

**March 13th and 14th 2025, FY25 Amended Budget Hearings Written Comments
Received between Monday, March 10th and Monday, March 17th Submitted via
Written Comments Form**

1 Dear Board of Education members,
I am Michelle Ludwig, a CPS teacher on the west side.
It is time to settle a fair contract. A fair contract will enshrine rights, protections, and progress for our students, families, community members, and educators.
A fair contact will specifically do the following:
Give our students and educators a better school day
Provide more robust arts, music, library, and sports
Lower class sizes
More support for our English language learners and Special Education students
Protect our right to teach and learn the truth
Protect our most vulnerable students
A fair contract requires financial support. When it is time to vote next week, I implore you to vote in favor of amending the budget to support a fair contract. By doing so, you are helping provide students with the schools they deserve.
It is also time to travel to Springfield. It is time to generate revenue for our schools. The Illinois Revenue Alliance has compiled a list of revenue solutions that would generate over \$6 billion in new revenue for the state annually.
Ways to generate revenue include but are not limited to:
Tax on digital advertising
Billionaire wealth tax
Raise corporate income tax
Close corporate tax loopholes
Reform the estate tax
New revenue would fund programs that are in dire need of additional investments. This includes school funding, immigrant services, violence prevention, and affordable housing. Imagine a Chicago in which our schools are fully funded. Imagine a Chicago in which our students and their families have the immigrant services they need. Imagine a Chicago in which our students are protected from violence. Imagine a Chicago in which our students and their families live in affordable housing. It is time to go to Springfield to make fully funded schools and communities a reality.
Thank you.

2 As a CPS educator, I'm writing to ask that you amend the budget to include enough spending to do right by our school communities by settling a just contract with CTU members. Public education, and our communities generally, are in crisis. During an age of AI, social media algorithms that often feed our youth sexist or racist misinformation, 80% of CPS schools have NO LIBRARIANS to teach them media literacy. The weight of the world is crashing down on our students' mental and emotional lives, and at my school they still have to wait at least a month to see one of our counselors.

In the Human Rights Campaign's 2023 national survey of LGBTQ youth, they found that libraries were BY FAR the school space where LGBTQ students felt safest (50% said they always felt safe there, compared to the next highest being only 23%, in the school cafeteria). What does it mean that only 11% of majority-Black schools have a library and librarian? It means our austerity budgets are depriving our most vulnerable students of spaces where they feel safest to live, learn what they're interested in, and just be themselves.

	<p>Our schools cannot wait. Amend the budget to include enough funding to lower class sizes by hiring more TAs, hire a librarian in every school, hire more social workers and counselors, and more. It is what this moment demands of us. Thank you.</p>
3	<p>Thank you to the board members for passing the resolution on Feb-27-2025. Yet Acero has not sign the MOU we parents feel they don't care about our kids or community . I am asking for the board members NOT to extend their charter contract. No charter should have a 10 year contract ! No one could tell the future !</p>
4	<p>Good morning, CPS Board Members and CEO Martinez,</p> <p>My name is Stephanie Gomez, and I am a proud parent from Santiago. I would like to begin by thanking you for approving the second resolution on February 27.</p> <p>However, Acero is still not being transparent and appears to be blaming CPS for the delay in signing the MOU. As parents, we feel stuck in uncertainty, not knowing what the future holds for our schools. We need assurance that our schools will remain open for many years to come.</p> <p>While Acero has mentioned plans for transitions, parent meetings, and support, they have not communicated whether the MOU has been sent, signed, or if any progress has been made. This ongoing lack of communication is not ok. As the school year comes to a close, families like mine are left in a difficult position, unable to make decisions about our children's education with no clarity about what the future will bring.</p> <p>We need transparency, clear communication, and timely updates. I urge you to prioritize this issue so we can make informed decisions for our children and our community.</p> <p>We need, demand, and want the MOU signed now!</p>
5	<p>Chicago Board of Education needs to understand that Elementary School teachers are overworked. I worked as a substitute teacher in both elementary and high schools, and there is a severe disparity between the professional freedom that elementary school teachers have versus high school teacher. I stopped signing up for elementary school gigs because their PREP time is SO SHORT, AND they have to walk their kids to and from specials. Their students are growing and antsy and needy. They barely have a moment to themselves. High school teachers, especially those on block schedules have much more time to plan and to prep, and remember, elementary school teachers are put in the hot seat for preparing their students in various content areas. They are planning and grading for all of their students, taking care of their SEL needs, and getting them moving from place to place. Elementary school teachers DESERVE ample prep time to prepare their growing kiddos to be the best versions of themselves. If they do not have the time to prepare ,plan, and grade like us high school teachers. In order for us to be able to have students in front of us who are ready to learn, we MUST provide teachers the time to think and breathe. They MUST have the planning time they need. There is no other way to ensure the schools that our students deserve. It is CRUCIAL that we high school teachers stand up and loudly express our outrage that teachers who invest their time and efforts into the growth of students are not being equitably compensated with prep time.</p>