



A PARENT-LED MODEL OF

EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

2020-2022
IMPACT REPORT

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS.
WORLD-CLASS CITY.

OUR WHY.... AND WHY IT SHOULD BE YOURS TOO.

At Kids First Chicago, we know that the future of individuals, our communities, our city, and indeed our country, relies on how well we educate our children today.

We believe:

- A healthy education environment where kids, schools, and communities thrive is integral to a world-class city and our future.
- That those closest to our students – families – are best equipped to co-design policies and systems with educators that will improve equity and lead to stronger outcomes for our students, our communities, and our city.
- All children are capable of developing into thoughtful, active citizens with the skills to thrive– given a high-quality education and equitable supports.

Moreover, we believe that all children **deserve** a high-quality education–full stop.

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WELCOME LETTER



Dear Friends & Partners:

These last two and a half years have altered our lives in ways big and small. They've changed how we live, learn, and collaborate with one another. Despite the enormous and continued challenges wrought by the coronavirus, we have witnessed so much good coming from Chicagoans who believe fiercely in our communities, our students, and our potential as a city.

We've seen the authenticity and power of parents in action. From spearheading Chicago's groundbreaking digital equity program, Chicago Connected, to leading CPS's most inclusive accountability policy redesign initiative to date, to organizing local education improvement efforts in communities across the city, parents are the experts on what their kids need to succeed.

At Kids First Chicago, we've only begun building platforms for parents to lead. You can count on hearing from us – and the parents in our network directly – in the future about where we're heading.

“At Kids First Chicago, we’ve only begun building platforms for parents to lead. You can count on hearing from us – and the parents in our network directly – in the future about where we’re heading.”

In the meantime, we are pleased to share our latest impact report, reflecting on the past two years and what we've accomplished.

You can access previous installments of our biennial impact report at kidsfirstchicago.org/publications.

On behalf of our team, we thank the many individuals, investors, thought partners, and friends who have been with us on our journey at Kids First Chicago.

David Casper
U.S. CEO, BMO Financial Group
Board Chair, Kids First Chicago

Daniel Anello
CEO, Kids First Chicago

WINTER 2022/2023

\$57,500,000

IN PROGRAMMATIC INVESTMENTS
DRIVEN BY THE ANNUAL REGIONAL
ANALYSIS

33K

STUDENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY
PROGRAMMATIC INVESTMENTS FROM
THE ANNUAL REGIONAL ANALYSIS

100,000+

CPS STUDENTS IN 60,000+
HOUSEHOLDS WITH
NO-COST HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

20,000+

PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY
MEMBERS DIRECTLY ENGAGED
SINCE 2015

SECTION

01

ACTIVATE FAMILIES



(Above) Parent Advisory Board member Maria Owens

“Wow!! We have had an incredible year, in which we have persevered in the current challenges of health, education and the promotion of positive spirits and attitudes, in the face of adversity, as we continue to find ways to move towards positive change. We have stretched our realm from our comfort zones and bridged new alliances so that our voices are heard. Thank you for allowing me to serve and be part of K1C’s positive change.”

- THE SMITH FAMILY, TRACY, ALEX & KRIS



(Above)
Members of K1C's
2021-22 Parent
Leadership
Fellowship

OUR NEW PARENT LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP

In September 2021, we launched the inaugural cohort of our Parent Leadership Fellowship (PLF), bringing together 12 parent leaders from the West Side to build relationships and gain the skills necessary to advocate for their children and communities. Originally intended to run for six months, the program was extended through June 2022, to give it more time to build momentum in the face of challenges created by COVID-19.

As the PLF expanded, Kids First Chicago (K1C) brought together parents from different parts of the city to share knowledge and build community.

For many participants, the PLF offered many firsts. PLF leaders, Blaire Flowers, Karonda Locust, and Tierra Pearson, led a first-ever virtual press conference on January 10, 2022, about the impact on students of an ongoing Chicago Teachers Union strike. The press conference attracted 90 fellow parents and members of the media.

Fellows continued to push their priorities publicly by speaking at community meetings and earning 15 media hits. In June 2022, all 12 participants graduated from the Fellowship and are continuing their leadership through local and district-wide advocacy efforts.

“This was an AMAZING experience! I recommended it to any parent who has at one time or another, seen room for improvement in Chicago’s educational system. We no longer have to ‘accept’ things. We can actually do something to improve it. No matter how small it might seem... Participating in this fellowship would not only give you knowledge, avenues and the push one sometimes needs, but it will also give you the resources and support required to be successful.”

- BRENDA RIVERA
PLF ALUM, INTER-AMERICAN, HUMBOLDT PARK

OUR MONTHLY LEARNING & COMMUNITY BUILDING SERIES LA SALA / LIVING ROOM

While engagement with parents has remained mostly virtual since 2020, we have still managed to introduce two new programs designed to deepen the knowledge base of our parent partners around education issues.

Since October 2020, K1C brought 400 parents, community members, and caregivers together via our dual-language monthly virtual Living Room/La Sala series to share resources and build community. La Sala/Living Room is a key entry-point to provide parents with an understanding of how the public education system functions and to introduce the policy initiatives of other parents.

22
DUAL-LANGUAGE
SESSIONS

400
PARTICIPANTS

10



(Above)
K1C's Senior
Community
Engagement
Manager
Garrette Horne
with Parent
Advisory Board
Member Lilia
Guevara

PARENTS AND THEIR ROLE IN OUR ORGANIZATION

Since our inception, we've always believed that parents should play a critical role in driving our organization's mission, vision, and strategy.

