

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE REVENUE SOLUTIONS TO FUND PUBLIC  
EDUCATION AND ESSENTIAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) serves approximately 330,000 students across more than 600 schools, the vast majority of whom come from low- and moderate-income families and communities of color who depend on robust, equitably funded public education; and

**WHEREAS**, public education is the cornerstone of a democratic society and the single most powerful tool for creating opportunity, reducing poverty, and building a more equitable Illinois — and that CPS students deserve world-class schools, safe learning environments, and the full range of academic, social, and emotional supports necessary to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois ranks as the 8th most unequal tax state in the nation and the most unequal in the Midwest, with low-income households paying more than double the percentage of their income in state and local taxes compared to households in the top 1%, placing a disproportionate and unjust burden on the very working families that CPS serves; and

**WHEREAS**, CPS has historically suffered from chronic underfunding rooted in an over-reliance on local property taxes, creating profound inequities between high-wealth and low-wealth school districts — inequities that a robust progressive revenue solution is uniquely positioned to address by generating new, stable, and equitable streams of funding for public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly is considering a suite of progressive revenue measures estimated to generate over \$4 billion in new annual revenue for the State of Illinois by requiring wealthy individuals and large corporations to pay their fair share, without raising taxes on working families or small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, recent federal legislation delivered approximately \$9 billion in tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and corporations in Illinois, while simultaneously cutting billions in federal funding for food assistance, Medicaid, and other essential programs upon which low-income families — including many CPS families — depend, leaving Illinois with a significant budget gap and a moral imperative to pursue new progressive revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois' recent state budgets have included cuts to programs that CPS families and Chicago communities rely upon, including violence prevention services, parent mentorship programs, immigrant health services, and direct economic assistance — cuts that adequate progressive revenue solutions could prevent or reverse, and that fall hardest on the Black, Brown, and immigrant communities disproportionately represented in CPS enrollment; and

**WHEREAS**, raising adequate public revenue through equitable taxation of those with the greatest capacity to pay is not merely a fiscal matter but a moral one — one that reflects this Board's conviction that every child in Chicago, regardless of zip code, race, or family income, deserves a high-quality public education supported by stable, sufficient, and fairly raised public funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago has a responsibility not only to advocate for its students within the school system, but to engage in the broader civic and legislative conversations that shape the conditions of children's lives, the health of the communities CPS serves, and the long-term fiscal environment in which Chicago's public schools must operate;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the City of Chicago hereby expresses its formal and unequivocal support for progressive revenue proposals as measures that would generate billions of dollars in new annual revenue for vital public services, including public education, without placing additional burden on working families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to take swift and affirmative legislative action on progressive revenue proposals and calls upon all members of the General Assembly to champion these measures in the current and upcoming legislative sessions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board calls upon Governor JB Pritzker and legislative leaders of both chambers to reject any approach to Illinois' fiscal challenges that relies solely on cuts to essential services, and instead to pursue a balanced strategy that includes the robust progressive revenue measures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the CEO of Chicago Public Schools and the Board's legislative affairs staff to transmit this resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the Illinois House, the President of the Illinois Senate, and all members of the General Assembly representing Chicago, and to actively advocate in support of progressive revenue proposals throughout the legislative process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board affirms its commitment to partnering with community organizations, labor unions, and advocacy groups in the ongoing effort to build a more equitable Illinois tax structure that invests in public education, public health, and the communities that make Chicago and its schools great.