



Board of Education

City of Chicago

Frank M. Clark
PRESIDENT

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois 60602
(773) 553-1600 Fax (773) 553-3453

Jaime Guzman
VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBERS

Mark F. Furlong
Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
Dr. Mahalia A. Hines
Arnie Rivera
Gail D. Ward

February 14, 2017

Dear LSC Members,

For too long, Chicago students have been on the receiving end of a state education funding system that is separate and unequal. As LSC members, you are confronted with increasingly painful choices and you know firsthand the painful budget choices your schools face, whether it's between investing in badly needed textbooks or keeping a high quality after-school program.

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 families who represent not only *their* children, but the nearly 400,000 CPS students whose quality of education is being determined by the color of their skin. The simple fact is that Chicago students, 90 percent of whom are children of color, receive far less funding than their predominantly white peers around the state. This kind of discrimination has no place in our state, and we are taking action to end it now.

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