



**KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO**

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Kids First Chicago's Parent Advisory Board Calls for Renewed Focus on Students Amid CPS Turmoil

Media Invited to a Dec. 10 Parent Roundtable Discussion

Who: Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board (PAB) members will share their perspectives on how Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), and the Mayor's office can realign their focus on what matters most: our students.

What: In-person Roundtable Discussion with CPS parents from across the city:

- Maria Owens, Hirsch HS, South Side,
- Clent Lewis, Moos Elementary, Northwest Side
- Claiborne Wade, DePriest Elementary, West Side
- Guadalupe Ojeda, Inter-American & Elementary Magnet School, Northwest Side
- Katrina Adams, Burnside Scholastic Academy, West Side
- Lilia Guevara, Acero-Garcia HS, Southeast Side
- Cata Truss, West Side
- Mykela Collins, Payton High School, South Side
- Norma Lopez, Prieto Elementary & Steinmetz HS, Northwest Side

When: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Where: Kids First Chicago's offices, 190 S. LaSalle, 39th Floor

Why: In a [statement](#) last week, the Kids First Parent Advisory Board demanded an immediate, refocused commitment to putting kids first amid tense contract negotiations between CPS and CTU.

“Our children's academic and social-emotional well-being must be the focus. When only 1 in 3 students read at grade level and less than 1 in 5 perform math at grade level, it's clear that we must focus on students' learning first and foremost. Over 40% of students were chronically absent last year, including more than half of all high school students. Moreover, trust between students and teachers is at its lowest point in over a decade. **These alarming statistics underscore the urgent need for greater transparency and accountability among families, school communities, and our elected officials.**”

Kids First Chicago's Parent Advisory Board calls for:

- CPS and its schools to provide full transparency by sharing comprehensive student performance data with families—not just celebrating the wins but also showing us where we need to redouble support for students who are furthest behind.
- CPS to ensure that negotiations with the CTU for a new contract include meaningful accountability measures for our children’s learning outcomes and for creating an environment that inspires and motivates them to attend school every day.
- The newly-elected and soon-to-be-appointed CPS board members to put aside distractions and focus on clearly communicating where our children are academically and implementing strategies that address these issues head-on.

>> **For more information or to RSVP for the roundtable**, please contact Kristin Pollock at kpolllock@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 bring together Black and Latine families in solidarity to create stronger public schools to support all children in Chicago. For more information, visit kidsfirstchicago.org.