

Chicago's Early College STEM Schools



Collaboration for a New Kind of Education

IT: A Growth Industry in Need of Workers

DURING Q3 2015, THERE WERE OVER A MILLION OPEN IT JOBS IN THE US.

IT IS PROJECTED TO BE THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY SECTOR THROUGH 2018.

IT POSTINGS HAVE GROWN BY 87% SINCE Q3 2014.

*ACCORDING TO BURNING GLASS TECHNOLOGIES LABOR INSIGHTS

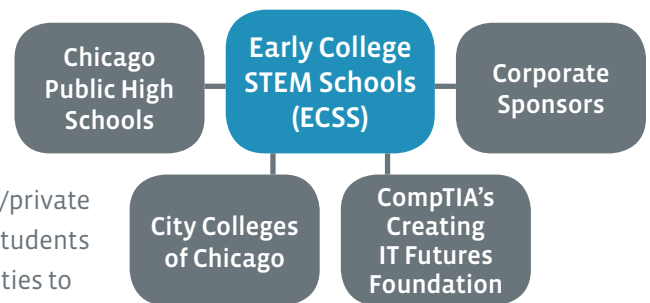
STARTING SALARIES FOR IT JOBS IN CHICAGO

Desktop Support Analyst	\$61,192-\$89,790
Software Developer	\$98,708-\$156,518
Mobile Applications Developer	\$123,000-\$177,120
Chief Technology Officer	\$162,668-\$253,072

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Education & Industry Come Together

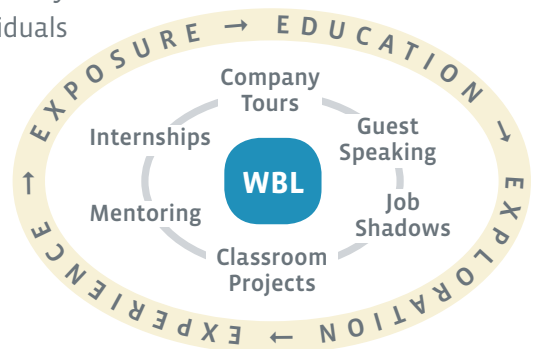
In 2012, the City of Chicago designated five Early College STEM Schools (ECSS) to ensure students have the education and skills needed to pursue in-demand, entry-level IT careers after graduation. Supported through public/private partnerships, students gain opportunities to simultaneously earn



their high school diploma, associate's degree in one of three IT college pathways, IT certification training and work-based learning activities.

Work-Based Learning

In the ECSS program, industry organizations and individuals provide work-based learning activities to show students the relevance of what they are learning for their future, and the skills needed and valued by employers.



<https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu/ecss/>



ECSS Schools

Each STEM school is paired with a postsecondary community college to provide the IT pathway curriculum. Additionally, each school is partnered with a corporate sponsor in Chicago to support work-based learning activities.

SCHOOL	SPONSOR	COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNER
Michelle Clark	Cisco	Malcolm X
George Corliss	Verizon	Olive Harvey
CVCA	Motorola	Olive Harvey
Sarah Goode	IBM	Daley
Lake View	Microsoft	Wright

ECSS Curriculum

Students have the opportunity to simultaneously earn their high school diploma, associate's degree, and IT industry certifications.

IT CAREER PATHWAYS	CERTIFICATION TRAINING	TARGET DEGREES (AS/AAS)
Networking	CompTIA A+, CCNET, CCNA, Network+, CCNA, Security+	AAS
Web Development	HTML5/CSS3	AAS/AS
Computer Programming		AS

Hallmarks of Success

CAREER AWARENESS — Thousands of students have a broadened knowledge of IT careers through classroom speakers and company field trips.

CAREER EXPLORATION — Over 1000 students have a deeper understanding of specific jobs within IT pathways and have made meaningful connections with industry mentors and professionals who provided classroom project support and guidance.

CAREER PREPARATION — 400 students received technical and soft skills development through job shadows and employer-led workshops.

CAREER EXPERIENCE — Nearly 100 students received on-the-job training from local businesses. Our partners provided six-week, technology-based summer internship opportunities. Problem solving, critical thinking, and oral communication/ presentation skills were among the top skills learned by students.



Time Magazine featuring IBM and ECSS school, Sarah Goode STEM Academy on February 2014 cover.

“The interns’ skill level was very high. They knew how to work the computers and web pages, and their knowledge really brought a lot to the table.”
 —Richard Dominguez, executive director, Literacy Chicago

View a video with more employer and student testimonials at <http://tinyurl.com/zbwd4ad>.



Students participating in a mobile app challenge hosted by BlueCross BlueShield.

<https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu/ecss/>

