

20%
Illinois students
enrolled in CPS
system

20%
State income tax
contributed by
Chicagoans

15%
State funding
received by CPS
students

**The missing 5% is \$500 million—
enough to save our classrooms.**

20% FOR 20%

April 6, 2017

To the Parents of Pirie School,

We all work hard to prepare our children for their future— but that future is still being threatened by Governor Rauner's education plan, which could include more cuts to CPS and/or possibly closing schools early this year. "In light of the district's current financial situation, Chicago Public School has continued its equitable funding campaign to urge schools, families, and communities to take action against the State's partisan gridlock that threatens the success of our students. The State has been under funding Chicago students for far too long, and the students, parents and educators deserve better. Five families and the Board of Education have sued to declare the State's separate and unequal education funding systems *illegal* under the Illinois Civil Rights Act. **"CPS Students are facing unconscionable discrimination from the State of Illinois"**.

- ❖ CPS is the 3rd largest school district in the country, and the largest in the State of Illinois. 90% are children of color (38% African American; 47% Hispanic)
- ❖ In 2017, the State of Illinois will spend \$2,437 per student on teacher pensions outside Chicago; and yet, only \$32 per student for Chicago teachers.
- ❖ For every \$1 students across Illinois get, CPS students get \$.78.
- ❖ IL is the worst in the nation in supporting the education of children in poverty.

Here are some ways we need families to support our students:

1. Sign the petition at www.cps.edu/equality
2. Visit www.facebook.com/chicagopublicschools and like our efforts
3. Use hashtag #cpsequality and Tweet @ChiPubSchools, @ClaypoolCPS, @CPSCEdO
4. Make a video and share your stories on social media using hashtag #cpsequality

With that said, I want to clarify and make sure that we really understand that this battle is about equitable funding from Springfield to prevent budget cuts within our school district. We must ensure that as we continue to write letters and converse with our representatives our message is clear. We are asking for our Governor in Springfield to protect and place value in our teacher's time, our student's class sizes and the school's climate which can only be done with equitable funding to our school district. Moving forward, continue to let your voices be heard and express your concerns to your local and state officials. Let them know that we need funding from Springfield and we must put our children first. ***Advocacy begins with you, and with your family, friends and neighbors. We need your help. We need your voice!***

Educationally Yours,

Senalda R. Grady
Senalda R. Grady,
Principal