

PURE *FACT SHEET*

LSCs improve schools!

❖ “*Empowered Participation*,” a 2004 book by Archon Fung, a professor at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, uses LSCs as a **model of empowered deliberative participation**. Fung finds that LSCs **increase accountability** between local officials and the communities they serve, help **build social capital**, and encourage low-income, minority parents to become **more involved** in their community. Most importantly, he found that LSCs have a **positive impact on student achievement**.

❖ “*Charting the Course*” and other studies by the Consortium on Chicago School Research have found a high level of effectiveness in local school councils.

- They found, among other things, that principals view LSC selection of principals very positively: “Their positive responses stand as a **strong endorsement** of this most important work of the councils.”
- In 2003, they found that, of the **teachers** who know about LSCs, 70% said they were “**really helping to make this school better**,” up from 63% reported nine years earlier.
- The Consortium noted that LSCs comprise “**an overwhelming percentage of the minority elected public officials in Illinois**.”

❖ “*The Big Picture*,” a 2005 report by Designs for Change, found a **correlation between schools with test scores trending “substantially up” and effective LSCs**.

❖ “*Sharing Our Successes: The LSC Gold Star Awards 2002*,” a report by the Successful Schools Project of the Community Media Workshop, showcased some of the **many improvements** made by LSCs such as:

- integrating arts into the curriculum
- creating collaborative school improvement plans that have lifted schools out of probation
- successfully advocating for new school buildings and facilities improvements
- involving parents and local businesses in the school’s Character Education program
- implementing a family literacy project.

❖ **There has been no research showing any negative effects of LSC governance of schools.**

- In fact, LSCs have proven to be the cleanest form of governance in Chicago.

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