In 2015, we began with a city-wide parent survey and exploration activities that quickly set our parent-informed agenda.

Initially the most pressing issues they identified were:

- **Access to great schools close to home.**
- **Digestible and transparent information about individual schools and the district at large.**
- **The need for an easier application process for all grades, and particularly for high-school.**

In 2018, we instituted a formalized Parent Advisory Board, or PAB, to our organizational structure. PAB members play a critical role in ensuring that parent voice and experience is centered in all that we do.

11

“We need to build community-wide champions for education across diverse sectors. To ensure equity for all, we must recognize that every community and every demographic is worthy of having their social-emotional, physiological, and academic needs met. In Grand Crossing, we’re working to co-develop a plan for quality programming that all stakeholders can help shape and own. We must give all segments of our community a voice in shaping policies that impact us.”

-MARIA R. OWENS
MEMBER K1C BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

Now, we've further asked parents to rise in their leadership by creating a six-member Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members are elected to serve two-year terms as:

Regional Committee Members represent the issues and interests of their region (South, West, Southwest, and Northwest Sides). Four Regional Committee Members will build relationships with other PAB members in their region and support the organizing work of Parent Leadership Teams (PLTs) and Regional Collaboratives.

At-Large Committee Members represent the issues and interests of the entire PAB. Two At-Large Members will bring the leadership and insights of the PAB to the K1C Board of Directors, where they will serve as members with full voting rights and help guide the governance of our organization.

34
PARENT ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBERS

21
CHICAGO COMMUNITIES
REPRESENTED

23
PROJECTS WITH K1C

SECTION

02

INCLUSIVE POLICY & SYSTEM DESIGN



(Above) Parent Advisory Board members discussing education policy priorities

“Kids First Chicago has reached into communities and trusted the work of community-based organizations to be the bridge and the connection necessary for the success of Chicago Connected. Without the leadership of Kids First Chicago, this project would be missing the voice that is most vital to this work. Parents.”

- ANA MOSQUEDA
OPERATIONS MANAGER
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO



(Above) Parent Advisory Board members Katrina Adams and Marietta McDuffy engage in strategic planning

CO-DESIGNING AN EQUITABLE WAY TO MEASURE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Like most large urban districts, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) struggles to build understanding and trust with its stakeholders around critical yet complex policy change. Over the last year and a half, K1C has worked in partnership with CPS to build a new, radically inclusive, process of stakeholder engagement around Accountability Redesign – the district’s effort to develop a new more equitable school performance measurement system.

Defining what makes a school high-quality, and consistently providing data around performance, is key to parent, teacher, administrator, and district leadership’s understanding of whether our schools are serving students.

Through Accountability Redesign, K1C has helped CPS reach more than 12,000 stakeholders. This engagement effort has far surpassed previous policy initiatives – both in terms of the depth of engagement and the sheer number of stakeholders participating.

CPS regularly touts the project as an exemplar in terms of engaging stakeholders on a policy that directly impacts the entire district.

12,000

STAKEHOLDERS REACHED

90+

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS INCLUDING TOWN HALLS, FOCUS GROUPS, AND INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

“The city-wide survey on accountability redesign is only the latest in a long string of hugely significant contributions K1C has made to the accountability redesign process. The way K1C rallied stakeholders to design, administer and interpret the survey was incredibly effective and will have a major impact on the district’s policymaking process. K1C is helping the district rewrite the playbook on policy making, and we are grateful.”

- JEFF BROOM
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL QUALITY MEASUREMENT & RESEARCH
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENHANCING
**SCHOOL ACCESS AND PROGRAM
AVAILABILITY DISTRICTWIDE**



(Above) Parent Advisory Board families at our summer outing

K1C has supported two key initiatives aimed at streamlining school enrollment and access and ensuring all regions provide attractive and rigorous programs—GoCPS and the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA).

Both have had a positive and sustained impact on Chicago students.

“K1C is working to build more inclusive policies and systems by co-designing them with those who have the most to gain — and the most at stake — in their implementation. GoCPS, the ARA, and Chicago Connected were all made with and for Chicago parents.”

**-HAL WOODS
CHIEF OF POLICY
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO**

GoCPS

CPS and K1C partnered to create a common application for the myriad of high school choice programs, including charter schools, with one deadline. After the applications are processed students receive a single best offer. The common application, called GoCPS and launched in the fall of 2017, eliminated the need to apply school-by-school and program-by-program. Importantly, GoCPS alleviated the problem of some students accepting multiple offers to competitive programs while others remained on multiple waitlists with no offers.

GoCPS has been tremendously successful. Since launching in 2017, over 90% of all 8th graders have been using the more streamlined application making the high school enrollment process simpler, more transparent, and more equitable for students and families. GoCPS also serves as a centralized place for information on PK-12 school enrollment.

18



Programmatic
Impact To Date

\$57.5M

INVESTED IN NEW
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

33K

STUDENTS DIRECTLY
BENEFIT

85%

IDENTIFY AS STUDENTS
OF COLOR

77%

QUALIFY FOR FREE-
AND-REDUCED LUNCH

27%

ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEARNERS

16%

ARE DIVERSE LEARNERS

ANNUAL REGIONAL ANALYSIS

K1C and CPS partnered to create the Annual Regional Analysis (ARA) in 2017-2018. Now in its fifth year, this series of reports provides information on CPS enrollment, student demographics, school quality, school choice, and program offerings of every CPS student in all 650+ schools including both district managed and charter schools alike. The purpose of each report is to ensure that both CPS leadership and community members citywide are working with the same set of information about schools and the communities they serve. The ARA allows CPS to promote transparency and build trust with communities and families while improving equity in its school offerings.

