



Post Office Box 1126  
Des Plaines, IL 60017-1126

Contact : Jeanette Camacho  
773-686-3198  
jcamacho@ohare.com

## **Two Chicago Schools Will Receive \$9.3 Million to Mitigate O'Hare Aircraft Noise**

### *O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission Oversees Implementation*

Des Plaines, Ill., Sept. 28, 2012—Two elementary schools on the northwest side of Chicago will receive a total of \$9.3 million in grants to sound insulate their buildings from aircraft noise generated at nearby O'Hare International Airport.

Grant recipients Farnsworth Elementary School, 5414 N. Linder Ave., and St. Tarcissus School, 6040 W. Ardmore Ave., are located about one mile from each other in Chicago's 45th Ward.

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, an inter-governmental agency committed to reducing aircraft noise in communities near O'Hare, oversees the O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA tested and deemed Farnsworth as eligible for sound insulation in 2007. The school received a \$350,000 federal grant for design work in late 2009.

ONCC requested the CDA conduct a noise assessment of St. Tarcissus in August 2011. The school was declared eligible for sound insulation funds, based on last summer's aircraft noise-monitoring results.

"We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) who announced the Department of Transportation grants, and the continued support of the Federal Aviation Administration and the city of Chicago," said Dr. Raymond Kuper, chairman of ONCC's School Sound Insulation Committee. "We know this sound insulation makes a difference for our children and expect the students and staff at Farnsworth and St. Tarcissus will achieve even greater success in their new, quiet surroundings." Kuper continued.

The Federal Aviation Administration will reimburse the school 80 percent of the cost using Airport Improvement Program funds while the city of Chicago will reimburse the remaining 20 percent using approved airline passenger facility charges. Sound insulation contractors will be selected by the Archdiocese of Chicago for St. Tarcissus and by Chicago Public Schools for Farnsworth.

St. Tarcissus is situated on a four-building campus that serves approximately 355 pre-school through eighth grade students with 35 staff and support personnel. The sound insulation work will include acoustical windows, new heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, and other modifications.

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2 Chicago schools will receive \$9.3 million in sound insulation/add 1

Farnsworth has 610 students and 55 staff and support personnel. Sound insulation for the 24-classroom school will include acoustical windows and a new HVAC system to create a quieter learning environment.

U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5th District) and Alderman John Arena (45th Ward) serve residents in the attendance areas for these schools.

The O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program is the largest and one of the oldest programs in the world. It has allocated approximately \$332.8 million in federal and airport funds to sound-insulate 119 schools near O'Hare with 4 more schools in process. Ebinger Elementary School, an eligible CPS school, awaits funding to complete the 124-school sound insulation program.

ONCC, composed of representatives from 28 Cook and DuPage communities, Cook County, and 16 school districts, strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods of O'Hare International Airport through home and school insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source. For information, contact Jeanette Camacho, 773-686-3198, or visit [www.oharenoise.org](http://www.oharenoise.org).

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ONCC member communities: Arlington Heights; Bartlett; Bellwood; Bensenville; Chicago including Wards 36, 38, 39, 41, 45; Des Plaines; Elmwood Park; Franklin Park; Harwood Heights; Hoffman Estates; Itasca; Maywood; Melrose Park; Mount Prospect; Niles; Norridge; Northlake; Oak Park; Palatine; Park Ridge; River Forest; River Grove; Rolling Meadows; Rosemont; Schaumburg; Schiller Park; Stone Park; Wood Dale and Cook County. ONCC member school districts: 59; 63; 64; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.