



For Immediate Release:
December 20, 2024

STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:

Actions Against Pedro Martinez are an Affront to Latino Leaders and Our Community

media interviews available

CHICAGO - The following is a statement from the [Illinois Latino Agenda](#) in response to the cancelation by the Chicago Board of Education of CEO Pedro Martinez's contract:

"The Illinois Latino Agenda is dismayed at the treatment of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) CEO Pedro Martinez. Under Martinez's steadfast leadership, CPS has consistently achieved proficiency gains in reading, graduation rates, scholarships, college credits and certifications earned.

"As a CPS graduate and a parent of two CPS students, Martinez brought a personal commitment to the success of Chicago's diverse student body, 47% of whom identify as Latino. Martinez fostered stability and equity in a district long challenged by leadership turnover. Nearly 700 principals and assistant principals, representing 80% of district campuses, expressed confidence in Martinez citing his capable and collaborative leadership.

"In less than a year, Martinez oversaw the development of a seminal strategic plan and a complete shift from student-based budgeting to a needs-based approach which centers equity and expands opportunities for all students.

"At this critical moment, the Illinois Latino Agenda calls on the city and the newly elected Board of Education members to place the interests of students above political agendas.

"We urge the administration to reconsider this action and maintain stability for our schools. We remain committed to a school system that serves every child, the largest constituency of which is Latino."

Previous statements on this topic:

[August 16, 2024](#)

[September 20, 2024](#)

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The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition that advocates for the representation of Latinos across all sectors and works to advance the economic, political and social prosperity of Latino communities throughout Illinois.