

## Hyde Park – Kenwood Community Members for a Quality School Day: Full day for school needs full funding.

As parents and members of the Hyde Park-Kenwood community, we are concerned about the CPS “full” day initiative because it is yet another unfunded mandate. As it is, the school day is already underfunded. We are concerned about extending the school day with no additional funding.

Too often in education children have suffered from well-intentioned but unfunded mandates. Parents want a quality day with more programs and staffing positions for their children. Many of our schools lack programs in music, art, physical education, and language to name a few. Programs for children with special needs have been cut, as well as positions for social workers, nurses, and security. Many facilities are badly in need of repair.

While some parents want a longer school day for their children, we need to ensure it is quality-filled. We are not convinced that the complicated problems in the schools, both individually and in the system, can be resolved with this one-size-fits all solution.

We are deeply concerned that schools, teachers, and students are being asked to do more with no additional resources. Further, we are distressed that our teachers, many of whom are devoted and dedicated and work long hours already, are under attack.

While each school has its own specific needs and culture, we are unified in believing that many of our children have been deprived of non-tested subjects and we want to see this better addressed in the CPS guidelines. We would like the school board to share in the fight for better funding and a better programs in our schools. We want transparency on what will and will not be funded, and we want to know how CPS plans to pay for the longer day. The conversation needs to be about a quality school day. A meeting to discuss this further will be held on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the Southside Hub of Production, Fenn House, 5638 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. For more information email [HPKQualitySchoolDay@gmail.com](mailto:HPKQualitySchoolDay@gmail.com). To see the complete letter and the more than 30 signatories, visit [HPKpublicschools.wordpress.com](http://HPKpublicschools.wordpress.com).

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