



February 24, 2017

Dear CPS Families,

CPS recently moved forward with a painful spending freeze that has affected the budget at your child's school. This was the last thing we wanted for our students, but Governor Rauner's decision to veto \$215 million in funding for our schools left us no other choice.

The decision to freeze half of all unspent funds was agonizing, but since the alternative was losing quality teachers in the middle of the school year, it was the best of bad options. After the freeze was announced, we heard strong concerns from families in our African-American and Hispanic communities, and we want you to know that we have heard those concerns.

To provide some relief to these painful midyear cuts, CPS is returning approximately \$57 per student, or the amount of the original freeze to schools that receive Title I funds. Additionally, we will ensure that no CPS school sees a loss of more than \$300 per student in non-personnel funds. Unfreezing these funds should allow schools to continue with their most critical programming.

However this change will also increase the CPS budget gap from \$111 million to \$129 million.

Without a victory in our lawsuit against the state of Illinois, and absent a deal in Springfield to provide CPS with equal funding, we will be forced to make even more painful decisions to close our deficit. We will continue doing everything we can to increase the flow of revenue to our District, and encourage all families to join our fight for equal funding by visiting cps.edu/equality.

We thank you for your continued support in these challenging financial times. If you have any questions about how our evolving budget situation will affect your child, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Dr. Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools

