



**Ron Huberman**  
Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are writing to provide you with information regarding the massive budget deficit that CPS faces next year. We are asking you to take action at this critical time to help protect your child's education.

The current CPS budget deficit is approximately \$600 million. This is down from the \$1 billion original deficit as the result of an important new law that limits CPS short-term pension payments while not affecting any current employees or retirees.

At this point, more than half of the \$600 million CPS budget deficit is due to the state's proposal to cut education funding across Illinois by \$1.3 billion, and funding to CPS by \$368 million.

Closing the \$600 million deficit without relief from the state will significantly impact the Chicago Public Schools system. Next week, your child's school will be receiving its draft budget. As a direct result of proposed state funding cuts, this budget includes the following:

- Classes with up to 35 students.
- Significant cuts to non-varsity sports.
- Reductions in funding for magnet, Montessori, gifted, IB programs.
- Significant cuts to full-day kindergarten.
- Reduction of after-school and summer school programs.
- Up to 11% funding cuts for charter schools.

Elected officials in Springfield face tough choices during these difficult economic times. However, it is critical that we send a message to them that they should not balance the state's budget on the backs of those most at need—our children—by cutting education funding this year. Please, join with us to make your voice heard by doing the following:

- Fill out and send the attached letter to the Governor and state legislators.
- If you would like to find out additional ways to get involved and make a difference, please go to [www.cps.edu](http://www.cps.edu).

Sincerely,

Ron Huberman  
Chief Executive Officer