



Board of Education

City of Chicago

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Dear CPS Families,

For too long, Chicago students have been on the receiving end of a state education funding system that is separate and unequal. As their parents and guardians, you know all too well what this means – increased school fees, fewer programs and anxiety about future funding for high quality programming that enriches your child.

Today, we take our fight for equality to the courts, with several CPS families and the Board of Education filing a lawsuit declaring these separate and unequal education funding systems illegal under the Illinois Civil Rights Act. This suit was filed on behalf of CPS families who represent not only their own children, but the nearly 400,000 students whose quality of education is being determined by the color of their skin.

These families represent not only *their* children, but your sons and daughters as well. Because from Pre-K through high school, every CPS student faces the same unfair treatment from our state. For every dollar spent educating students outside Chicago, your children receive 78 cents. 90 percent of CPS students are children of color. This kind of discrimination has no place in education, and the time to stop it is now.

As you are well aware, our state's failure to fund education fairly is having a direct impact on your children's education. Just last week, you received notification of more budget cuts to our schools. Unless the Governor restores his \$215 million cut, we face even more painful choices before the year is done. That's why CPS families are taking the State to court, and why we need you to stand with them and make your voices heard.

The lawsuit calls on the courts to prevent the Governor and the state of Illinois from distributing education funding in a discriminatory way, and to declare the state's teacher pension funding systems unlawful under the Illinois Civil Rights Act. It demands an end to our current reality, which is that a child's race continues to dictate whether or not she receives a good education in the state of Illinois.

More information on the lawsuit, along with a petition supporting this action, is available at cps.edu/Equality. This suit is being filed under the Illinois Civil Rights Act, and is the first of its kind.

Our hope is that by taking this to the courts, the Governor and the State of Illinois will finally end the discrimination Chicago students face and fund CPS schools fairly. We thank you for your support, and will provide you with regular updates as this process continues.

Sincerely,

Frank Clark
President

Chicago Board of Education

Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools