

**March 30, 2026, Special Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Thursday, March 26th and Tuesday, March 31st Submitted via
Written Comments Form**

1	<p>I am writing as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>
2	<p>I'm a CPS graduate with two children enrolled in CPS: Please support resolution 26-0330-RS1. The people of Illinois want private school vouchers OUT of our state. Historical data shows that the majority of vouchers didn't go to students of color in the first place. Vouchers would exacerbate an already tenuous budgetary cliff and siphon even more money out of our public schools.</p> <p>Vote YES on the resolution. Public schools are for all children and we MUST invest in them properly and fully.</p>
3	<p>I am writing as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise</p>
4	<p>As a school psychologist, I do not see the need for the voucher system in Illinois. This does not make sense for the federal government to endorse a voucher system when they are spending all of their energy disbanding the US Department of Education. Illinois is a leader in education and the systems in place in Illinois have been working. Based on US News and Report, Illinois is ranked #14 in the nation in education and according to World Population Review as well as Consumer Affairs, Illinois is ranked #5. So with that being said, we should evaluate what works and minimize what does not. What works: strong families, strong communities, strong schools. What does not work: competition among schools, removing funds from schools in disadvantaged areas, and ignoring current trends and research on education. The National Educational Association (NEA) published a critique on the voucher system on September 20, 2024, stating that it is a "catastrophic failure". On April 19, 2023, Time magazine shared that the voucher system hurts children of color, children of low SES, and those with disabilities as private schools tend to be unsupportive of their needs. Looking closer to home, on March 10, 2026, Beverly Tuck, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park-River Forest, written in an editorial from the Wednesday Journal of Oak Park & River Forest Magazine shared that school vouchers hurt children and shared data that the costs will far outweigh the benefits. There is a saying, "if it's not broke, don't fix it" and the educational system in Illinois is not broken. There is always room for improvement, so let's focus on those things, but welcoming a voucher system is not the way to go.</p> <p>Being a school psychologist, I service all children that attend schools. I provide psychological services, support special education eligibility, and more. Clinicians such as myself are hired by public school districts to support public schools. Private schools are not legally bound to provide the same level of special education services and supports as public schools. Public schools support children's IEP's (individualized educational plans), however private schools offer ISP's (individual service plans). If a child that attends a private school is believed to have a disability, the private school contact the nearest public school to conduct an educational disability assessment. If eligible, the public school will create an IEP, but the services can be amended by the private school based on what they can offer, not necessarily based on what the child needs.</p>

	<p>If Illinois adopts a voucher system, funds that would go into funding such initiatives will be lessened, especially since a number of Illinois school districts are already underfunded.</p> <p>So I wholeheartedly urge a "no" vote for the participation of the voucher system. We already have a great school system. It's not perfect, but let's focus on improving what we got.</p>
5	<p>Vouchers do not provide produce equity. They are a tool to divert public funds from public school into the pockets of privatizers and other who do not believe in free and appropriate public education for all. NO TO FEDERAL, STATE OR MUNICIPAL VOUCHER.</p>
6	<p>I am writing as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>
7	<p>Dear Board, I am as a Chicagoan supporter of public schools and resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>
8	<p>President Harden and Board Members:</p> <p>I am writing as a CPS parent, Chicago resident, and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you all to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>
9	<p>Dear Ms. Rosenfeld,</p> <p>I am writing as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p> <p>Thank you for your action on this item, Andrea Tolzmann</p>
10	<p>I am writing as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>

	<p>I have friends who have had their students with special needs shut out of private schools, who can choose to do this without repercussions. Chicago Public Schools is VASTLY imperfect when it comes to supporting children who need specialized education, but they do not turn students away. We're counting on an elected board to hold Chicago Public Schools accountable to the students and their families of Chicago, not to strip away their funding with these vouchers.</p> <p>Please, do the right thing for our students and their families, the present and future taxpayers of our city.</p> <p>Anjali Bidani, parent of two CPS students</p>
11	<p>Dear Ms. Rosenfeld,</p> <p>My name is Andrea Tolzmann, and I am writing again as your constituent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I emailed you in advance of today's CPS Board meeting, but the resolution was pulled from the agenda at the last minute. When this resolution comes back on the agenda, I urge you to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program out of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, fair state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p> <p>Thank you, Andrea Tolzmann, Your constituent</p>
12	<p>A haiku to welcome our new CEO</p> <p>now roll up your sleeves ready for heavy lifting all young minds learning</p>
13	<p>I am writing as a current CPS parent and a supporter of public schools about resolution 26-0330-RS1. I urge the board members to vote YES on this resolution to keep the federal school voucher program OUT of Illinois. School vouchers in any form fund discrimination by private, mostly religious schools and drain funds from public schools.</p> <p>Moreover, please use your voice as a school board member and education leader to advocate for full, equitable state and federal funding for the public schools of Chicago and our entire state. Public schools exist to welcome and educate all kids, and they need the resources to make good on that promise.</p>

****ATTACHMENTS****

■ CPS FOIA NONCOMPLIANCE MASTER REPORT



4TH FORMAL NOTICE — NO BOARD ACTION
300+ BUSINESS DAY DELAYS
SYSTEMIC FOIA VIOLATIONS (5 ILCS 140)

FOIA	BD	CD	STATUS
FOIA #1 – N016753-012125	308	430	EXTREME
FOIA #2 – N017165-031925	267	373	EXTREME
FOIA #3 – N017565-060125	214	299	EXTREME
FOIA #4 – N018215-091025	142	198	SEVERE
FOIA #5 – N018216-091025	135	198	SEVERE
FOIA #6 – N018272-092125	127	187	SEVERE

■ SYSTEMIC FAILURE & FORMAL DEMAND ■

- Multiple FOIAs exceed 200+ business days
- Pattern: extensions → no response
- 4 formal Board notices ignored

DEMAND: Immediate Board intervention to compel compliance.