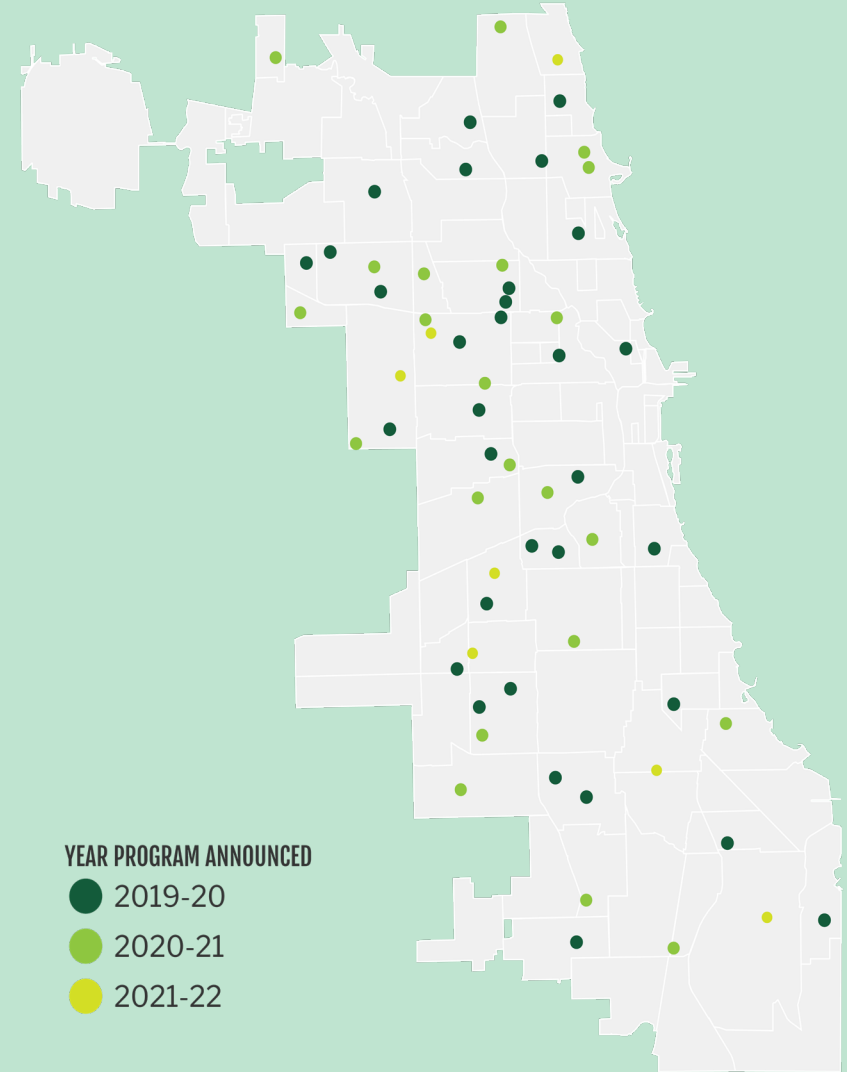
To date, CPS has invested \$57.5 million in new academic programs through a first-of-its-kind application process that empowered school communities to apply for new high-quality programs including International Baccalaureate (IB), STEM and Dual Language. The district used the ARA to identify communities with programmatic deficits and prioritized investments to schools in those neighborhoods.

Through three application cycles, these investments have benefited over 33,000 students — roughly 85% of whom are Black/Latinx/a/o, 77% qualifying for free-and-reduced lunch, 27% as English Language Learners, and 16% as Diverse Learners.

(Above)
Parent Advisory Board member Consuelo Martinez leading a planning session

19

PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED AS A RESULT OF THE ARA 2019-2022



SECTION
03

**STEWARD THE
FACTS**



*(Above) 2021-22 Parent
Leadership Fellowship*

“Creating a community that transcends neighborhood boundaries is at the heart of what the Parent Leadership Fellowship is about and what we believe is core to building a stronger Chicago.”

- NAYDA DE LA ROSA
SR. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

UNPACKING CHICAGO'S ENROLLMENT CRISIS

In January 2022, K1C released the first report of a multi-part series on Chicago's Enrollment Crisis. In *Part 1: Exploring Root Causes*, K1C examined the root causes of the consistent enrollment decline in CPS over the last 20 years. In 2000, CPS enrollment stood at more than 430,000 students. Today, just slightly more than 320,000 students attend CPS — and there is a consistent decline of as many as 10,000 public school students each year. It was recently announced that after decades as the third largest school district in the nation, CPS has officially slipped to the fourth largest.

The report identified three key drivers of the decline:

1. declining birth rates,
2. slowing immigration of Latinx/a/o families, and
3. increasing out-migration of Black families.

Because district funding is based on how many students a school district serves—and in turn, how many students an **individual school serves**—lower enrollment means less funding while some costs, like maintaining buildings, remain fixed. An under-enrolled environment often translates into less electives and programs for students, less professional development and planning time for teachers, and fewer school wide supports like social workers, counselors, and technology coordinators.

