comply with applicable requirements pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-200 through 5/34-235 due to the unexpected nature of this incident and imminent safety concerns. It further imposes restrictive timelines that would impede the school's ability to immediately address safety concerns.