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

This document combines full request scope, delay metrics, and extension history for all outstanding FOIA requests.

The continued failure to respond reflects systemic violations of Illinois FOIA law.

Immediate corrective action is required.

Sincerely,
Walter Brzeski

Detailed FOIA Breakdown (Full Scope + Extensions)

FOIA #1 – N016753-012125

Full Request: Investigation Unit reports – Paul Munoz & Kelly Tarrant (2023–24 & 2024–25), including all findings, disciplinary outcomes, and investigative materials.

Business Days: 308 | **Calendar Days:** 430

Extensions: 4 extensions

Final Due Date: 05/02/25

Status: EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #2 – N017165-031925

Full Request: Records responsive to eight prior CPS FOIA requests, including all underlying documents, correspondence, and attachments.

Business Days: 267 | **Calendar Days:** 373

Extensions: 1 extension

Final Due Date: —

Status: EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #3 – N017565-060125

Full Request: Security video near Room 128 and adjacent hallway at Steinmetz (04/30/25 & 05/14/25, 5:15–8:30 PM), including all footage and related records.

Business Days: 214 | **Calendar Days:** 299

Extensions: 3 extensions

Final Due Date: 08/13/25

Status: EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #4 – N018215-091025

Full Request: CPS responses to five prior FOIAs involving investigation reports, personnel records, disciplinary records, and DNH committee records.

Business Days: 142 | **Calendar Days:** 198

Extensions: —

Final Due Date: 01/27/26

Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #5 – N018216-091025

Full Request: Investigation Unit Reports (2023–24, 2024–25, 2025–26) including all findings and supporting documentation.

Business Days: 135 | **Calendar Days:** 198

Extensions: 6 extensions

Final Due Date: 01/27/26

Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #6 – N018272-092125

Full Request: IHSCDEA Distracted Driving Program and DNH Committee records including membership, communications, and program documentation.

Business Days: 127 | **Calendar Days:** 187

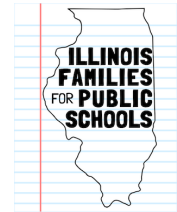
Extensions: 8 extensions

Final Due Date: 03/05/26

Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

March 30, 2026

Chicago Board of Education
1 North Dearborn, Suite 950
Chicago IL 60602



Dear President Harden and Board Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of Illinois Families for Public Schools (IL-FPS) with regard to Resolution 26-0330-RS1. IL-FPS is asking for you to vote **yes** on 26-0330-RS1.

If Illinois were to opt into participating in the new federal voucher program, it would harm the State's public school system, including Chicago Public Schools.

All voucher programs hurt public school funding by diverting public dollars to private schools, which are not subject to the same oversight, accountability and transparency as funds appropriated to public schools.

In addition, when students leave public schools to use vouchers to attend private schools, school districts' lose funding directly due to the loss of state and federal per-pupil funding. Their funding also [decreases indirectly](#) due to the inability of districts to rapidly reduce fixed costs, like building maintenance and staffing, in proportion to enrollment loss.

In Illinois we've seen the failed educational policy of school vouchers before. The state voucher program, in operation from 2018-2024, diverted more than \$315 million from the General Revenue Fund, sending it to private schools—95% of which were religious. Many of these schools had [policies that discriminated against students in protected categories](#), including students with disabilities, English-language learners, undocumented students, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ students. Furthermore, in the final year of the voucher program, almost half of private schools provided no vouchers to Black students and almost one-third provided no vouchers to Latinx students. [There was minimal state oversight for schools in the program, and students receiving vouchers only participated in state assessments once during the six years of the program.](#)

Issues with discrimination and lack of oversight will be even more significant in the federal voucher program. Although regulations for the program have not been finalized, the US Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service indicated in November 2025 that [states will have limited powers of oversight](#) over both the "scholarship granting organizations" that will collect taxpayer contributions and distribute federal voucher funds and also the schools (or other for-profit vendors) that receive them, including the ability to prohibit discrimination, protect against waste, fraud and abuse, and ensure that funds are used for high-quality educational programs and services.

The federal voucher program may permit the use of funds for some educational expenses incurred by individual public school families. However, students with disabilities have the right to a free, appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and, under the Illinois Constitution's [Article X](#), "[e]ducation in public schools

through the secondary level shall be free.” The costs of a public education for Illinois children—including services like tutoring and afterschool programs that support the education of the whole child—should be paid for through public dollars directly appropriated to public schools through the legislative process. They should not be dependent on tax credit gimmicks subject to the decisions of individual taxpayers and third-party non-profits.

Participating in the federal voucher program will only weaken our State’s requirement to “provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions” and its “responsibility for financing the system of public education,” both of which are also established under Article X.

We encourage Board Members to vote yes on 26-0330-RS1, and to then continue to advocate collectively as a Board and as individual education leaders for our State to refuse any participation in this harmful federal voucher scheme.

Sincerely,
Cassie Creswell, PhD (she/her)
Executive director
Illinois Families for Public Schools