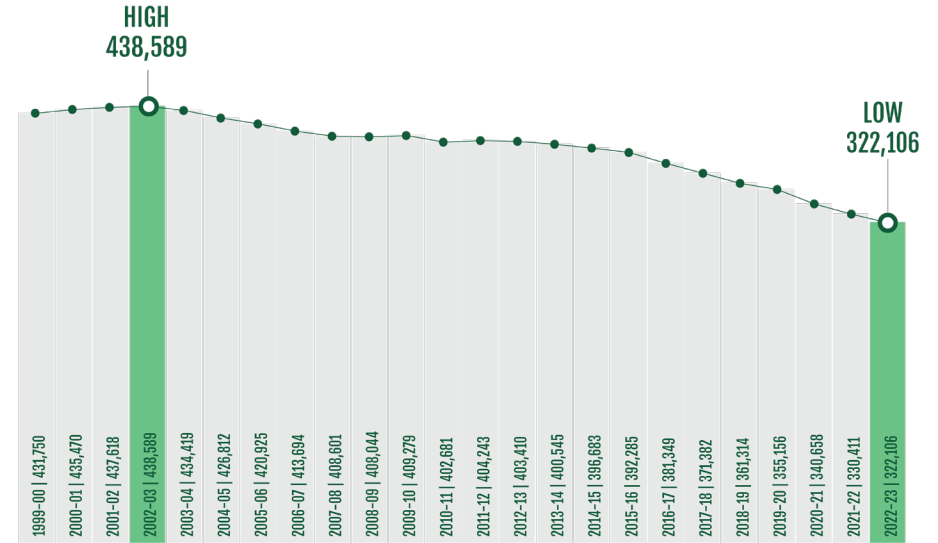
In the months ahead, K1C will share parent-led solutions to this multilayered challenge – solutions that will keep more families in Chicago and attract new ones.

“Here I have a dishwasher, laundry, balcony, all these amenities. And I pay way less than I did in Hyde Park. I would come back to Chicago for family. I don’t think my son wants to leave Chicago, and I’m interested in setting up or buying some property in Chicago to build some generational wealth.”

—NINA BUTLER

FORMER RESIDENT OF HYDE PARK ON WHY SHE MOVED TO TEXAS AND WHAT WOULD BRING HER BACK TO CHICAGO
From Chicago's Enrollment Crisis, Part 1

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT, 1999-00 TO 2022-23



COMMON EFFECTS OF LOW ENROLLMENT ON STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL LEADERS

STUDENTS

- Limited choices for electives—some schools to offer the same electives to all students
- Grade and language-level programs for English Learners may not be appropriate for skill levels
- Fewer Advanced/Honors courses available; limited Math, English/Language, and Arts offerings
- Fewer opportunities for participation in sports teams, student extracurriculars, and school clubs

TEACHERS

- Fewer opportunities to collaborate and review student work and/or plan units and lessons with grade-level or subject-specific colleagues
- Teachers required to teach multiple grades and/or subjects

SCHOOL LEADERS

- Less discretionary funding to promote the school and attract students



(Above) Members of K1C's 2021-22 Parent Leadership Fellowship

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN THE CORONAVIRUS ERA

Chicago Connected is the groundbreaking, multi-year program to close Chicago's PK-12 digital divide. K1C spearheaded the launch of Chicago Connected in late June 2020 and since then it has connected more than 100,000 CPS students – nearly 1 in 3 – to free, high-speed broadband internet and provided high-quality digital learning content to tens of thousands of eligible families.

Census data shows that Chicago Connected significantly reduced the digital divide from 2018 to 2020 – a preliminary indicator of the positive impact the program has had through 2022. We invite you to dig into our latest digital equity analysis at kidsfirstchicago.org/defeating-the-digital-divide.

This unique partnership among CPS, the City of Chicago, internet service providers (ISPs), philanthropists, and dozens of community-based organizations (CBOs) is the most extensive and longest-term effort by any city to date.

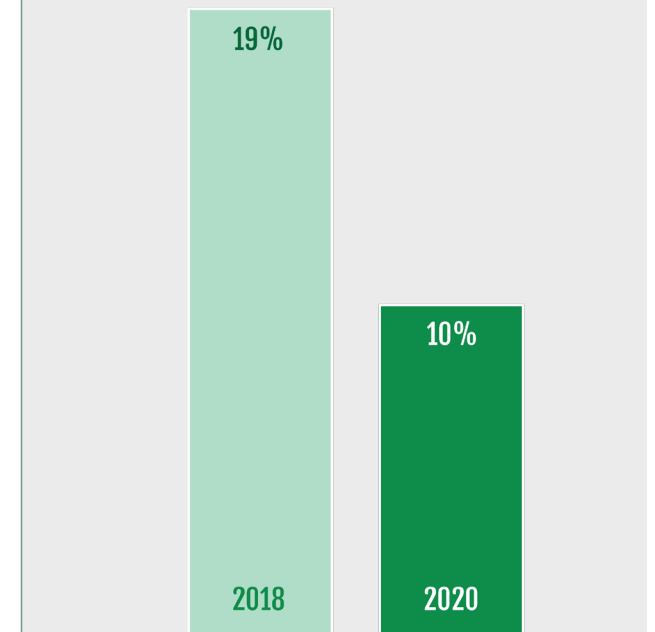
Given its impact and innovative program architecture, Chicago Connected has become the national model for closing the digital divide, spurring similar initiatives across the country. This initiative continues to be a best-case example of how parents, policymakers, and partners can come together to solve a longstanding problem.

