

The implementation of an elected school board in Chicago is an important step toward representation for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. However, for representation to occur, we must carefully implement a map which represents the diverse student body of CPS. This map is designed to achieve this objective, with 20 districts, for the final implementation of an elected school board, pursuant to Public Act 102-0177.

According to the Chicago Public Schools website, the student body is 46.5% Hispanic, 35.8% Black, 11.0% White, and 4.4% Asian. With this in mind, to achieve the most representative map, a 20 district map would have about 9 majority-Hispanic districts, 7 majority-Black districts, and 1 majority-Asian district. However, based on the racial and ethnic makeup of the city, this is impossible.

This map has 6 majority-Hispanic districts, 6 majority-Black districts, and 1 plurality-Asian district with no majority (due to the majority-Asian neighborhoods being far apart from one another, a majority-Asian district was impossible to create). It also has 4 majority-White districts, and 3 additional plurality-White districts with no majority. The plurality and majority White districts are cut in a manner to maximize the number of people of color elected in them.

I urge you to consider adopting this map, or some variation of it, to ensure the fairest, most equitable representation of CPS students. Our students deserve it, and it will have a multi-faceted positive impact for generations to come, including boosting our economy, improving public safety, and bettering overall quality of life.