

# LSC Empowerment Bill

**HB 334 and SB188**

**Chief Sponsor Rep. Sonya Harper (6<sup>th</sup> District)**

**Chief Sponsor Sen. Ram Villivalam (8<sup>th</sup> District)**

## **What are Local School Councils (LSCs)?**

Publicly elected community representatives with the authority to:

- Approve discretionary funding in their school district
- Approve and monitor implementation of the annual school improvement plan
- Hire and evaluate school Principal contract

## **How this Legislation Empowers LSCs**

1. Every school receiving public funds will also have an elected, fully empowered LSC. This includes Charter, Small, Military and Contract Schools (AUSL)
  - (A) In Military Schools the Commandant will be on the LSC (in place of the principal)
  - (A) In Charter and Contract Schools, this bill will take into effect new contracts that are given the day after passage of this bill. In addition, Charters and Contract schools must have a fully empowered LSC in place (not advisory LSC) for at least 1 year to renew any contracts. Unless there are less than 2 years left in contract once this bill has been passed
2. LSCs will keep decision-making authority status regardless of their probationary, or Level 5, status
3. An independent training commission will be in charge of training LSC members
4. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to engage as members of LSCs
  - (A) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be advisory members, with no voting power
5. Schools will not be closed or reconstituted in any other substantive way, without a supermajority vote of their LSC
  - (A) In order to close a school there must be a supermajority of 8 votes in favor move forward a CPS action to close a school. These votes must come from the 6 parent Reps, 2 community Reps. And in High Schools the 1 student Rep

## **Why LSC Empowerment is Important**

- *LSCs are an important component of school-based democracy*
- *Schools without LSCs have higher teacher turnover rates (Designs for Change).*
- *Schools with LSCs perform better - schools in areas of high poverty with active LSCs who chose their principals outperformed schools without LSCs at reading (Designs for Change)*

## **History of Legislative Support**

During the IL 95th General Assembly, House Joint Resolution 0071, sponsored by Senator Hunter (D - 3) and Representative Golar (D - 6), was adopted in the Illinois House of Representatives. HJR0071 expressed the General Assembly's support for empowerment of LSCs as effective local, publicly-elected decision-making bodies in the City of Chicago and the sponsorship of subject-matter hearings on the needs of LSCs to ensure their continued success

## **Who Serves on LSCs?**

<b>Elementary Schools - 12 Voting Members</b>	<b>High Schools - 13 Voting Members</b>
1 Principal	1 Principal
6 Parent Representatives	6 Parent Representatives
2 Teacher Representatives	2 Teacher Representatives
1 Non-Teaching Staff Representative	1 Non-Teaching Staff Representative
2 Community Representatives	1 Student Representative
	2 Community Representatives

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