



Sustainable Community Schools

It's official! We have 5 more years of \$10 MILLION/per year! Here's why and next steps

How did we get here: School Closings and a hunger strike:

In 2013, 54 schools were closed using invalid measures of a school such as SQRP and space utilization. Parents and community cried out for their schools to be spared, but to no avail Rahm closed the schools.

At Dyett H.S. parents began drawing up plans for what they wanted for their school, and on Aug. 17 2015, they closed the school, and the community began a hunger strike. It took 34 days before the Mayor agreed to their plans amidst public pressure to not only re-open the school, but to allow parents, students, and community to decide what was best for their school.

In 2016 CTU bargained a new contract, and while CPS did not release the funds until 2018, 20 schools would receive an additional ~\$500,000 to decide on programs, curriculum, and services each school wanted instead of threatening schools with low enrollment or poor academic performance to close.

During the 2019 - 11 day strike, CTU was victorious in maintaining the model, and assured it's funding for the next 5 years! We won, and we won big, \$50 Million for SCS.

How do we ensure the money is being allocated correctly?

Among other things, a joint task force was created between CTU and CPS that must comply with these pillars:

1. Curricula that is engaging, culturally relevant and challenging;
2. Emphasis on high quality teaching, not testing
3. Wrap around supports and opportunities;

4. Restorative Justice practices and social emotional learning development;
5. Authentic engagement of parents, families and communities - as partners;
6. Shared School Leadership

These pillars were specifically designed to respond to systemic and inadequate racist policies that close schools based on SQRP and instead fund schools, and bring parents, students, and teachers as partners to be able to see a positive impact based on research and sound community wisdom and specific community needs.

Then and NOW :

Article 12-2 has remained mostly the same, but with a few small changes. In our last contract negotiations. This contract, has evolved to ensuring that we will receive \$10 MILLION each year. There are some provisions by which the joint task force will decide if we should expand, reconsider, or continue funding the same schools.

What can you enforce?

Everything under the pillars.

- Have you been wanting to buy that class set of "On The Come Up" or Ordinary People Change the world picture books? There's money for that!
- Need funds for a RJ training? Enforceable under article 30-9.3 - you can bring this issue to your PPC!
- Need an RJ coordinator, a community representative, or a librarian? You can hire staff, and be part of deciding what your school needs.

- Want parents to be able to discuss what field trips, assemblies, or have them be part of school activities? Parents are our partners in this work, and help guide the school in the right direction. Parent mentors program, is form of authentic parent engagement.
- Need to ensure the youth coordinator is bilingual? Create a hiring committee with parents and students.
- Want a say on anything of these things? Join the SCS leadership team at your school, and bring others with you! Decisions are collaborative and with the interest of educating the whole child.

Articles for enforcement:

- **12-2 Sustainable Community Schools**
- **30-9.1 Funding for RJ**
- **30-9.2 Culture and Climate/Discipline Plan**
- **30-9.3 RJ Curriculum and Training**
- **46-1.1 STLS Liasion**
- **46-4.4 Background checks for parent volunteers - solution**
- **46-5.3 Sanctuary for all**
- **46-5.4 Immigration Status inquiries**



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