

Attention All CPS Special Ed Families: Speak up if your child isn't getting the services they need & deserve!

The IL State Board of Education (ISBE) is investigating CPS via a Public Inquiry on suspicion that CPS' new Special Education policies and practices are designed to save money by withholding services from children with special needs. As part of its investigation, ISBE will conduct public hearings where parents and guardians can testify or submit written testimony about their experiences with Special Education in CPS.

The Public Inquiry Team is looking for evidence that CPS has prevented or delayed the delivery of appropriate services to diverse learners during the last **two years**. We are interested in any stories that you have to share, but the following are examples (only examples!) of issues we particularly need right now:

- The IEP/504 team wanted to include a service or support, but the school said they don't have authority to make the decision (for example, an aide or extended school year).
- The IEP/504 seemed to be finished, but then someone went in and changed the plan after the meeting.
- The computer system would not let the case manager "in" to include or add a service.
- You or the team believe that your child needs a service or support (including an evaluation), but you were told that the school can't move forward until more data is collected.
- You were told that the school does not have money to pay for a service or support (like an aide) or that the school will need to take money out of the school's budget to pay for the service or support.
- A student's transportation was denied or eliminated without the parent/guardian's consent.
- A student's school was determined according to available bus routes.
- A preschool aged child declined a CPS program because of issues with bus service or bus routes.

How to Tell Your Story

The Inquiry Team is providing **three** ways to give them evidence.

- 1) Parents/guardians can contact us at Legal Council for Health Justice and we will collect your stories as part of our own submission. Please contact us no later than **February 21**.
- 2) Parents/guardians can submit their own affidavit. We are happy to help with this; the form at present is difficult to navigate. Individual submissions are due **February 21**.
- 3) Two days have also been scheduled to hear community input. On **February 16**, parents/guardians can speak to the Inquiry Team at the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, in rooms 2-027 and 2-029. Individuals will speak for up to five minutes in the order they sign in. All testimony is private. Time Slot #1: 8:30am-10:00am • Time Slot #2: 12:00pm-1:30pm • Time Slot #3: 3:00pm-4:30pm. You will be required to go through security prior to getting on the elevators to the 14th floor. Please bring a state identification. A second opportunity for community input will be **Wednesday February 21** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Center for Conflict Resolution, 11 E. Adams Street, Chicago, IL 60603. Here is a [flyer](#) with the info.

If you have experienced any of these issues or other problems with special ed at CPS, please contact us, and we'll follow up with you about providing written or oral testimony. You can email us at:

bcohen@legalcouncil.org or call us at: 312-605-1948 and ask to speak with Barbara Cohen.