“In 2020, we recognized that access to the internet was indispensable to keep families connected. Now, we need to recognize that digital inclusion encompasses not just having an internet connection but also the equipment and the knowledge to effectively navigate in an increasingly digital society.”

-CLAIBORNE WADE
PARENT LIAISON AT FAMILY FOCUS
& CHICAGO DIGITAL EQUITY COUNCIL MEMBER

THE CONNECTIVITY GAP IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WAS NEARLY HALVED

PERCENTAGE OF CHICAGO CHILDREN (UNDER 18) WHO ARE DISCONNECTED
2018 VS. 2020



SECTION
04

LOOKING AHEAD



(Above) Parent Advisory Board members Alma Sigala and Lilia Guevara with K1C staff members Sabrina Garza and Ana Mosqueda

“I got involved with Kids First Chicago (K1C) because I was searching for options and resources to become a better parent. My journey with K1C has brought me so much more than I expected, helping me to lead in places I wouldn’t have imagined previously.”

**- LILIA GUEVARA
MEMBER, K1C BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND PARENT ADVISORY BOARD**

INVESTING IN PARENT LEADERSHIP



15
TEAMS

In Spring 2022, K1C launched a new initiative, Parent Leadership Teams (PLT). Each of the 15 teams led by a parent champion (e.g. a K1C Parent Advisory Board or PLF alumni) will recruit 10+ parents to develop and implement initiatives designed to address an education issue they have identified in their local schools.

11
COMMUNITY AREAS

Our role at K1C is to work closely with each parent champion to establish a clear vision for their initiative with measurable milestones and outcomes, support fellow parent recruitment, promote interaction with key decision-makers, assist in budget development and fund the projects. The full PLT network will also come together periodically to learn in the community, share ideas, and align on approaches for improvement that could work across Chicago's South and West Side neighborhoods and schools.

1
CITYWIDE TEAM

(Above) Signage promoting a new library for the Back of the Yards community

PLT SPOTLIGHT

BACK OF THE YARDS HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Longtime K1C parent champions, Consuelo Martinez and Alma Sigala, have been advocating for their community for many years. As a result of parent organizing, the State of Illinois awarded \$15 million to build a new standalone library for the Back of the Yards.

FUTURE PARENT-INFORMED PRIORITIES

To continue to move the system, we need very well-informed parent champions capable of leading their own communities to advocate for the changes they would like for their children's schools and the district overall. Simultaneously, parents need to have avenues to share their perspectives with educators, school and district/city leaders, and others who support Chicago public education.

K1C will facilitate monthly working group meetings for parents to receive training from staff, national experts, and CPS or state education partners; develop parent-friendly resources on these topics; and push for changes to better meet all students' needs.

Priority initiatives for the years ahead include:

- 1 EQUITABLE FUNDING
- 2 HIGH-QUALITY TEACHING
- 3 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
- 4 FAIR AND FUNCTIONAL CHICAGO ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD

“The Back of the Yards neighborhood has a history of disinvestment, particularly regarding the community’s public library. Recognizing this, mothers in the neighborhood have stepped up to advocate and organize for a stand-alone library. The community has been owed this investment for years.”

- JASMIN PIZANO LUNA
SR. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, SOUTHWEST CHICAGO
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO



(Above) K1C Community Engagement Coordinator Lorenzo Logan with Parent Advisory Board member Marietta McDuffy

ELEVATING PARENT PRIORITIES FOR CHICAGO'S ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD

Chicago has officially begun the process of transitioning to a new elected school board that was approved by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Pritzker in July 2021. This change in school board governance will have massive implications for accountability and how decisions are made across CPS's 650+ schools.

K1C engaged with dozens of parents in our network through workshops on the proposed elected school board in Chicago. Following the conclusion of the parent workshops, K1C launched an Elected School Board Task Force to advocate for parent-identified priorities in the future elected school board. One priority, fair representation, is ensuring that the electoral districts created for the new school board more closely align to CPS student demographics rather than City of Chicago demographics. CPS comprises about 90% students of color but the general population of the city is about 33% white. Without an intentional focus on fair representation, the new board could leave Black and Latinx/a/o students grossly underrepresented. The parent task force is invested in advocating for fair representation in a manner that is consistent with fair mapping best-practices.

95%

OF SURVEYED PARENTS STATED THAT HAVING A RACIALLY REPRESENTATIVE SCHOOL BOARD WAS VERY IMPORTANT

260+

PARENTS REPRESENTING THE DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF CPS FAMILIES

As CPS makes the transition to a 21-member elected school board in 2027, K1C aims to grow and ignite a network of 1,000+ parent champions to drive policy change and lead Chicago education reform.

K1C will continue to prepare parents for this transition and arm them with the information they need to become effective leaders and education advocates. We strongly believe that when the board transitions to elected members that parents in our network will choose to run and serve.

UNDERSTANDING DATA & ACCESS IN CHICAGO EARLY LEARNING

K1C hopes to bring its signature process for inclusive data and system design to support the Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System (CECIDS). K1C is leading an inclusive engagement process – with parents at the center – to understand parents' definition of quality for early childhood education and build prototype information resources for families and providers alike. The resources will support families' understanding of early childhood options, decision-making, and advocacy for their communities.

