

Email sent to LSC members Fri, Dec 18, 2020 with the update on fingerprinting requirements.

Dear LSC Members,

Congratulations to all of our newly elected, re-elected, and appointed Local School Council Members!

As our Office communicated on December 15, 2020, pursuant to the Illinois School Code, LSC members are required to complete a criminal background investigation prior to taking office on January 11, 2021. However, as part of contagion mitigation efforts as we reopen schools and the fact that all essential LSC business can be completed virtually, the District will continue to require Local School Councils to meet remotely.

In light of this, CPS will defer the requirement that LSC members complete their background investigation by January 11th. A new deadline will be scheduled in the future, at which time CPS will be required to enforce this requirement. We will inform you when that decision is made.

The safety of our students is CPS' first priority. Thank you for your support during this process.

To note: This email was sent to CPS on Dec 16, 2020 on behalf of several organizations including RYH.

President del Valle,

I am writing to follow up on our conversation from today regarding the local school council (LSC) background checks. As you know, on December 15th newly elected or re-elected and appointed LSC members were directed to report in-person to fingerprinting sites before January 11, 2021 in order to submit to a fingerprint-based background check.

To preserve public safety, CPS should postpone this requirement for LSC members until the pandemic is under control. It is unreasonable to require over 4000 parents and community members to get fingerprinted within the next 25 days, with 4 of those days being state holidays, during the middle of a pandemic and amid holiday closings - especially as LSC business is currently virtual and CPS is not providing their fingerprinting services ([document of CPS sites in email](#) are from August 2020).

CPS has the legal authority to postpone fingerprinting: Although state law typically requires that these background checks take place upon election or appointment of the LSC member, the state legislature passed a law that allows CPS to "make any necessary modifications" to the 2020 LSC election process to comply with health and safety guidance from the CDC and Department of Public Health. (See 105 ILCS 5/34-2.1(c-5) ("[F]or the local school council election set for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board may hold the election on the first semester Parent Report Card Pick-up Day of the 2020-2021 school year, making any necessary modifications to the election process or date to comply with guidance from the Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." [emphasis added]).)

CPS has [not always enforced this requirement](#), which has been subject to widespread criticism by parents and community members that it chills participation by undocumented parents without a tangible safety benefit. CPS should exercise its legal authority and postpone the fingerprinting process until it is safe to do so.

On behalf of the groups cc'd on this email, we request the opportunity to meet with you and the CPS legal team to discuss this issue. If this is possible, please let us know of the dates and times that work with your schedule.

Thank you for your time,

Griselda

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Email response from CPS to the above email, Dec 18, 2020

Dear Ms. Samuel,

President del Valle has asked me to respond to your email on his behalf. In light of the fact that the school district will continue to require that LSCs meet remotely as a part of contagion mitigation efforts as we reopen schools, CPS will defer the requirement that LSC members complete the background process by January 11th. A new deadline will be scheduled at some point in the future at which time CPS will be required to enforce the requirement absent any changes in the law. We will advise you when that happens. OLSCR has begun communicating this to the recently elected and appointed LSC members.

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