

School Board Elections Mini-Inquiry, Grades 9-12

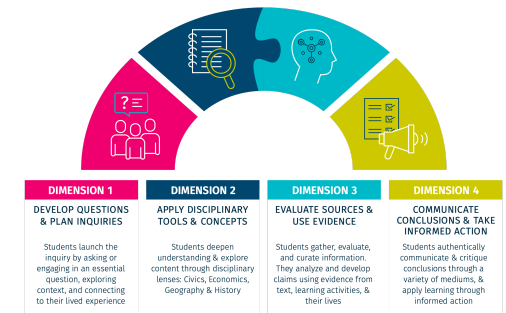
Ethical Guidelines for Teaching about Elections

Please take a moment to review the following documents, which include key information on our district's policies for ethical engagement in teaching and learning about elections, as well as resources to leverage with your students.

- [CPS Political Activity in an Election Season](#)
- [CPS 2024 Elections Guidance and Instructional Resources](#)

Inquiry-Based Civic Learning

As part of [our vision](#) for powerful, culturally-responsive, inquiry-based social science, we know our classes are where young people have the opportunities to examine, question, and challenge what is currently happening in their communities, and apply that learning to take informed action. The curricular and instructional materials provided are aligned to the CPS Culturally Responsive Inquiry Arc Framework and support students in unpacking important essential questions.



ISBE Standards

SS.9-12.IS.1 Create actionable, student-drive (or student-informed) questions that lead to social studies investigations beyond one's immediate cultural environment or lens

SS.9-12.IS.3 Develop new supporting and essential questions by primary and secondary investigation, collaboration, and use of sources that reflect diverse perspectives (e.g. political, cultural, socioeconomic, race, religious, gender)

SS.9-12.IS.4 Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in the sources, the types of sources available, and the potential uses of the sources

SS.9-12.IS.5 Gather and evaluate information from multiple primary and secondary sources that reflect the perspectives and experiences of multiple groups, including marginalized groups

SS.9-12.IS.9 Develop and prepare communication by identifying stakeholders (or audiences) and evaluating what messages and media are likely to result in stakeholder support or opposition

Leveraging the Mini-Inquiry and Inquiry-Based Lesson

- The mini-inquiry includes a curated set of resources aligned to each of the four dimensions of the inquiry process. **Protocols, graphic organizers, and other scaffolds** for engaging with these resources are highlighted in yellow.
- The [inquiry-based lesson](#) at the end of the document includes complete lesson plans, activities, and materials for engaging students in all four dimensions of the inquiry process. Use this lesson to kick off your students' inquiries into Chicago's first-ever school board election. After students complete the lesson, they can continue exploring their questions about the upcoming school board election using sources in the School Board Mini-Inquiry.

[Access the K-2 Mini-Inquiry](#)

[Access the 3-5 Mini-Inquiry](#)

[Access the 6-8 Mini-Inquiry](#)

School Board Elections Mini-Inquiry, Grades 9-12

How should I balance teaching about the school board election with teaching the general election?

Essential Question: What's at stake in Chicago's first-ever school board election? Why should I care? How can I make a difference?

Launch your inquiry

D1

Develop
Questions &
Plan Inquiries

- **Launch the inquiry process** by engaging students in a [Question Storming Gallery Walk](#) activity using the [sources we curated](#).
 - *Planning tips:*
 - Use students' questions to inform your selection of resources and to guide whole-class, small-group, or individual learning. Consider how you will leverage these questions to introduce foundational knowledge (See below)
 - Save these questions for students to refer back to later in Dimension 3

Build your understanding

D2

Apply
Disciplinary
Tools &
Concepts

We suggest engaging students in all of the following resources to establish some foundational knowledge before diving deeper into students' inquiries.

- **Task 1: Build foundational knowledge.** Use a [Jigsaw protocol](#) to have students engage in learning from the Elected School Board informational session presented by school board Vice President Dr. Elizabeth Todd-Breland. [Slides](#), [Video](#), and [Q&A](#).
- **Task 2: Find your district.** Have students use the elected school board map to find out which district they live in.
 - [CPS School Map with Elected School Board District Overlay](#). Chicago Public Schools.
 - Tip: To add the overlay of school board districts, click on the blue overlay icon at the top right of the screen and select "Elected Representative School Board."

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- **Task 3: Identify who is running in your district.**
 - “Who are the Chicago school board candidates for the 2024 election?” *Chalkbeat Chicago*. June 17, 2024.

UPDATE: The entire Chicago School Board is resigning. What does this mean for the board and the election?

