



## SB \_\_\_\_\_ (formerly SB 1737) Promoting Inclusive Local School Councils

**Senate Sponsors:** Aquino, Martinez, Villivalam, Peters, Lightford, Sandoval, Hunter, Collins, Harris, Muñoz

The bill reduces barriers for civically engaged parents and community leaders to serve as Local School Council (LSC) members in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). LSCs are hyperlocal elected bodies that approve the school budget and school-based academic plan and hire and evaluate the principal. Effective LSCs reflect the diversity of their school.

The bill allows CPS to amend the LSC candidate eligibility to that of parent and community members classified as Level II volunteers while ensuring that LSC candidates are screened against the Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases. Level II volunteers and LSC members do not have unsupervised contact with students.

This initiative is in response to community requests, about which CPS tweeted in August 2018: “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.”

### **The bill updates the School Code to:**

- Disqualify LSC candidates matched against the following databases, subject to appeal:
  - Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website;
  - Statewide Sex Offender Database;
  - Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database;
- Require LSC members to follow all relevant school rules and policies if they volunteer outside of the scope of their council member duties; and
- Replace existing background check language with database screening.

Engaged parents and inclusive school communities lead to successful students - let our LSC's reflect that diversity and help our children succeed.

**Endorsing Organizations:** Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, MALDEF, Enlace, Chicago United for Equity, Parents 4 Teachers, Chicago Teachers Union, Raise Your Hand Action, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Access Living, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Arab American Family Services, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, HANA Center, Indo American Center, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, PASO, Illinois PIRG, Muejres Latinas en Accion, Latino Policy Forum, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos.

Contact: Candace Moore [cmoore@clccrul.org](mailto:cmoore@clccrul.org)  
Steven Monroy at: [smonroy@maldef.org](mailto:smonroy@maldef.org)

April 2, 2019