

# Chicago Public Schools Budget Advocacy Tool

*(For Community Leaders, Parents, and Elected Officials)*

## The Situation

The Chicago Board of Education recently approved a budget that **depends on new contributions from the City Council and the State Legislature**. Without these funds, critical resources for students, teachers, and schools will be at risk.

## What's at Stake

- Classroom Size & Staffing – Without additional funding, larger class sizes and fewer staff will strain student learning.
- Student Safety & Wellness – Cuts could weaken counseling, social-emotional supports, and restorative justice programs.
- Equity in Access – Arts, special education, and enrichment programs are often the first cut in underfunded schools.
- Community Stability – Schools are anchors; underfunding them destabilizes neighborhoods.

## Questions for the Board of Education

- 1 What drove your decision to approve a budget dependent on city and state contributions?
- 2 What concrete commitments will you make to secure those funds?
- 3 How will you support community campaigns to elevate this urgency with elected officials?
- 4 What will you personally do to ensure the voices of parents and educators are heard in City Hall and Springfield?

## Community Call to Action

We must **mobilize together** to secure these funds:

- **Parents & Families** → Call your alderman and state representative. Share how budget cuts affect your child.
- **Educators & Leaders** → Join advocacy days in Springfield and City Hall.
- **Community Members** → Use social media, letters to the editor, and community forums to raise visibility.

## Immediate Next Steps

Ask your Board of Education member:

- Will you attend a community town hall within the next 30 days?
- Will you help organize meetings with City Council and Springfield legislators?
- Will you publicly track progress toward funding commitments?

**Together, we must secure the future of Chicago's students.**  
Every voice counts. Every action matters.

 **Take Action Now**

Step	What To Do	Your Notes
1	Call your Alderman	Name: _____ Phone: _____
2	Call your State Representative	Name: _____ Phone: _____
3	Share your story on social media	Handles/Hashtags: _____
4	Attend a community forum	Date/Location: _____