



**KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO**

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Chicago Parents Celebrate Continued Progress Toward Fair Representation on Inaugural Elected School Board

CHICAGO, IL – Parents and community leaders from Kids First Chicago's Elected School Board Task Force (ESBTF) thank the Illinois General Assembly for its continued efforts to ensure equitable representation in Chicago's future elected school board.

“The parent leaders on Kids First Chicago’s Elected School Board Task Force have been at the forefront of this movement,” said Daniel Anello, CEO of Kids First Chicago. “Without their leadership, the priorities of CPS parents and Chicago voters for an elected board would not have been considered or part of the negotiations in the legislature.”

In 2021, over 300 parents in Kids First Chicago’s (K1C) network voiced their priorities for the pending state legislation to authorize an elected school board. After its enactment, the ESBTF was established, focusing on critical issues such as campaign spending limits, parent representation, non-citizen voting rights, and, crucially, fair racial representation in school board districts.

On fair racial representation, parents have been unequivocal: the school board must reflect the rich diversity of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), where 90% of students are children of color. A recent [poll](#), commissioned by K1C, found that 75% of Chicago voters agreed that the racial and ethnic composition of elected school board districts should more closely reflect the composition of the CPS student body.

Over the past two years, the ESBTF has educated the public and lawmakers on the importance of fair racial representation in Chicago’s elected school board districts. With the dedication of parents and community members, the ESBTF engaged in an extensive campaign: submitting multiple constitutionally-viable map prototypes, meeting with legislative leaders, providing testimony at hearings, organizing town halls, and ensuring families’ voices were heard through media engagement.

As we move forward, K1C remains vigilant and proactive. We will continue to elevate the conversation on CPS representation and work tirelessly to ensure that the elected board upholds the values and priorities of Chicago families and voters. We will continue to work with the ESBTF to push for other parent priorities, including campaign spending limits, parent representation on the board, and the ability for any Chicago resident, regardless of citizenship, to be able to serve on and vote in Chicago elected school board elections. Our mission is far from complete; we pledge to keep the momentum going until the inaugural elected school board truly embodies the diversity and spirit of our great city.

For more information on the ESBTF’s efforts and future initiatives, please contact [Jessica Cañas](#) or [Hal Woods](#).

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ABOUT KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Kids First Chicago (K1C) is an education nonprofit that works to ensure that every family and child in Chicago has access to a high-quality education. Their work focuses on empowering parents to identify, navigate to, and advocate for quality public schools for their kids. Then, they work directly with city and district leadership, using parent input to shape education policy to better support families. K1C provides transparent and rigorous education analysis to families, educators, and policymakers alike to inform data-driven and inclusive decision-making about the future of Chicago’s PK-12 public schools. For more information, visit kidsfirstchicago.org.