



Office of the City Clerk

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Chicago, IL 60602
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Legislation Text

File #: R2017-908, **Version:** 1

**Committee on Education and Child Development
City Council Meeting October 18, 2017**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools had more than 381,000 students in 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, more than 52,000 of CPS students received special education services in 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, CPS has an operating budget of \$5.7 billion, of which approximately \$900 million is used to fund special education; and

WHEREAS, it is the legal and moral obligation of the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois to provide public education to all students regardless of a student's disability; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Public Schools are funded by taxpayers, with more than half of taxpayer dollars going to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, recent media investigations have exposed a routine of opaque and obfuscated financial practices specific to special education dollars; and

WHEREAS, these investigations have further exposed the failure of CPS to provide special education services and fulfill education plan requirements; and

WHEREAS, the failure to fulfill legally binding education plans may lead to legal and financial liability on the part of CPS; and

WHEREAS, despite taxpayers' investment in schools, figures show that the City of Chicago has cut special education funding to CPS by more \$32 Million to date and has made deep cuts to special education providers and staff; and

WHEREAS, these cuts cause significant harm to the educational progress and access to education of disabled students; and

WHEREAS, these cuts further cause significant emotional, financial and social costs to students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing financial instability of Chicago Public Schools has created an inconsistent and undependable operation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the members of City Council demand that the leadership of Chicago Public Schools, Chief Executive Officer Forrest

Claypool, Chief Education Officer Janice Jackson and Head of Special Education Elizabeth Keenan appear before the next convening of the Committee on Education and Child Development to testify on the state of special education programming and funding at CPS.

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R2017-908

Document No.:

Call for leadership of Chicago Public Schools to provide testimony before next Subject: convening meeting of Committee on Education and Child Development regarding special education programming and funding at Chicago PublC'Schools

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