

Support SB 148 / HB 251 Keep Local School Councils Inclusive

Senators: Aquino, Collins, Villanueva, Harris, Pacione-Zayas, Simmons (*Passed April 22, 2021*)

Representatives: Cassidy, Elizabeth Hernandez, Mah, Buckner, Tarver, LaPointe, Mason, Delgado, Ortiz, Gonzalez, Guzzardi, Ramirez, Croke, Stava-Murray, Barbara Hernandez, Didech, Conroy, Ammons, Moeller, Carroll, Williams, Robinson, Lewis

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) supports civically engaged parents and community members who wish to run for election to their Local School Councils (LSCs). LSCs are elected at each public school in Chicago to approve the budget and academic plan, as well as evaluate the principal. LSC members are volunteers who are closely supervised by school staff.

It's Time to Treat LSC Members like Volunteers – Let CPS Change its Policy!

The bill allows CPS to revise the LSC background check policy to match that of other staff-supervised persons who volunteer for less than 10 hours per week. Presently, state law requires LSC members to provide fingerprints for a background check even though Chicago volunteers and elected school boards in other cities are generally not fingerprinted. The current policy deters many African American and Latino parents, and persons uneasy about providing excessive personal information to the government, from joining an LSC.

The bill allows CPS to apply the same standards to all volunteers, to include LSC members. A person is ineligible to serve on an LSC if they appear on the sex offender or murderer and violent offender against youth databases. Members are required to follow all volunteer policies.

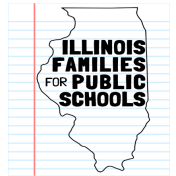
CPS Supports HB 251

“This bill represents the district’s continued commitment to ensuring that families of all cultural backgrounds have a say in the decision-making process within the schools in their neighborhoods and those that their children attend ... With its passage, the bill will allow Chicago Public Schools to promote inclusive local school councils while keeping our students safe.”

- Dr. Janice Jackson, CEO, Chicago Public Schools

What Comes Next?

CPS is committed to working with stakeholders to incorporate LSCs into the volunteer policy.



Proponents

Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Teachers Union

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Chicago United for Equity

Enlace Chicago

HANA Center

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Illinois Families for Public Schools

Kenwood Oakland Community Organization

Lugenia Burns Hope Center

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Northside Action 4 Justice

Parents 4 Teachers

Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education

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