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**KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO**

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Statement Attributable to Daniel Anello, CEO of Kids First Chicago, speaking in partnership with Chicago parents in response to Illinois General Assembly's decision to delay releasing Elected School Board map from July 1, 2023, to April 2024:

After watching the districting process play out over the past few months, it's obvious what parents want – fair racial representation so the school board will look like and understand the students and the communities they live in. Families believe that this will result in a school board that better serves their students and leads to better outcomes. And [research](#) supports them.

We're confident that, with more time, lawmakers will draw districts that put our families before politics. We'll be there to work in partnership with legislative leaders to make sure that they find a solution that puts CPS kids first.

Achieving fair racial representation through this process will require everyone to put racial equity above political considerations. Being equitable requires giving voice to the 85% of CPS students who are Black or Latine.

As parents have said, it's about their students, so it should be their school board. We agree with them. And we celebrate parents' leadership in successfully advocating for their kids.

CPS parents are available for questions or comment; please contact Jessica Cañas (773-403-4832 or jcanas@kidsfirstchicago.org) or Ellie Immerman (413-355-3103 or eimmerman@kidsfirstchicago.org).

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ABOUT KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Kids First Chicago (K1C) is an education non-profit that works to ensure that every family and child in Chicago has access to a high-quality education. Their work focuses on empowering communities and families to identify, navigate to, and advocate for quality public schools for their kids and their communities. Then, in partnership with parents, city and district leadership, they work to shape education policy to better support all families.

Kids First Chicago offers free workshops, research and data analysis about all CPS schools, and direct family and community engagement support. For more information, visit <https://kidsfirstchicago.org>.