

IDEA 28 Local School Councils: Returning ownership of our public schools directly to the public

Motivated by a desire for community representation in local education, IDEA 28 is asking educators, leaders and IPS community stakeholders to take a closer look at the Local School Council (LSC) model made in response to a 1988 grassroots movement calling for school reform in Chicago Public Schools. Today, the vast majority of CPS are run by these councils.
<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Council/Documents/Local%20School%20Councils%20in%20IPS.pdf>

LCSs are the site-based management team of each school. LSCs help run the school. Their main duty is to select the school's principal, renew the principal's contract, approve the School Improvement Plan, and approve the school's budget for the school year. Since each LSC has the power to hire or fire the principal, she/he gets "automatic" parental/community support.

Local School Councils stress the importance of parent voice over school choice and promoting the idea that we need more democracy in IPS, not less.

LSCs are made up of 6 of a school's parents and 2 of a school's community members. Each is elected by the school's community every 2 years. The principal and 2 teachers make up the 11 LSCs members at K-8 schools. A high school council has 12 members because one is a student.

IDEA 28 argues that LSCs work because they liberate schools from the top-down control of district bureaucracy, putting the destiny of schools in the hands of the community. To iterate, the principal does not have to look for support. By definition there is a strong incentive for staff and everyone on the council to work together on behalf of the students.

References

"A grassroots approach to school reform" Indianapolis *NUVO* magazine August 2012
<http://www.nuvo.net/indianapolis/a-grassroots-approach-to-school-reform/Content?oid=2484953>

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_School_Councils