- [Use these sources](#) to understand what’s happening with the board and how the resignations will impact the election.

Investigate and interrogate sources

Leverage the [Timeline of Learning](#). In this process, students revisit the questions they generated in the Dimension 1 Question Storming process and select an inquiry to focus on for further study.

Select and review resources to help answer the inquiry.

- The sources below are organized into categories. Select sources that will help you answer the inquiry you selected.

Legal Authority of the Board

- Understand the legal authority of the board
 - [Public Act 102-0177](#) signed by Governor Pritzker on July 29, 2021
 - [Public Act 103-058415](#) signed by Governor Pritzker on March 18, 2024
 - Read a [summary of these two laws](#) from the Elected School Board Informational Session.

School Board Elections Procedure

- Understand how the school board elections work and what requirements candidates must meet.

D3

Evaluate
Sources & Use
Evidence

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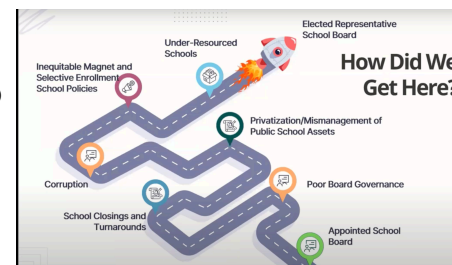
- [Requirements for Elected School Board Members](#). Chicago Board of Education.
- [Chicago School Board Candidate Summary Guide](#), Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.
- [Elected School Board Terms, Eligibility, Process to Run & More](#). Chicago Board of Education.
- [“The Chicago Board of Education is Resigning. What does this mean for the election?”](#) [Curated Set of Resources]

Equitable Representation

- Understand the demographics of the school board districts
- Understand questions and concerns about the equity of the school board districts
- [“Here are Chicago’s new school board districts.”](#) *Chalkbeat*.
- [“What you need to know about Chicago’s elected school board.”](#) WBEZ Chicago June 4, 2024. *Source includes concerns raised by MALDEF.*
- [“Black Leaders Push for Equitable Representation in School Board Maps.”](#) *Chicago Defender*. September 29, 2023.
- [“Advocates slam new draft of elected school board map.”](#) *The Tribe*. May 18, 2023

The Fight for Chicago’s Elected School Board

- Understand the context in which community members began fighting for an elected board
- [“The Future is at Stake: Understanding the First Ever Chicago School Board Election.”](#) [Video](#). *Chicago Women Take Action*. See [“How did we get here?”](#) for a history of why community organizers fought for an elected board.
- [“Beyond the Ballot: Vote for Chicago’s First Elected School Board!”](#) Howard Brown Health.
- [Elected School Board Archive](#). Chicago Teachers’ Union.
- [“A Brief History of the Fight for an Elected School Board,”](#) Teachers for Social Justice.
- [“A Fully Elected Representative School Board for Chicago.”](#) Illinois Families for Public Schools.



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- “Opponents voice concerns over temporary plan for hybrid-elected Chicago Public Schools board.” ABC 7 Chicago. (Video) March 7, 2024.
- “CPS parents, organizers demand elected school board.” Chicago Sun-Times. Mar. 3, 2021.
- “Chicago is getting an elected school board as Pritzker signs bill Lightfoot had fought.” Block Club Chicago. July 30, 2012

2024 School Board Candidates

- Get to know the candidates
- Find links to learn more about their backgrounds and policy positions
- Use this [graphic organizer](#) along with WBEZ’s voter guide to compare where school board candidates stand on key issues
- “Chicago School Board Voter Guide.” WBEZ / Chalkbeat / Chicago Sun-Times. **NEW SOURCE!** Available in English and Spanish.
- “Candidate Questionnaire.” IL Raise Your Hand. **NEW SOURCE!**
- “More than 30 candidates make the ballot for Chicago’s first School Board election.” Chicago Sun-Times. Aug. 27, 2024.
- “Who are the Chicago school board candidates for the 2024 election?” Chalkbeat. June 17, 2024.
- [Candidate Forums](#). WBEZ maintains a list of candidate forums. Some are available to watch online. **NEW SOURCE!**

Fundraising, Campaign Finance & Interest Groups

- Explore how money is influencing the school board election
- Compare how much candidates have raised
- Research how groups, such as the Chicago Teachers’ Union, the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, former Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s PAC, and more are getting involved in the election
- Consider using a [candidate tracker](#) to record key information about candidates. [Google Sheet template](#)
 - [Candidate Donation Lookup](#). State of Illinois.

