



## ANALYSIS: ILGA PROPOSED CHICAGO ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MAP (THIRD PROPOSED MAP) NOVEMBER 1, 2023

*Kids First Chicago (K1C) has analyzed the three proposed district maps released by the Illinois General Assembly for Chicago's future elected school board. The first map was released for public review on May 5, 2023. On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, the Illinois General Assembly released an updated map in response to significant public concern about the initial map. A third map was released Tuesday, October 31, following continued pushback and demands from the public for increased racial representation on the elected board. K1C's analysis on this most recent map is contained below. Included in the appendix is data from a citywide poll that asked registered and/or eligible Chicago voters if the racial and ethnic composition of elected school board districts should reflect the composition of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) student body.*

Over the past year, parents, educators, community members, and organizations have participated in numerous public hearings on the proposed Chicago elected school board district map. K1C's parent-led Elected School Board Task Force, along with many members of the broader public, has been advocating for districts that better reflect the student demographics of CPS, while still ensuring compliance with relevant federal, state, and local election laws. K1C families believe that when school board members are elected from districts that more closely mirror the student population, it ensures that those in charge of decision-making are intimately familiar with the unique challenges and needs of their constituents. [Research has continually shown](#) that more diverse school boards lead to more equitable decision-making and better outcomes for students.

Chicago voters are overwhelmingly aligned with K1C families on this issue. A recent poll commissioned by K1C indicates that a substantial majority of Chicago voters believe the racial and ethnic composition of elected school board districts should reflect the composition of the CPS student body. Chicago's demographics are significantly different from those of the CPS student body. As of 2022, Chicago's population was approximately 58% Black and Latine while the CPS student body was almost 82% Black and Latine. **In the K1C poll, a significant majority of respondents (75%) thought it was "extremely" (44%) or "very" (31%) essential that districts have racial representation that reflects the racially diverse CPS student population.**

### **The Illinois General Assembly's Latest Chicago Elected School Board Map Proposal is More Trick than Treat**

The Illinois General Assembly is not listening. Perhaps this should be obvious given the fact that new maps were released during the evening of Halloween when most Chicago families were out celebrating with their children.

The latest maps have 7 White, 7 Black, and 6 Latine majority/plurality districts, based on Voting Age Population (VAP). While there is minor improvement over the second proposed map in terms of the margins in Latine districts, this new map still does not do enough to align with what the vast majority of Chicagoans demand. Public testimonies and polling data continue to show that Chicagoans want school board districts to have pluralities that honor and reflect the families who are enrolled in CPS.

The new map ensures that the White voter population once again is the second most prominent block for all but four of the districts. White voters are given substantial voting power for a school district where just over 10% of the students are White. Comparatively, Black district plurality exists in 7 districts, but they have less than 20% of the voting base in 13 of the 20 districts. Latine voting population is the plurality in only 6 districts despite Latine students making up nearly half of CPS' student population. One district, District L, is closely divided between White and Latine populations, with a 5-point White plurality considering VAP. However, if we were to only consider the Citizen Voting Age Population, representing those who are eligible to vote, and voter turnout patterns in that district, it is more than likely a White-leaning district.

**CPS families and Chicago voters have demanded a map that respects CPS's student population, which is predominantly Black and Latine, while adhering to all legal requirements of equal representation in district creation.** The Kids First Chicago Elected School Board Task Force has submitted three separate district map proposals to the respective Illinois Senate and House committees, each with 8 primarily Latine, 7 Black, and 5 White districts. Such proposals demonstrate that lawmakers could take a balanced approach in creating districts that respect the diversity of CPS while maintaining fair representation for all Chicagoans. Yet this latest map proposal

continues to ignore the wishes of the vast majority of Chicago's voters and CPS families and significantly overrepresents Chicago's White population in comparison to their makeup of the district's student population.

4 out of every 5 Chicago children of color, including Black, Latine, and Asian students, enroll in CPS, while just over half of White children do the same. However, the proposed maps still favor White candidates<sup>1</sup> for a school system where only 1 in 10 children is White. Unfortunately, this map fails to advance racial equity and provide fair representation for CPS families.

Illinois legislators claim they are listening to CPS families and education stakeholders about the importance of inclusion and the representation of lived experiences on Chicago's future elected school board. **However, with this latest map proposal, the Illinois General Assembly appears to be practicing the fine art of selective hearing, tuning out the voices of CPS families and Chicago voters.**

