



**KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | FEBRUARY 5, 2024

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Statement Attributable to Hal Woods, Chief of Policy at Kids First Chicago, on the latest developments in negotiations about Chicago's transition to a future elected school board:

Kids First Chicago (K1C) urgently calls upon the Illinois state legislature to hold new hearings to examine the competing proposals for Chicago's first-ever elected school board.

As highlighted in a [K1C blog post](#) published today, CPS families are being locked out of crucial conversations over Chicago's transition to an elected school board.

"At a moment when state and city power brokers are deciding the future governance of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), it is shameful that the process is sidelining the very stakeholders it will affect the most—parents, students, and communities," said Blaire Flowers, CPS parent and chair of K1C's Elected School Board Task Force. "Valuing the voices of families in these discussions is not just a matter of fairness; it's a critical step towards ensuring the inaugural elected school board truly serves the best interests of all Chicagoans."

Discussions over the structure of Chicago's elected school board are taking place behind closed doors with **no public input**. K1C demands the state special committees on Chicago's elected school board reconvene and hold new hearings on the House and Senate proposals.

Parents' recent experience during the fall veto session, where amendments to bills were introduced without prior notice followed by hastily scheduled votes, amplifies K1C's concerns that there will not be sufficient public engagement on the proposals.

The debate over the district's future governance comes at a tumultuous time. CPS faces daunting challenges in the year ahead, including a nearly \$700 million structural deficit and widening educational disparities.

CPS parents are available for questions or comment; please contact Jessica Cañas at 773-403-4832 or jcanas@kidsfirstchicago.org.

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ABOUT KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Kids First Chicago's mission is to dramatically improve education for Chicago's children by ensuring their families are the respected authorities on what their kids need and decision-makers in their kids' education. We do this by partnering with families to support them in gaining the resources, access, and voice they need to achieve their vision for their children. 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 public schools. For more information, visit kidsfirstchicago.org.