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- Tip: Enter “Chicago” for city. For district type, select “school.” If you want to search only for candidates in a particular school board district, select the number of the district from the dropdown menu under “District.”
- “Pro-school choice super PACs nearly double the money spent so far in Chicago’s first school board elections.” Chalkbeat Chicago. Oct. 2, 2024. **New Source**
- “Chicago school board elections see big ‘school choice’ cash donations, including from billionaires.” WBEZ. Sept. 6, 2024.
- “How much cash is being raised by Chicago school board candidates?” Chicago Sun-Times. Last updated: July 30, 2024
- “Chicago’s first school board elections mean crash course time for voters, candidates.” Chicago Sun Times. March 27, 2024.
- “CTU endorses slate of candidates for Chicago’s first elected school board.” WBEZ. June 27, 2024
- “CTU Endorsed Candidates.” WBEZ Chicago. June 28, 2024.
- “You’re running for what? Campaigning begins for Chicago’s first-ever elected school board.” WBEZ Chicago. March 27, 2024.
- “More than \$400,000 raised so far in Chicago’s 2024 school board elections.” Chalkbeat Mila Koumpilova, Becky Vevea. July 16, 2024.
- “New nonprofit and PAC ‘aligned with business community’ launching in time for school board elections.” Chicago Tribune. Wed. July 24, 2024.

Community Voice

- Explore issues and questions that are important to community members

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- “Your top priorities for Chicago’s first elected school board.” WBEZ Chicago. Alex Keefe. June 26, 2024.
- “Parent Priorities” and “Citywide Poll on Chicago’s Transition to an Elected School Board.” Kids First Chicago.
- “Chicago’s First Ever Elected School Board,” *Chicago Women Take Action*. (501(c)(3) Non-Profit) Sept. 11, 2024. Video.
 - Hear a variety of perspectives on what’s at stake in Chicago’s first elected school board.
- Hear candidates speak about their priorities, qualifications, and vision for the district
 - School Board Candidate Forum #1. Illinois Raise Your Hand. July 10, 2024. Video (English)
 - School Board Candidate Forum #2. Illinois Raise Your Hand. July 22, 2024. Video (English) Video (Spanish translation)
- Op-Eds
 - “This fall’s school board election should matter to every Chicagoan. It’s time now to start paying attention.” Op-Ed. Monica Santa Rosen. Jul 15, 2024
 - “Chicago’s school board is changing. Here’s how it can be effective.” *Chalkbeat*. Sindhi Revuluri. July 29, 2024.

Communicate and act on your findings

D4

Communicate
Conclusions &
Take Informed
Action

Communicate Conclusions

- Create a whole class Timeline of Learning

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Take Informed Action

After engaging in collective processing time, students can select one of the following options for taking informed action about the upcoming school board election.

- **Option #1: Awareness Raising Campaign.** [Create a plan](#) for raising awareness about the upcoming school board election
- **Option #2: Write an op-ed.** Write an [op-ed](#) about the importance of the upcoming school board election. *Identify which stakeholders you wish to influence and craft a message that will appeal to them. Share your insights and analysis with readers. What do you think people need to understand? What should they be aware of? Why do their voices and choices matter?*

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School Board Elections Inquiry-Based Lesson, Grades 6-12	
Click to open the Lesson Materials	Lesson 1: School Board Power
Essential Questions	What's at stake in Chicago's first-ever school board election? Why should we care? How can I make a difference?
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the power of the school board, including how its policies directly impact students' experiences Know which district you live in and which candidates are running to represent you Be prepared and empowered to communicate conclusions and take informed action
Standards	SS.9-12.IS.1 Create actionable, student-driven (or student-informed) questions that lead to social studies investigations beyond one's immediate cultural environment or lens SS.9-12.IS.3 Develop new supporting and essential questions by primary and secondary investigation, collaboration, and use of sources that reflect diverse perspectives (e.g. political, cultural, socioeconomic, race, religious, gender) SS.9-12.IS.9 Develop and prepare communication by identifying stakeholders (or audiences) and evaluating what messages and media are likely to result in stakeholder support or opposition
Dimension 1	Question Storming: Elected School Board Gallery Walk
Dimension 2	Jigsaw: Elected School Board Informational Session Find your district Learn the candidates
Dimension 3	Analyze a school board policy
Dimension 4	Submit a question for the School Board Candidate Virtual Forum on October 16th Raise awareness about the upcoming school board election

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Write an op-ed about the upcoming school board election.