



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 West Randolph Street, Suite 14-300 • Chicago, Illinois 60601-3283  
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

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## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rodney D. Estvan  
Education Policy Analyst  
Access Living  
115 West Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60654

**RE: Open Letter to ISBE**

Dear Mr. Estvan:

Thank you for the Open Letter to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) presented by you and several other advocates at the ISBE November Board meeting. We have heard your concerns and, as a result, will open a Public Inquiry into the facts surrounding special education at the Chicago Public Schools. The purpose of the Public Inquiry is to collect the facts surrounding the system of special education at CPS in a truthful and trustworthy manner. A framework for the public inquiry is attached to this letter.

As the advocates who raised concerns, you and your colleagues will have the opportunity to participate fully in the Public Inquiry. The Public Inquiry Team will ask you to present evidence supporting the allegations you have made and may ask you to testify at public hearings regarding such evidence. We appreciate your participation and commitment to this process.

At this point, we are finalizing the public inquiry team. We have contracted with Nancy Krent, professor of school law at Chicago Kent and Loyola Law Schools, to facilitate the Public Inquiry. She will be in contact with you and with CPS to further define the issues and review the operating procedures for the Inquiry.

If you have any questions regarding this process, you are welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie E. Jones".

Stephanie E. Jones  
General Counsel

cc: Tony Smith, State Superintendent  
Janice Jackson, Interim CEO at CPS  
Elizabeth Keenan, Chief of Diverse Learners at CPS  
Nancy Krent, Public Inquiry Facilitator  
ISBE Board Members  
All Signatories to the Open Letter to ISBE