



LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL QUICK FACTS

YOUR GUIDE TO SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Serving on a Local School Council (LSC) is a great way to get involved, support your school, and help shape what happens there. Strong LSCs play a big role in creating good student outcomes and a healthy school environment.

IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCILS IN SCHOOLS

LSCs give parents, community members, students and school staff a real voice in how their school is run. They allow people who care about the school to help make important decisions about students' education.

LSC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Approving the school's improvement plan, called a Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP)
- Making sure the school's budget supports that plan
- Selecting and evaluating the school principal

DID YOU KNOW?
409 LSCs
HAVE OPEN SEATS!

QUICK STATS

511

LSCs ACROSS CHICAGO

79

ARE FULLY SEATED

23

ARE APPOINTED

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

LSC members are elected every two years by parents, community members, and school staff. Members serve two-year terms, with the exception of student representatives, who serve one-year terms.

LSC COMPOSITION

LSCs are composed of a council of elected parents (6), the principal of the school, community representatives (2), teacher representatives (2), one non-teacher representative and student representatives (3 high school students).

WHO CAN VOTE

Anyone in Chicago can vote for up to five candidates at their local schools. In order to vote, you just need to live within a school's attendance boundary or voting district.

**Non-Citizen Parents of CPS students
CAN vote and run in LSC elections**

CRITERIA TO RUN

Parent Representative: A parent is eligible to serve as a Parent Representative if they are the parent or legal guardian of a child currently enrolled in the school and are not an employee of the Board.

Community Representative: A community member is eligible to serve as a Community Representative if they are 17 years of age or older, reside in the school's attendance area or voting district, are not the parent or legal guardian of a child currently enrolled at the school, and are not an employee of the Board.

ELECTION CYCLE

- OCTOBER 20, 2025**
Application Period Opens
Candidates can begin submitting their nomination forms.
- JANUARY 20, 2026**
Application Deadline (3:00 p.m.)
All candidate materials must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. to be approved for the ballot.
- MARCH 18, 2026**
Election Day
All LSC elections will take place on this day.
- JULY 1, 2026**
Terms Begin
Terms for newly elected members begin.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



For more information, go to
kidsfirstchicago.org/LSC

SHARE THIS ONE PAGER
WITH PARENTS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN
YOUR NETWORK!