



ANALYSIS: ILGA PROPOSED ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MAPS (SECOND PROPOSED MAP) MAY 18, 2023

Kids First Chicago analyzed the two proposed maps released by the Illinois General Assembly for Chicago's future elected school board. The first map was released for public review on Friday, May 5. The second map was released for public review on Wednesday, May 17. Also included is the analysis of public testimony from hearings convened by the Illinois General Assembly through Saturday, May 6, 2023. Our updated analysis, produced on May 18, 2023, follows.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, Illinois House and Senate Democrats released their initial 20 district elected school board map for Chicago. On Wednesday, May 17, the General Assembly released an updated map in response to significant public concern about the initial map.

Notably, the Illinois state legislature has never drawn a school board district map before, making this an unprecedented opportunity for our state lawmakers to pave the way for a more equitable system of government. Typically, the authority to create school governance structures lies within the public school district itself and is subject to approval by the Illinois School Board of Education. The process does not involve the Illinois General Assembly, rendering this action extraordinary in its own right.

Many parents, teachers, community members, and organizations have participated in ongoing public testimony regarding the Chicago elected school board district map. We closely analyzed all the testimonies leading up to the first map. Those data can be found in the appendix. The most common theme has been a request to legislators to create districts that give more representation to Latinx/a/o/e and Black communities, with many testimonies emphasizing the need to fairly represent the CPS student population – which is [47% Latine, 36% Black, and 11% White](#).

Overall takeaway: Springfield's new map is a step in the right direction, with 7 Latine, 7 Black, and 6 White plurality districts. However, the latest map includes 2 Latine plurality districts where White voting populations are nearly the same as the Latine voting population. Given the discrepancy between Voting Age Population and Citizen Voting Age Population, which is not included in the data provided, these districts are Latine plurality in name only, as the true voting population is most likely predominantly White.

While this second proposed map provides White plurality for 6 districts, the White voter population once again is the second most prominent block for all but four of the districts. Comparatively, Black district plurality exists in 7 districts, but they have less than 20% of the voting base in the other 13 of the 20 districts. White voter population is only below 20% in 4 of the 20 districts, meaning they have voting power as a racial block in 80% of the districts.

If Chicago were to replicate districts where the populations mirrored public school enrollment, the 20 districts' plurality would look as follows: 9-10 Latine, 7-8 Black, 2 White, and 0-1 Asian.¹

Latine voting population is the plurality in 7 districts.² However, despite having plurality in 7 districts, in two districts (E and P) they still only have plurality over the White voter population by 1 to 3 percentage points, which is easily within the census count margin of error. Moreover, Voting Age Population by definition includes non-citizens. While non-citizens can certainly be found in the Black and White populations, non-citizens are a much higher percentage of Latine populations. This means that the Latine Voting Age Population percentages overstate the actual percent of the population who can participate in the elections without a change to the law. What does that mean? It could easily mean that in a district where Latine have a plurality of 42% and White voters have 41% (district E), the actual Citizen

¹ It is notable that proposals from groups asking the maps to respect CPS enrollment have never presented a map with 10 Latine, 8 Black, and 2 White districts (or 9 Latine, 8 Black, 2 White and 1 Asian), which would mirror CPS enrollment most closely. Rather, groups arguing for better representation of the student body have offered compromised proposals with configurations like 8 Latine, 7 Black, and 5 White, for example, which still give White voters a significant number of plurality districts given how few White children attend CPS.

² In 8 of the districts, Latines have less than 20% of the voting population.

Voting Age Population for Latine is well below the White voter population. With districts E and P distributed in this manner, White voting plurality may exist in 8 districts rather than just the 6 districts one sees at first glance. **A map drawn like this using Voting Age Population in its design cannot be equitable to all stakeholders without making non-citizen participation possible.**

