

Dear _____ :

My child(ren) is(are) a(re) student(s) at Thomas J. Waters Elementary, a Level 1+ school, along with other CPS schools, one of the top-ranked elementary schools in Illinois. We cannot expect Waters or any other CPS school to maintain their records of excellence if we don't get a state budget by the end of the month that includes equitable and adequate education funding for CPS.

As you are aware, CPS receives \$31 from the state per student for teacher pensions. The state pays every other district \$2,226 per student for teacher pensions. The result is that CPS has to make up that budget differential by taking funds away from classrooms.

If you and the general assembly fail to pass a budget that addresses this inequity by the end of the month, CPS will make plans to cut 5,000 teachers by the start of the 2nd semester. Waters will be forced to teach only what is required for the Illinois sanctions. Waters will not be able to teach classes at the highest levels and neither will any of the other CPS schools. We simply won't have the faculty to cover our students. In addition, class sizes will balloon and exceptional faculty members will lose their jobs.

What that means in very personal terms is that my child will lose out on the outstanding education at an amazing public school. Waters is an outstanding neighborhood school with superb administration and exceptional teachers, who strive to fulfill the school's mission of responsible citizenship, ecological awareness, in depth arts and technology programming, healthy lifestyles, and educational success. The future of my child's education rests in your hands! Mr. Senate President, PLEASE DO WHAT IT TAKES NOW to pass a budget that includes equitable and adequate funding for CPS and the children who attend our schools.

Sincerely,

Here are the pertinent links:

Governor Rauner

<http://www.illinois.gov/gov/contactus/Pages/default.aspx>

Senate President Cullerton

<http://www.senatorcullerton.com>

Speaker Madigan

<http://www.housedem.state.il.us/members/madiganm/>

Link from CPS with more information to take action

<http://cps.edu/Pages/TakeAction.aspx>

Link to CPS '20 for 20' Press Release

http://cps.edu/News/Press_releases/Pages/PR1_11_17_2015.aspx