

## **Support HB 3586 (Rep. Crespo): Eliminate Barriers to Parent Participation in Education Decisions for Children with Disabilities**

*HB 3586 addresses issues critical to the education of diverse learners in Chicago Public Schools and throughout the state. Federal law establishes parents of Children with Disabilities as full team members when developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for their child. HB 3586 provides parents with sufficient time, educational information, and avenues for expressing concerns to enable them be informed, effective advocates for their children.*

### **HB 3586 Highlights:**

#### **5-Day Draft IEP**

**Barrier:** Parents do not know what to expect before they walk into an IEP meeting. Without proper information, parents cannot meaningfully plan and participate in the meeting.

**Solution:** HB 3586 amends the IL School Code, which already requires CPS schools to provide all draft documents to parents at least **five** school days before an IEP or IEP eligibility meeting is scheduled to take place, to apply to parents throughout Illinois.

#### **10-Day Notice of Non-Implementation of Services (CPS only)**

**Barrier:** Parents are often left in the dark about whether or not their children are not receiving services to which they are entitled.

**Solution:** HB 3586 amends the IL School Code, which already requires CPS to notify parents when the district fails to implement a child's IEP within **ten** school days, to put that notice in writing and further inform parents of their right to request existing service logs that document service provision.

#### **ISBE Hotline**

**Barrier:** Parents, children, and school personnel may have concerns and complaints about inappropriate special education practices in schools, but may be afraid of retaliation.

**Solution:** HB 3586 institutionalizes an ISBE hotline, already permitted by the School Code, to take calls from any individuals who wish to report a concern. Calls related to CPS will be directed to the ISBE monitor for CPS while that position exists.

#### **Public Notice for Policy Changes (CPS only)**

**Barrier:** In 2016 CPS secretly changed its special education policies and illegally removed services to which students were entitled. Parents learned of CPS' extensive violations of special education laws only after the State conducted a Public Inquiry that affirmed advocates' charges.

**Solution:** Require CPS to provide public notice on proposed changes to the district's special education policies and procedures with sufficient time for public comment.

#### **Inclusionary Policy Handbook (CPS only)**

**Barrier:** Chicago's ethnically diverse population needs access to documents in several languages.

**Solution:** The CPS Procedural Manual will be available online in (at least) English and Spanish. Upon request the Procedural Manual will be printed in any spoken language.