

We are happy to see many schools receiving facilities investments. We believe every school should get the necessary repairs and upgrades they need. Most schools have waited far too long for such investments.

Parents continue to ask Raise Your Hand: How does CPS choose who has to wait and who doesn't? Parents, schools and the public deserve to know this, and to have a more equitable framework where every school that has a crumbling roof or failed plumbing system is considered equal and worthy of capital dollars.

At last year's FY20 capital plan hearings, it was nice to see a slide that claims that you have a process. That needs to be shared widely and with more explanation.

THERE IS NO CURRENT SYSTEM TO INFORM AND ENGAGE PARENTS- instead we have begging and politics driving CPS capital budget decision making.

We continue to ask CPS for a long term, overarching, citywide Educational Facilities Master Plan which is informed by robust community engagement. This is not a crazy ask... it's actually the law. As far as we can tell, CPS is not in compliance with this law.\*

The current state of how capital plans are made is no way to run any kind of a system. Also, with billions of dollars in unmet facilities needs an EFMP may be the only way out in addressing school facility needs.

All students deserve well-resourced, well-maintained, clean, healthy, comfortable school buildings. And all communities deserve stable, well-resourced schools. The CPS Board of Education should engage in a transparent process to determine capital projects.

Additionally, the process for signing up to speak at the FY21 capital plan hearings was unacceptable and not transparent. There was info about the hearings on [cps.edu/calendar](http://cps.edu/calendar) BUT only the budget hearings had a link to [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) to sign up to speak. We never saw a direction given as to where to sign up for the capital plan hearings. We looked repeatedly at both the CPS calendar webpage as well as the CPS BOE website and we never saw it. Sure it's possible we missed it but why "time out" speaker registration? Why hide the registration link? We're happy that the 2 communities that are getting big investments (Sauganash ES & Chinatown HS) were able to find the speaker registration sign up but how did they find it and absolutely no one else did? Barely anyone attends these anyway, let alone speaks, so why make it difficult? This type of thing erodes trust in the district and is truly unnecessary, BUT addressing facility needs are necessary and crucial for student health & safety.

\*The law that was passed in 2011 requires CPS to have a 10-Year Educational Facilities Master Plan or EFMP. In September of 2013, a Plan was approved and, supposedly, implemented. A 5 Year Update to the original EFMP was published last summer- it is still labeled as "Draft" on the CPS website and there was no real community engagement around it. CPS does a major

disservice to communities when they don't engage them and follow a publicly available plan that distributes resources across the city to address facilities needs fairly and equitably.

Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education

P.S. If the above statement sounds familiar, yes, it's [our statement from last year's capital plan hearings](#) and incredibly similar to what we've said year after year for about 5 years.