



Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

April 19, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

We've committed to providing you with regular updates on our financial crisis, so we want to make sure you're aware of an important step CPS is taking in our fight for equal funding from the state of Illinois.

As you know, CPS students make up 20 percent of the enrollment in Illinois public schools, and our city's taxpayers contribute 20 percent of the revenue used to fund public education. Yet we receive just 15 percent of the education funding from Springfield. The extra five percent is worth nearly \$500 million dollars in FY '16 alone, all but eliminating the budget gap we face this year.

This funding discrepancy perpetuates two systems of public education in our state. One for Chicago, and one for the rest of Illinois. Our lawmakers – the only ones with the power to change this fact – must acknowledge that inequity now and begin to right this wrong.

It's this sentiment that's at the heart of the grassroots campaign we launched this morning. With the support of community and school leaders, we invited Chicagoans to join us as we fight for equal funding. You can learn more about this effort by visiting [cps.edu/equality](http://cps.edu/equality).

Why do this now?

Instead of addressing the problem, Governor Rauner's proposed education budget cuts another \$74 million in funding from our district. As the leaders of this district, bearing responsibility for the futures of so many children, we cannot let this go unanswered.

Illinois' broken approach to education funding has cut state support while imposing costly mandated pension payments, leaving CPS students with less money than their peers around the state. This year, that means CPS received \$.74 cents per student from the state, compared to the \$1.00 per student received by every other district in the state.

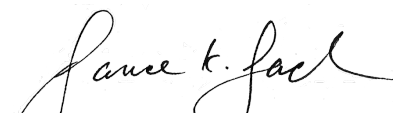
The quality of a child's education should not be determined by a zip code, by his country of origin or by her race. But that is what this approach does - -and it cannot stand any longer.

We thank you for your support, and for the work you do each day on behalf of Chicago's children.

Sincerely,



Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer



Janice K. Jackson, EdD  
Chief Education Officer

