



## Support SB 453

### Keep Local School Councils Inclusive

**Senator Aquino**, Martinez, Peters, Lightford, Villivalam, Collins, Hunter, and Harris.  
Passed the Senate on April 11, 2019

**Representative Villanueva**, Cassidy, Mah, Tarver, Evans, Ortiz, Gabel, Guzzardi, Welch, Thapedi, L. Hernandez, B. Hernandez, Williams, and Ramirez.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) should support 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 school 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, Latino, and immigrant parents from joining an LSC.

SB 453 allows CPS to apply consistent standards to all volunteers, to include LSC members. The bill directs CPS to ensure that LSC candidates are:

- Ineligible if they appear on the national sex offender database, the Illinois sex offender website, or the Illinois murderer and violent offender against youth database; and
- Required to follow all applicable school rules and policies if they volunteer outside of the scope of their LSC duties.

This bill is in response to community requests at the August 2018 CPS Board meeting, about which CPS tweeted: "We are supportive of a legislative change that would allow the district to revise our volunteer policy to classify Local School Council members as Level II volunteers."

#### **What Comes Next?**

CPS has committed to working with LSCs and community groups to incorporate LSCs into the volunteer program. But state law must be changed before the local work can begin!