



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

BRUCE RAUNER
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2016

Mr. Forrest Claypool, Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Claypool:

I know you share my concern that without a balanced state budget, many schools may have difficulty opening in the fall. As I'm sure you are aware, the General Assembly adjourned Tuesday without passing a balanced budget for fiscal year 2017.

Earlier this week, the Governor and Republican leaders introduced an education funding bill that increases total PK-12 education funding by more than \$240 million and ensures no school district loses money. In this time of great uncertainty, will you support a fiscal year 2017 education funding bill that keeps CPS funded at the exact same level as fiscal year 2016, including keeping funding for the city's block grant and after-school programming in place?

If your answer is yes, then you support the plan introduced by Governor Rauner and the Republican Leaders this week – and I would ask you to advocate for its immediate passage so that all schools in Illinois can open in the fall. If your answer is no, then you need to be honest and tell the people of Illinois that you are holding up school funding for the entire state so that Chicago will receive hundreds of millions more than it did last year – despite declining enrollment in Chicago Public Schools and a state in deep fiscal crisis.

Thank you for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Purvis".

Beth Purvis
Secretary of Education