

School District 129 would like to thank the House Redistricting Committee for the opportunity to have a voice in the upcoming redistricting process. Ensuring that districts are redrawn to best reflect and serve our community is important to us in many ways.

To begin, one of the things that make School District 129 unique is that we are a diverse school district that welcomes students and families from all over the world. Currently, we serve students who speak forty-five different languages. It will be important to keep in mind the specific needs of our immigrant families during the redistricting process in order to continue to maintain an inclusive environment relative to access, opportunities, and community engagement.

As we look at student racial and ethnic demographics, the diversity in School District 129 also includes being 59% Hispanic, 11% Black, and 3% Asian. Ensuring that our minority population is adequately reflected in the census data and adequately represented at the State and Federal levels is critical to ensuring that the resources needed are available to support these families.

Finally, having representation that mirrors the demographics of our students and the greater community is important. Currently, we have a diverse group of legislators, a number of whom are women. We also feel strongly that there are good bi-partisan relationships and we would like to continue to work together to achieve common goals. Those relationships are vital to be able to tell our story and advocate for our schools and our community.