SECTION

05

LEADERS,
INVESTORS,
PARTNERS & STAFF



(From Left to Right) K1C Board of Directors Derek Douglas, Nichole Pinkard, Maria Owens, Shirley Collado, Daniel Anello, Lilia Guevara, Penny Bender Sebring, Dea Meyer, Cornelia Grumman, Mara Botman, and Dave Casper

“In my 29 years as a teacher, instructional coach, principal, superintendent and social impact founder, I’ve never encountered a team more committed to supporting parents as true champions for change than Kids First Chicago. At its core, the unique model being driven by the team at Kids First Chicago puts parents from the most resilient communities of Chicago at the center of educational reform and school improvement.”

- SHAYNE EVANS
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY GROUP,
AND BOARD MEMBER OF KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

CLOSING LETTER



(Above)
Members of
the K1C Parent
Advisory Board
and staff at an
August 2022
Outing

DEAR FRIENDS & PARTNERS:

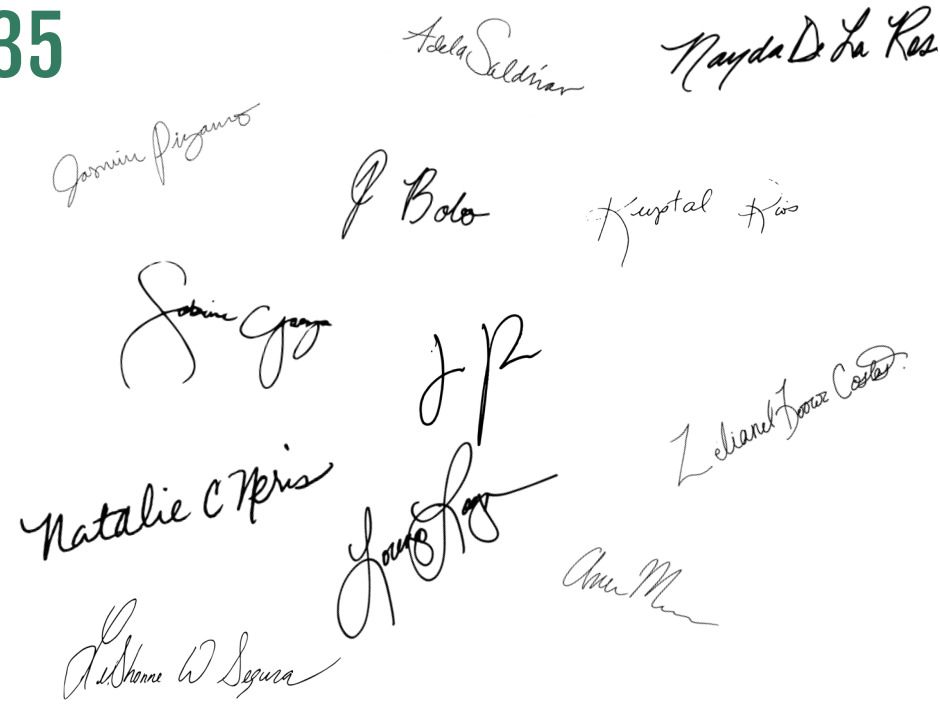
Because of partners like you, K1C has created initiatives that have had a positive, sustained impact on education in Chicago. But we won't rest until every child in Chicago has access to a high-quality, world-class education. While the landscape is forever shifting, we are ready to go where parents and kids need us because our model for stakeholder-driven change works – and it works at scale.

The next five years present an incredible opportunity by fueling a powerful model and investing in parents.

With your help, Kids First Chicago will:

- Build parent knowledge and advance top priorities for Chicago parents.
- Grow and ignite a powerful parent network to include 1,000 parent champions to drive educational change for a better Chicago.
- Expand our team and operations to meet the current and future education needs of Chicago families.

Help us take Chicago's public education system forward.



Thank YOU for putting kids first,

The Kids First Chicago team

DECEMBER 2022



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

PARENTS KNOW BEST

They will always put their kids first—before political gain.

PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

They can compel a system to change.

EDUCATION IS LIBERATION

It improves life outcomes today and for future generations.

LONG-TERM, A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM OPENS PATHWAYS TO GENERATIONAL WEALTH AND UPLIFTS COMMUNITIES — CREATING THE WORLD-CLASS CHICAGO WE ALL WANT.

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD



(Above) Members of the Parent Advisory Board at an August 2022 Planning Retreat

Our Parent Advisory Board (PAB) was established in 2018 to ensure that our work is always driven by what parents want for their children and their school system. The PAB's mission is to promote equity in the city of Chicago by organizing parents to co-lead and advise on policy decisions that impact the education of our students.

Katrina Adams-Adewusi
Burnside Scholastic Academy

Cherelle Bilal
Little Angels Learning Center

Guadalupe Carreon
Orozco Elementary

Denise Dyer
Nicholson STEM Academy

Luz Maria Flores
Back of the Yards HS

Blaire Flowers
North Lawndale HS

Lilia Guevara
Evergreen Academy Middle School

LaTeShia Hollingsworth
U of C Woodlawn HS, U of C Donoghue Elementary

Lorena Lopez
Seward Elementary

Melanie Lopez
Prussing Elementary

Consuelo Martinez
Back of the Yards HS

Marietta McDuffy

Darlene O'Banner
Earle STEM Academy

“As a product of public schooling and a parent of a child who will eventually enter into the public school system, I’ve experienced firsthand how parent involvement in a child’s education can extensively improve the quality of their education. I love that my job is helping other parents discover the power that they hold and how they can use it to significantly improve their child’s education.”

