STATEMENT FROM NEW SCHOOLS FOR CHICAGO ON THE PASSAGE OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

AUGUST 30, 2017

New Schools for Chicago commends our state leaders for passing wide-ranging legislation that provides the schoolchildren of Illinois with more adequate and equitable education funding. We thank our legislative leaders and the many advocates who worked diligently over the last few years to put kids first.

Last month, we released a report – *Who is sitting in those seats?* – that found that, while Chicago Public Schools has made significant progress to improve student outcomes in recent years, challenges still remain.

In the report we outline a set of recommendations on how education policymakers, legislators, and others can work together to ensure that every child in Chicago receives a high-quality education. A primary focus among those recommendations is, “The state needs to fulfill its obligation to ensure that every student in Illinois is receiving adequate and equitable funding.”

This is especially true for the students who live in communities with the greatest need across Illinois, including many neighborhoods in Chicago, where poverty rates are just under 90 percent and where nearly 50,000 students attend schools with “failing seats.”

For decades our state has struggled to address one of the most regressive school funding formulas in the country. That is why we are grateful to see leadership come together to ensure every child in Illinois has the funding they deserve for their education. We are supportive of many of the major principles within the new legislation and urge the Governor to sign it into law this Thursday.

You can read the report, *Who is sitting in those seats?* [HERE](#).