

# News Release

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## Children, Parents & Council Members To March for Their School

### *West Side School Community Marches at 2:45 PM Today to Protest Proposed School Closing*

CHICAGO, January 30, 2006 – Children, parents and school council members of Frazier Elementary School will march this afternoon to protest the proposed closing of their West Side school. The march will begin at 2:45 PM at the school located at 4027 W. Grenshaw, Chicago.

"School closings are the latest slap in the face of a school system which is still separate and unequal," said Rev. Paul Jakes, Jr. of the Christian Council on Urban Affairs. "General schools should receive the same financial support as magnet schools, vocational, and technical schools."

Community leaders point to a series of questionable business decisions by CPS upper management that have put their school at risk:

- ◆ Frazier is being targeted for failing test scores at the same time as CPS has cut 70% from its after school tutoring programs (NCLB, Plato, and EdSolutions).
- ◆ A piece of land directly behind the school was earmarked for use on school improvements. When CPS management decided instead to sell the land for construction of a strip mall, the \$380,000 proceeds of the sale were promised to the school, but never received.
- ◆ In an effort to improve achievement, Frazier School engaged the services of a CPS approved partner. When scores went down for the three years Frazier used the partner's services, the school was held accountable, but what about the *paid* partner?
- ◆ Frazier School qualified for \$100,000 a year in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Funds due to partnership with an outside agency. When the Local School Council objected to \$80,000 of the \$100,000 being given to the partner each year, Frazier School lost the 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds!

Frazier is alone among the proposed closings that would also result in terminations of a community health clinic and Boys and Girls Clubs. Closing Frazier would not only hurt the 363 children enrolled there, but also deprive the local community of the Erie Family Health Clinic, which serves a large number of asthmatic children and provides services for the entire community, including psychiatry, counseling, tutoring, classes, food, housing, and clothing.