Dis- trict	Total Populati- on	Voting Pop White %	Voting Pop Black %	Voting Pop Asian %	Voting Pop Hispanic %	Voting Pop White %	Voting Pop Black %	Voting Pop Asian %	Voting Pop Hispanic %
A	137,753	77%	4%	8%	9%	1	4	3	2
B	137,142	70%	2%	9%	17%	1	4	3	2
C	137,450	23%	60%	10%	5%	2	1	3	4
D	137,831	41%	18%	20%	19%	1	4	2	3
E	137,453	34%	4%	6%	54%	2	4	3	1
F	137,859	6%	68%	0%	24%	3	1	4	2
G	137,285	55%	8%	14%	21%	1	4	3	2
H	137,653	67%	10%	10%	10%	1	2	3	4
I	136,517	3%	85%	1%	10%	3	1	4	2
J	136,744	13%	75%	6%	4%	2	1	3	4
K	137,089	25%	10%	3%	61%	2	3	4	1
L	137,307	46%	3%	8%	41%	1	4	3	2
M	137,671	24%	18%	1%	55%	2	3	4	1
N	137,143	14%	2%	24%	60%	3	4	2	1
O	136,730	15%	59%	1%	23%	3	1	4	2
P	137,242	20%	13%	9%	57%	2	3	4	1
Q	137,064	16%	12%	8%	63%	2	3	4	1
R	137,078	29%	52%	6%	11%	2	1	4	3
S	137,510	24%	70%	0%	4%	2	1	4	3
T	137,867	71%	8%	12%	8%	1	3	2	4

<sup>1</sup> Although we cannot assume that a district with a majority of one racial/ethnic group will not vote for a representative from a different racial/ethnic background, statistically, it is less likely.

We face a looming April 1, 2024 deadline to create Chicago's elected school board districts. Springfield should once again go back to the drawing board and listen to what CPS families and Chicago voters want: a map that fairly represents Chicago's Black and Brown families.

## APPENDIX: POLL ON CHICAGO'S TRANSITION TO AN ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD (ESB)

### Methodology

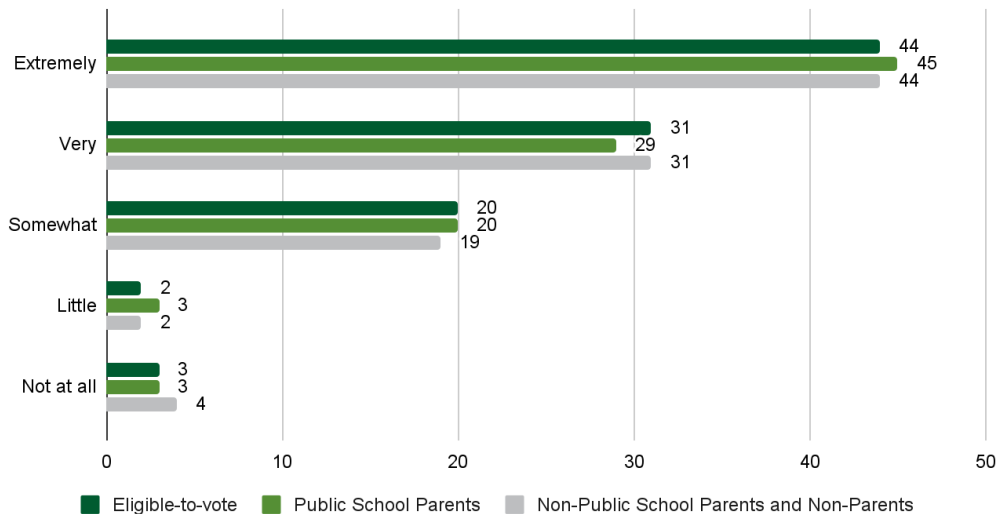
K1C's citywide poll on Chicago's Transition to an Elected School Board (ESB) was conducted **September 26 through October 9, 2023**. Our sample included 777 Chicagoans aged 18 and up. **723** of our respondents were eligible-to-vote. Unless stated otherwise, all results below are based on this eligible-to-vote sample (n=723).<sup>2</sup>

While we choose, here, to present the results of these 723 respondents, there was no apparent meaningful difference in responses between those who were eligible-to-vote and those who were not. Chicago residents were recruited by Qualtrics, and surveys were administered online on the Qualtrics platform.<sup>3</sup> Respondents were randomly selected from Qualtrics' research panel, and survey participation was completely voluntary. In order to ensure representation from across Chicago, Qualtrics gathered at least 100 responses from each of the following Chicago regions: Northwest, North, Central, West, South, Southwest, Far South. The sampling margin of error is estimated to be about +/- 5 percentage points.

### Racial composition of the elected school board

*Question: "How essential is it to you that the elected school board districts have racial representation that reflects the racially diverse CPS student population?"*

Percent of respondents, by degree of importance that the elected school board's racial representation match that of CPS, and by demographic group (n=723)



<sup>2</sup> We decided to present the results of the eligible-to-vote sample as these results are more relevant to and impactful for elected leaders.

<sup>3</sup> Qualtrics panel partners randomly select respondents for surveys where respondents are highly likely to qualify. Certain exclusions take place including category exclusions, participation frequency and so on. Each sample from the panel base is proportioned to the general population and then randomized before the survey is deployed. We work to guarantee that the population surveyed meets the requirements of the specific survey as defined by our clients' needs. Participants are recruited from various sources, including website intercept recruitment, member referrals, targeted email lists, gaming sites, customer loyalty web portals, permission-based networks, and social media, etc. Consumer panel members' names, addresses, and dates of birth are typically validated via third-party verification measures prior to their joining a panel. B2B participants are subject to additional quality control measures such as LinkedIn matching, phone calls to the participant's place of business, and other third-party verification methods (TrueSample, RelevantID, Verity, etc.)." <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/contentgroups/psychology/Qualtrics%20Information%20Guide.pdf>