-EMANI JOHNSON
SR. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, WEST SIDE KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Guadalupe Ojeda
Inter-American Elementary Magnet School

Maria Owens
Hirsch HS

Renye Owens

Brenda Rivera
Inter-American Elementary Magnet School

Rena Robinson
Westinghouse HS

Maria Sanchez
Orozco Elementary

Alma Sigala
Seward Elementary School, Back of the Yards HS, and Phoenix Military HS

Cata Truss
Austin community

Claiborne Wade
DePriest Elementary

Yolanda Williams
Penn Elementary

Melinda Young
Skinner West Elementary

Maria Zavala
Seward Elementary

Andrea Zayas
Erie and McAuliffe Elementary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors includes a nonpartisan mix of education, business, and philanthropic leaders.

David Casper | Board Chair

U.S. CEO, BMO Financial Group

Daniel Anello

CEO, Kids First Chicago

Mara Botman

Executive Director, Vivo Foundation

Shirley M. Collado

President & CEO, College Track

Derek R.B. Douglas

President, Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago

Shayne Evans

Founder & Managing Partner, The Academy Group

Thomas J. Formolo

Partner, New Harbor Capital LLC

Sam Ganga

Partner, Digital Strategy & Transformation, KPMG

Lilia Guevara

At-Large Representative, Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board

Cornelia Grumman

Former Director of Education, Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Philip L. Hildebrandt

CEO, Segall Bryant & Hamill

LeeAndra Jamison

Executive Director, EPIC Academy

Cameron Morris

Managing Director, Chemical Investment Banking, HSBC

Maria Owens

Founding Partner, Owens & Robinson Law and At-Large Representative, Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board

Nichole Pinkard

Associate Professor, Learning Sciences, Northwestern University

Timothy R. Schwertfeger

Chairman and CEO Emeritus, Nuveen Investments, Inc.

EMERITUS BOARD

Penny Bender Sebring
Co-Founder of UChicago Consortium and Senior Research Associate, University of Chicago

Laura Thonn

Office Managing Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Kelly R. Welsh

Former President, Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago

Melinda Young

Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board

EMERITUS BOARD

Patrick J. Canning

Board Chair, New Schools for Chicago & Kids First Chicago, 2015-2019
Vice Chairman, Cresset Capital

Lula Ford

Former Educator and Retired Member, Illinois State Board of Education

Donald G. Lubin*

Board Chair, New Schools for Chicago, 2004-2009
Partner, Dentons US LLP

John W. Madigan

Retired Chairman & CEO, Tribune Company

John W. Rowe*

Board Chair, New Schools for Chicago, 2009-2015
Chairman Emeritus, Exelon Corporation

Nancy S. Searle

Civic Leader

“These leaders ignited a decades-long movement around educational quality and equity in Chicago. We carry their spirit with us as we dream about what’s possible for Chicago public education.”

- KRISTIN POLLOCK
CHIEF OF DEVELOPMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

*IN MEMORY...

Kids First Chicago lost two former Board chairs and emeritus directors, Donald G. Lubin and John W. Rowe, in 2022. Both leaders were fiercely dedicated to bringing world-class education to every Chicago public school student.

May their legacies inspire us all to do more for Chicago kids and families.

“What I appreciate most about Kids First Chicago is that they are doing something new when it comes to centering parents. I remember growing up in the CPS system and just only relying on the schools to support me. My parents trusted that CPS would do its job. But we didn’t know that it took more than just good grades to get into a selective school. Here at K1C we make sure to inform the parents in Black and Brown communities of what’s going on within the educational system.”

-ZELIANEL FERRER COSTAS
SR. PROGRAM COORDINATOR
KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

STAFF

Our team combines strong data analytics, experience in public education and policy, and community engagement expertise to connect the “grass-tops” with the grassroots, ensuring parent and community voices are heard at the highest levels of decision-making about the direction of Chicago’s PK-12 schools.

Daniel Anello
Chief Executive Officer

Nilanjana Bhattacharya
Sr. Manager of Program Evaluation

Jarrett Bobo
Community Engagement Coordinator,
South Side

Nayda De La Rosa
Sr. Community Engagement Manager

Zeliane Ferrer Costas
Sr. Program Coordinator

Sabrina Garza
Communications and External Affairs
Coordinator

Garrette Horne
Sr. Community Engagement Manager

Emani Johnson
Sr. Community Engagement
Coordinator, West Side

Vivian Lee
Chief of Strategy and Operations



Lorenzo Logan
Community Engagement Coordinator, West
Side

Teresa Maldonado
Community Engagement Coordinator,
Northwest Side

Ana Mosqueda
Operations Manager

Natalie Neris, Ed.D.
Chief of Community Engagement

José Daniel Pacas, Ph.D.
Chief of Data Science and Research

Catherine Paliga
Executive Assistant

Jasmin Pizano Luna
Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator,
Southwest Side

Kristin Pollock
Chief of Development and External Affairs

Krystal Rios
Early Childhood Engagement Manager

LeShonne W. Segura
Director of Development and External
Affairs

Brandon Sherrod
Manager of Development and External
Affairs

Hal Woods
Chief of Policy

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS & INVESTORS



(Above) Parent Advisory Board members representing their South Side communities

Thank you to the individuals, corporations, and foundations who believe and invest in our model and approach. The following have supported Kids First Chicago with annual and multi-year commitments in 2020 through 2022.

