

Daniel Anello – Kids First Chicago

“I write to you as a concerned constituent who lives in your district and as an advocate for the many Chicago families and parents we work on behalf of. Critically, you are charged with the unprecedented responsibility of drawing the districts for Chicago's new elected school board.”

“**I want to make sure you have had a chance to see our [analysis](#) of the initial map**, which we know is a draft. We also recognize it is difficult to make everyone happy in a situation like this. That said, the current map iteration misses the mark on representation and equity. I know you are pushing for a map that better reflects the testimonies you have been hearing, which we appreciate. Given your track record on racial equity, I was hoping you might be interested in understanding some of the pitfalls in the current map, and the wisdom in what many concerned Chicagoans have raised about seat plurality.”

“A map that explicitly aligned with CPS demographics would be 10 Hispanic, 8 Black, and only 2 White (or 10H, 7B, 2W, 1A). Importantly, that has not been the request from Chicagoans in the hearings. Kids First Chicago submitted a sample map that was created with parents to demonstrate that an 8 Hispanic, 7 Black, 5 White map was feasible with compact districts. This was meant to show that finding a middle ground between enrollment representation and population representation is feasible.”

“When lawmakers passed the elected school board law in 2021, Chicagoans were promised an elected representative school board. Legislators have solicited input from the public through hearings and a website on how districts should be created.”

“We also [analyzed the testimonials](#) to understand what most people were asking for. What you will see is that CPS parents have consistently advocated at these hearings for a school board that reflects CPS’s diversity because a representative board will better understand the needs of the children who enroll in CPS and [research](#) shows will deliver better results for students.”

“**We believe it is reasonable for the committees to create a map with at least two more primarily Hispanic districts while maintaining the seven primarily Black districts they have already proposed in order to better reflect CPS families.** Note - this is still far from a map that mirrors CPS enrollment, but does pay respect to the 90% people of color who enroll in CPS.”

“Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.”