



first principles

elected representative school board

The districts should have substantially equal number of CPS attending children residing in the district.



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Students who attend Chicago Public Schools are not equally distributed across the city. The school board is charged with administering CPS public resources which should mirror where students reside.

CPS ARA data shows distribution of CPS and charter school enrolled students by community area.

[CPS ARA Data](#)

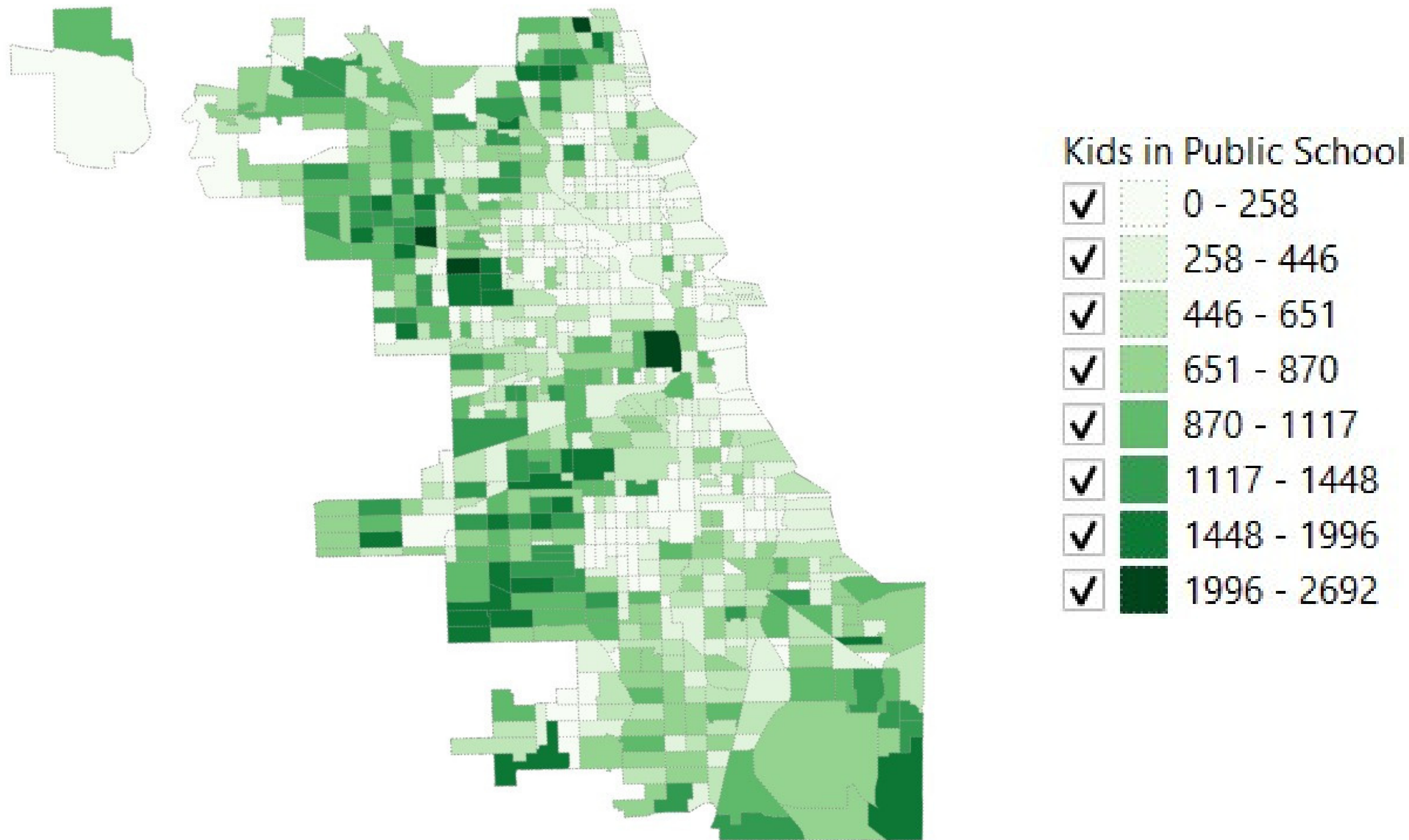


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Also, CPS public school students are not evenly distributed in Chicago across census tracts. Where students reside should be a priority in creating maps so the elected representatives are able to marshal resources appropriately for students.

Where CPS Students Live in Chicago by Census Tract





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It is typical for students to travel outside their neighborhoods for school.
Their experiences should be reflected across the mapped districts.

CPS ARA Data

South Side students stuck with longest school commutes, study shows



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CPS uses a portfolio system for student assignment which includes magnet schools, selective enrollment schools, trade schools and other schools that do not have attendance boundaries. We should consider where students reside prior to considering where they are enrolled.

[selective enrollment schools list](#)

[choice elementary school list](#)



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Do not construct districts from existing attendance boundaries. However, do use existing attendance boundaries to evaluate lopsided representation from one school community.



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Attendance boundaries are subject to Board control.

This will have the effect of making those attendance boundaries more rigid.

[CPS Board Policy, Attendance Boundaries](#)



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Chicago Public Schools maintains a dataset which counts how many students within a school boundary attend that bounded school and how many students come from outside a neighborhood attendance boundary. Most students in Chicago Public Schools are not attending their neighborhood school.

[CPS dataset on Residing + Attending,
Non-Residing+Attending student enrollment](#)

[Distribution of school distance for students](#)



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Some attendance boundaries are the result of problematic historical decisions based on race, class, or politics; making them an explicit building block unintentionally reinforces those patterns. Additionally, there are many places in the city where the closest school is not the zoned school, creating a tension between attendance boundaries and compact geographic community areas.

[Map of "zone proximity conflicts" for elementary schools](#)



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data.thefoiabakery.org

<https://www.muckrock.com/organization/the-foia-bakery/>

<https://observablehq.com/collection/@fgregg/cps>

[Chicago Enrollment Data](#)