



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

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AS COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, BRANDON JOHNSON:

SECURED \$75 MILLION IN HISTORIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUNDING that was distributed to community groups and community members working directly in neighborhoods most impacted by violence. The program includes youth development and summer jobs programs to engage young people, give them opportunities, and address long term root causes of crime. (Went into effect Sept. 2022)

PASSED MEDICARE FOR ALL LEGISLATION, providing health care coverage for 40,000 additional Cook County residents through County Care.

WAS THE CATALYST FOR A STATEWIDE “SAVE OUR SENIORS” COVID-19 response after recognizing the crisis brewing in low-income nursing homes and health centers for the elderly..

HELD THE FIRST PUBLIC TOWN HALL IN CHICAGO TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CRITICAL INFORMATION AND MOBILIZE RESOURCES AT THE ONSET OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

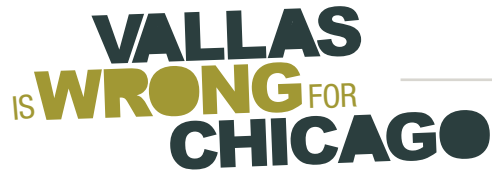
AS A UNION ORGANIZER

- **Helped pass legislation to secure an elected representative school board for Chicago.** (2021)
- **Worked with the state legislature to reestablish an annual revenue stream from the state into the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund**, stabilizing retirement security for thousands of educators and reducing Chicagoans’ property tax burdens. (2017)
- **Helped to secure COVID-19 safety agreements for students, families, and school staff.** (2021, 2022)
- **Supported the Fight for \$15 and organized historic strike victories** in 2019 that helped to protect immigrant students, families, and CPS employees.
- **Organized teachers and community members to help fight against school closings in Black and Brown neighborhoods.** (2012-2013)
- **Was instrumental in organizing the 2019 Chicago Teachers Union and SEIU Local 73 strike**, which was based in common good bargaining and won increased staffing for educators and additional supports for special education students.



EARLY VOTING: STARTS MARCH 20 ELECTION DAY: APRIL 4

Learn more about Brandon’s plans and his stance on the issues at brandonforchicago.com.



COLLABORATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR AND REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS TO CREATE THE 1995 AMENDATORY REFORM ACT

The act gave the mayor of Chicago control of CPS and allowed **Vallas** – who has no education experience – to be schools CEO. It also **stripped Chicago teachers of collective bargaining rights, allowed privatization, and diverted pension payments into CPS' operating budget.**

WAS THE ARCHITECT OF RENAISSANCE 2010 – EDUCATION 'REFORM' PLAN FOR CPS

Under Renaissance 2010, high-stakes testing became the mandatory focus of all schools. Teachers lost autonomy in planning and instruction. Arts, CTE, social studies, and language programs were cut. A “school probation” list was developed which targeted mainly Black and Brown students and staff. **Dozens of neighborhood schools were closed but charter schools expanded, draining additional funds from public schools.**

INSTITUTED POLICIES THAT HAVE RESULTED IN THE DISMISSAL OF THOUSANDS OF CPS TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF, PARTICULARLY BLACK WOMEN

As a result of Vallas' policies, more than 12,000 Black CPS teachers and staff were fired between 2020 and 2023. Chicago's South and West side communities – where Black CPS employees were the backbone of the middle class – were seriously harmed by the loss of careers and incomes.

DEFAULTED ON THE CHICAGO TEACHERS PENSION FUND (CTPF)

In 1995, CTPF was fully funded. But that same year, Vallas worked with Republicans, **Vallas worked with Republicans to divert dedicated pension funding into CPS' operating fund.** Today, the pension is just 50 percent funded. And Chicago property taxpayers are footing the bill.

IN OTHER STATES (2001-22):

- Left a trail of devastation in schools and communities across the country.
- During his tenure as schools chief in Philadelphia and New Orleans, **Vallas closed all public schools and opened only new charter schools.**
- In Bridgeport, CT, **he was removed as superintendent when it became clear he wasn't qualified.**
- Tries to hide his far right-wing extremist connections.
- **Vallas is a self-admitted Republican who is supported by Awake Illinois**, a Trump aligned group working to install anti-public education, anti-LGBTQIA+ radicals on school boards. Awake Illinois wants to strip curriculum and school libraries of references to slavery, systemic racism, and the civil rights and labor union movements.