

October 23, 2025

PERMANENT DEBARMENT OF NATIONS CLASSROOM**THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board) permanently debar Respondent Nations Classroom from doing any business with the Board.

The Board's Chief Procurement Officer mailed a Notice of Proposed Debarment to Respondent on May 19, 2025, initiating debarment proceedings against Respondent based on the Board's Debarment Policy. Respondent provides out of state educational student tours. Respondent wanted to enter into a contract with the Board so it could operate two out of state educational tours for CPS students. Respondent informed the Board that it was unable to conduct an Illinois background check of its employees for Respondent's out of state trips. The Board therefore did not sign or execute a contract with Respondent.

Nonetheless, Respondent and its employees took CPS students on two out of state and non-CPS sanctioned trips. In the Board's vendor onboarding questionnaire, Respondent attested that their staff would not have regular contact with CPS students. Respondent's staff, however, was in direct contact with CPS students on at least one of the non-sanctioned trips if not both. Respondent's statement that it would not have regular contact with CPS students was an intentional, false, and deceptive misrepresentation in order to obtain work or business from the Board. Respondent's deceptive misrepresentation violated several sections of the Board's Debarment Policy. Respondent also refused to provide a list of students that went on the non-sanctioned trips. Respondent's refusal to provide the requested information is a violation of the Board's Debarment Policy.

Respondent failed to submit a response to the Notice. All allegations in the Notice are therefore admitted. The Chief Operating Officer has reviewed the record and recommends permanent debarment.

Based on the facts in the record as defined in Section 4.5(10) of the Board's Debarment Policy, the Chief Operating Officer recommends that (1) all existing contracts between the Board and Respondent be terminated; (2) that Respondent be barred from doing business with CPS or otherwise working or volunteering on CPS property; (3) that Respondent be barred from participating as a subcontractor, vendor, or supplier under any Board contract; and (4) that Respondent be declared ineligible for the award of any new Board business.

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Affirmative Action review is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: None.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: None.

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 Chief Operating Officer

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Signed by:

 Elizabeth K. Barton
 Acting General Counsel
 Initial: 