



Parents 4 Teachers

CReATE



Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood



October 10, 2013

Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools
Sent by facsimile

Dear CEO Byrd-Bennett:

The undersigned groups have learned that the Illinois State Board of Education has contracted with inBloom to pilot a data sharing program (“the Program”) in the Bloomington and Normal school district, and that this project is scheduled to expand to the Chicago Public Schools and other Illinois districts as soon as January 2014. The project is also known as the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE).

We have many concerns about the Program. We oppose the overall concept of sharing student and teacher confidential information with third parties without permission of parents or teachers, especially for commercial purposes. We are also concerned about the possibility of data breaches and potential unintentional misuse or future inappropriate use of the extensive private information about children, families and school employees that we will be gathered and stored.

We would appreciate answers to the following questions about the plans CPS has for participation in the Program:

1. We understand that ISBE may make participation in the Program optional for districts. What internal discussions has CPS had on the pros and cons of participation? Based on what information will this decision be made?
2. Is CPS considering opting out of the Program and instead using/expanding/improving the IMPACT system that is already in place, which could offer the functionality of the Program without requiring or allowing third-party data sharing? If not, why not?
3. What outreach has been done to parents and the general public to inform them about CPS's potential participation in the Program and to solicit their input into the decision about the potentially extensive sharing of their students' confidential data?

4. What specific plans have been made so far with respect to CPS participation in the Program (timeline for data upload, teacher inservice, etc.)?
5. Has there been discussion about which data points will be shared under the Program? If so, please identify the specific data points being considered for sharing.
6. What provisions will CPS make to protect the data from security breaches? Who will hold financial and legal liability if there are data breaches?
7. Will CPS parents have the right to decide if their child's data can be included in the Program? shared with third parties?
8. How much will participation in the Program cost CPS? Individual schools? Please be specific about costs of staff time, resources, hardware, software, training, recurring fees, etc. and indicate short-term and long-term cost implications

We look forward to receiving a timely response to these questions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julie Woestehoff on behalf of the organizations listed below
pure@pureparents.org

More Than a Score (www.morethanascorechicago.org)

Parents United for Responsible Education (www.pureparents.org)

Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education (ilraiseyourhand.org)

Parents 4 Teachers (www.parents4teachers.net)

American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (www.aclu-il.org)

Chicago Teachers' Union (www.ctunet.com)

Chicagoland Researchers and Advocates for Transformative Education (www.createchicago.org)

Parents Across America (www.parentsacrossamerica.org)

Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (www.commercialfreechildhood.org)