

Elisa Botello

Director of New School Development, Chicago Public Schools

Elisa M. Botello is the Director for the New School Development Team in Chicago Public School's (CPS) Office of Innovation and Incubation. The New School Development Team leads and supports the design and development of all new, innovative school models. In her role, Elisa works to ensure that CPS adheres to any and all provisions of the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois School Code regarding charter, contract, and alternative learning programs.



As a highly respected and thoughtful policy analyst, Elisa is regularly called upon to provide perspective on the implications of CPS's major initiatives. Within CPS, she has served as an Authorization Coordinator as well as the Liaison to the Board of Education. These roles allowed her to participate in key initiatives and projects for the district, including the Renaissance 2010 Initiative and the historic closing of 49 schools in 2013.

Elisa is a 2016 Surge Fellow. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Art with a concentration in Photo/Film at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She participated in *Under/Over*, the UIC 2006 Undergraduate Thesis show and UIC's Summer Research Opportunity Program. Elisa was appointed a McNair Scholar, and was the recipient of the President's award.

Elisa is an avid traveler. She has traveled through more than half of the continental United States and visited Europe, Mexico and Japan. She has a serious passion for cooking, stays active by running and expresses her creativity by taking photos.