

Support LSCs!

Keep the **PUBLIC** in public schools!



A coalition of Chicago education and community groups has come together to increase support for Local School Councils (LSCs) and oppose efforts by the Board of Education and Mayor Daley to take away LSC authority. Read more about recent comments by Mayor Daley and Board of Ed. President Rufus Williams on the back of this paper.

- ✓ 91% of all children in the CPS system are children of color. Their parents should have a strong voice in their education through LSCs.
- ✓ LSC decision making has worked for Chicago's schools! Research shows that formerly low-performing schools where LSCs made key decisions have greatly outperformed similarly low-performing schools taken over by the CPS Central Office.

Run for the LSC in April 2008 - support democracy in Chicago!

How Mayor Daley and the Chicago Board of Education are trying to destroy LSCs, the last shred of real citizen participation in Chicago

Background

When the Curie LSC decided not to renew their principal's contract, just after the February, 2007 mayoral primary, Mayor Daley threw a public tantrum, claiming that the principal was a "superstar" and that the LSC was a "national disgrace." Ever since then, CPS and the Mayor have been on a noisy public campaign to get rid of LSCs. Most recently, both Mayor Daley and Board president Rufus Williams made negative comments about LSCs in Catalyst magazine. In a speech to the Civic Club, Williams stated that making major changes in the LSC law was one of his three main goals.

They also went after LSCs in the state legislature, trying to get a bill passed that would give principal selection authority back to CPS. They have waged a non-stop effort to smear LSCs in the press and promote their false message that LSCs are the problem and that CPS control is the answer.

But...the facts support LSCs

They say LSC members aren't capable of making key educational decisions.

The truth is, research shows that the average LSC member is more highly educated than the average citizen of Illinois. Citizen school boards make key educational decisions every day across the US.

They say "We write the checks so we should hire the principals."

The truth is that the taxpayers write the checks, not CPS. Our children generate the money, not CPS.

They say they are the ones being held accountable so they should be the ones picking the principals.

The truth is that one of the strengths of school reform is shared accountability.

- ▶ LSCs are held accountable by their communities every two years when we stand for re-election.
- ▶ CPS already pre-qualifies principals; LSCs decide which one is right for their particular school community.
- ▶ The LSC principal selection process is the critical first step in building trust and a working relationship between the principal and the school community, which research shows is a major key to school improvement. This is less likely to happen with a centrally-imposed principal.

Endorsing this event are:

Designs for Change
South Side United LSC Federation
Parents United for Responsible Education
Teachers for Social Justice

Judy King
Westside Education Committee