



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

February 15, 2019

Elizabeth Shaw, CEO  
Chicago International Charter School  
11 E. Adams  
Suite 600  
Chicago, IL, 60603

Sent via US mail and electronic mail

Dear Ms. Shaw:

We write today both as concerned Illinois residents and as the chief sponsors of Illinois' landmark school funding reform bill. We believe that the events of the last two years provide funding stability and predictability now and in the future, and we are asking you to settle the strike at four of your campuses immediately. You have the economic resources available to do so, and it is in the spirit of equity that those resources are driven to the classrooms in your network.

SB 1947 includes four provisions designed to support charter schools and ensure equity in services. The first provision is that the floor on Per Capita Tuition Funding was raised. The second provision is the hold harmless to districts ensuring that no district will receive less funding than it did in 2017. Those moves, combined with the Chicago Public Schools' commitment to equivalent funding between district and charter schools, mean that future "shocks" tied to budget cuts and subsequent declines in PCTC will be avoided, and future revenues will be more predictable.

The third provision is the statutory commitment to increased state funding over a ten-year period. That new funding, \$350 million in new dollars per year, is driven first to the schools and districts that need it most. As a Tier I district, CPS is first in line for additional funding. Over the last two years, that provision alone has meant more than \$150 million in new revenue to CPS, with additional increases to follow in the years to come. Clearly, additional revenue will be available to meet the teachers' economic demands.

SB 1947's final equity provision is the evidence-based funding model. The twenty-seven elements of that model are best practices of how dollars should be spent for student success. It is this area of your operation that most concerns us. The model builds in spending on lower class sizes, regionally appropriate compensation packages, and research-based class sizes and staffing ratios, among other best practices. We have seen the press coverage of your network's large management fees, resistance to class size reductions, increases in administration and management numbers and salaries, and forced tradeoffs between wraparound supports and staff benefits. These decisions violate the spirit of the new funding model and deny students the services they deserve.

It is clear that a combination of future funding increases, a reduction in management fees, and a reprioritization of spending away from the network office and to schools would settle the outstanding issues involved in the strike and put students back in classrooms where they belong. We call on you to abide by the new funding law and settle the strike.

With best regards,

Senator Andy Manar  
Chair, Appropriations Cmte.

Representative Will Davis  
Assistant Majority Leader