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### **Statement from Kids First Chicago on Reported TIF Surplus Allocation**

Kids First Chicago applauds Mayor Brandon Johnson for proposing a [reported](#) \$500 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) surplus for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) – an amount well above the \$379 million CPS budgeted.

This proposal, which would represent the largest City TIF surplus ever, would help ensure CPS does not have to cut or borrow from classrooms to cover the City’s pension obligation. It represents a major win for Chicago’s students and families.

- We urge City Council members to adopt a City budget that delivers on the full \$379 million CPS has planned for in its FY26 budget.
- At the same time, we advise that CPS hold off on signing any new intergovernmental agreement (IGA) committing funds to the City until the proposed TIF surplus is finalized and secured through the City’s FY2026 budget process.

This moment underscores what’s possible when city and district leaders work together to put kids first. We thank Mayor Johnson, Interim Superintendent/CEO Dr. Macqueline King, and the Board of Education for their leadership in protecting classrooms and ensuring stability for Chicago’s students.

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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. Kids First Chicago (K1C) partners 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. Visit [kidsfirstchicago.org](https://kidsfirstchicago.org).