



SB 453

Promoting Inclusive Local School Councils

Sens. Aquino, Martinez, Peters, Lightford, Villivalam, Collins, Hunter, Harris (Passed April 11)

Reps. Villanueva, Cassidy, Mah, Tarver, Evans, Ortiz, Gabel, Guzzardi, Welch, Thapedi, Williams
Lisa Hernandez, Barbara Hernandez, Martwick, Ramirez.

SB 453 reduces barriers for parents and community leaders to serve as Local School Council (LSC) members in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). LSCs are elected in each school to approve the school budget and school-based academic plan and hire and evaluate the principal. LSC members are closely supervised by school staff at all times while on school property.

The bill allows CPS to match the LSC member screening process to that of lower-level ("Level II") volunteers. LSC members will continue to be screened for offenses that would bar a person from working or volunteering in CPS. They will also be checked against the Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases.

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 amends the School Code to:

- Disqualify LSC candidates matched against the following databases, subject to appeal:
 - Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender and Statewide Sex Offender websites; and
 - 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
- Standardize the disqualifying offenses with those applying to staff and employees.

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.

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