District	Total Population	Voting Pop White %	Voting Pop Black %	Voting Pop Asian %	Voting Pop Hispanic %	Voting Pop White %	Voting Pop Black %	Voting Pop Asian %	Voting Pop Hispanic %
A	137,995	77%	3%	7%	9%	1	4	3	2
B	137,229	68%	2%	12%	16%	1	4	3	2
C	137,688	8%	76%	4%	9%	3	1	4	2
D	137,248	41%	17%	18%	20%	1	4	3	2
E	137,395	41%	4%	10%	42%	2	4	3	1
F	137,886	8%	80%	3%	7%	2	1	4	3
G	136,743	58%	13%	11%	13%	1	2	4	3
H	137,507	67%	4%	6%	19%	1	4	3	2
I	136,703	3%	83%	0%	12%	3	1	4	2
J	136,935	10%	66%	3%	18%	3	1	4	2
K	137,342	26%	9%	2%	61%	2	3	4	1
L	136,912	34%	3%	4%	57%	2	4	3	1
M	137,520	26%	6%	1%	66%	2	3	4	1
N	137,231	18%	7%	10%	63%	2	4	3	1
O	137,443	19%	57%	2%	20%	3	1	4	2
P	137,265	31%	7%	26%	34%	2	4	3	1
Q	137,006	18%	10%	7%	64%	2	3	4	1
R	136,880	28%	55%	3%	11%	2	1	4	3
S	137,729	24%	67%	0%	6%	2	1	4	3
T	137,731	68%	7%	15%	6%	1	3	2	4

4 out of 5 children of color, Black, Latine, and Asian, enroll in CPS as compared to just over 1 out of every 2 White children. These maps unfortunately still advantage White candidates for a school system where only 1 in 10 children are White. **This map does not advance racial equity or fairly represent the diversity of CPS families yet.**

While one cannot assume a district that is plurality one group will not vote for a representative of a different background, this is statistically less probable. More importantly, the current law makes no accommodations for wealth disparities. Without campaign limits and board member compensation, many people of color, the vast majority of whom subscribe to CPS (nearly 9 in 10 students), will not have equitable opportunities to serve on this new Board.

Wealth distribution in Chicago has roots in redlining, discriminatory housing policy, and other systemically racist policies of our past. The legislature's first draft map will perpetuate many of the racial inequities they claim to oppose. Working class and lower-income parents of color will struggle to compete for representation against wealthy well-connected candidates. And when White Chicagoans have a disproportionate share of wealth and access to powerful networks, with this map, we can anticipate they will likely dominate the Board, and will certainly hold far more seats than the 11% White children make up in CPS and than the 33% of the population they are today.³

Is that necessarily an issue? Perhaps not. But when we talk about how critical inclusion and representation of lived experience is, and we look at what people, Black, White, Latine, Asian, etc. raised in the public hearings, it is hard to look at this map and not feel that this continues to fall short.

³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/chicagocityillinois>

APPENDIX: ANALYSIS OF ESB HEARINGS

Analysis of ESB Hearings					
Senate Special Committee on the Chicago Elected Representative School Board					
Public Hearings	Testimonies	Racial representation or district representing a particular race	Community intactness	Noncitizen participation	Compensation
All Hearings	53	36	12	8	17
<i>April 5, 2023 Hearing - Westinghouse College Prep</i>	6	6	1	1	1
<i>April 6, 2023 Hearing - Imani Village</i>	8	3	2	0	5
<i>April 12, 2023 Hearing - Copernicus Center</i>	6	3	0	0	2
<i>April 13, 2023 Hearing - National Museum of Mexican Art</i>	6	3	0	2	2
<i>April 17, 2023 Hearing - Virtual Hearing</i>	27	21	9	5	7
Public Submissions (excluding repeats from Hearings)	36	19	17	1	3
Signatures on IAAER Letter (excluding repeats from Hearings and Public Submissions)	32	32	32	0	0
Total	121	87	61	9	20
Percent		72%	50%	7%	17%
***Note: All House Executive Committee - CPS Work Group Public Submissions - are represented above. Included in this list are testimonies from 4 different people (Valerie Leonard, Eli Brotzman, Melanie Lopez, and Miriam Bhimani)					

Testimonial Links:

- **Hearings (Marked up by K1C):**
 - April 5, 2023 Hearing - Westinghouse College Prep: [Link to original](#) - [Link to K1C markup](#)
 - April 6, 2023 Hearing - Imani Village: [Link to original](#) - [Link to K1C markup](#)
 - April 12, 2023 Hearing - Copernicus Center: [Link to original](#) - [Link to K1C markup](#)
 - April 13, 2023 Hearing - National Museum of Mexican Art: [Link to original](#) - [Link to K1C markup](#)
 - April 17, 2023 Hearing - Virtual Hearing: [Link to original](#) - [Link to K1C markup](#)
- **Senate Special Committee on the Chicago Elected Representative School Board - Public Submissions:** [Link here](#)
- **House Executive Committee - CPS Work Group Public Submissions:** [Link here](#)