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Andersen-Formolo Family Foundation
Agnes Ali
Amy Allman
Grant Alsman
Elizabeth Anderson
Daniel Anello and Norma Lopez
John and Margot Anello
John Barry
Constantin Becheanu
Jay Beidler and Deborah Witzburg
Karen Benko
Jennie Bennett
Steven Berry and Heather Fraser
Andrew Bettino
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bobins, The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation

Maegan Boger
Amy Bordoshuk
Ciara Braga-Henebry
Ina Burd
Kevin Burkhart
James Campbell
The Canning Foundation
Betsy and Patrick Canning
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Shayne Evans
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Charitable Trust
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The Madigan Family
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Donald Marshall
Nick McCarty
Andrew and Joan McKenna Foundation
Payal Menda
Dea Meyer
Demetri L. Morgan PhD
Cameron Morris
Jon Moss/DRW
Clare Muñana
Hajir Karimi Naseri
Elaine Ni
Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Family Charitable Trust
James Noonan
Patricia Oey
Jason Oliva
Neil Patel
Nichole Pinkard and Chanita Wade
Carol and Jim Pollock
Elizabeth I. Pollock and John P. Zulueta
Kristin M. Pollock

Petre Popescu
Jose L. Prado
Kaila Privatsky
Jason Puskarich
Miles Radakovitz
Aleksandr Raginskiy
Milan Ramaiya
Kavitha Royapet Rao
Frank Real
Todd Reimer
Alex Reinstein
Michael Rettig
Clint Rhea
Saku Rimali
Douglas Roberts
Jennifer Roman
Zach Rosenstock
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe
Jeff Sacks
Rachel Schneider
Timothy R. Schwertfeger
Nancy S. Searle
David A. Shapiro
Jai Shekhawat
Mihoko Shiraishi
Jordan Shull
Jennifer Sprague
Svetlana Melamed and Diana Sulmone
The Steans Family
John and Jill Svoboda
Brian Tatnall
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Catherine M. and Frederick H. Waddell
Kelly R. Welsh
Irvin Wang
Allyson Wexler
Jennifer Wilson
Hendrik Woods
Peter Wurman
Jiayi Yan
Sarah Zaas
Melinda Young
Michael Ziegler
Mary Jean and John Zulueta

OUR LEAD INVESTORS

The following list reflects annual contributors of \$100,000 or more in 2020 through 2022. We are grateful for their outstanding generosity.

- ANONYMOUS (2)
- ANDERSEN-FORMOLO FAMILY FOUNDATION
- BEST PORTION FOUNDATION
- KENNETH C. GRIFFIN
- LEWIS-SEBRING FAMILY FOUNDATION
- THE MADIGAN FAMILY
- JOHN W. AND JEANNE M. ROWE
- THE STEANS FAMILY



(Above) Parent Advisory Board members Katrina Adams and Renye Owens



CORPORATE & FOUNDATION

- Anonymous (2)
- Anavo Solutions
- Bellwether Education Partners
- Best Portion Foundation
- BMO Financial Group
- Chicago Education Equity
- COVID-19 Response Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
- The Christopher Family Foundation
- CIBC Bank USA
- Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago
- Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education (The CAFE)
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Deutsche Börse Group
- DRW Foundation
- The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
- Finnegan Family Foundation
- Flamboyant Foundation
- Illinois Tool Works
- IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation
- Impact Fund, co-investment of the Chicago Blackhawks Foundation and the Mike & Nancy Silverman Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- KPMG LLP
- Lefkowsky Family Foundation
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
- McMaster-Carr
- New Profit
- Nuveen Investments, LLC
- Okta for Good
- Origami Works Foundation
- Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- PNC Bank, Illinois
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Spencer Foundation
- Square One Foundation
- Thrive
- United Way of Metro Chicago
- Vivo Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Wentcher Foundation

2021-2022
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

		YEAR ENDED	
		June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	REVENUES		
	Corporate	416,441	382,839
	Foundation	3,135,105	5,198,034
	Individual	450,407	616,953
	In-kind Donations	198,612	231,074
	Other	12,443	(21,953)
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,213,008	\$6,406,947
	EXPENSES		
	Community Engagement	1,340,804	1,706,386
	Policy	1,029,776	1,083,393
Other programs	192,282	298,731	
General and Administrative	360,625	409,316	
Fundraising	254,766	326,192	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,178,253	\$3,824,018	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$1,034,755	\$2,582,929	
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$4,128,415	\$5,163,170	
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$5,163,170	\$7,746,099	

“Kids First Chicago’s deep commitment to stewarding the facts and the truth, shaping policies that put our children first – and most importantly letting parents take the mic – created the opportunity for families and communities to fight to put the best interest of kids at the center of the conversation throughout the course of the pandemic and beyond. The staff of K1C and their incredible team of parent advisory board members provided the support and resources to ensure their voices were heard loud and clear – even in the midst of one of the most contentious teacher strikes in the nation. They are a shining example of how when parents are provided the right support and resources, they can change the shape of the conversation for good – even when up against some of the most powerful political interests in the nation. We are honored to recognize them as a Resource Hero and a champion for our children and families.”

–
KERI RODRIGUEZ
NATIONAL PARENTS UNION

DESIGNED BY

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THANK YOU!

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Make a tax-deductible gift

LEARN MORE

For more information about
how you can support
Kids First Chicago, contact
Kristin Pollock, Chief of Development, at
kpollcock@kidsfirstchicago.org.

[KIDSFIRSTCHICAGO.ORG/DONATE](https://kidsfirstchicago.org/donate)



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CHICAGO**

**WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS
WORLD-CLASS CITY**

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