



Dear Teacher/Administrator,

This letter serves as an official notice that _____ **(student name)** is a participant in the **Environmental Justice (EJ) Freedom School**, a two-week educational and experiential program sponsored by the Children and Teachers Foundation of the Chicago Teachers Union.

EJ Freedom School equips high school students with the knowledge and skills to understand and address environmental challenges affecting their communities. Through hands-on learning with community advocacy partners, students develop **climate literacy, leadership, and civic engagement** by creating school-based climate action plans that promote environmental justice and sustainability.

On **Wednesday, October 29, 2025**, EJ Freedom School students will travel to **Springfield, Illinois**, to participate in **CTU's EJ Freedom School Lobby Day** at the Illinois General Assembly (ILGA). This event gives students the opportunity to:

- Engage directly with state lawmakers on issues of climate justice and education equity;
- Practice civic participation and leadership;
- Advocate for clean energy, equitable transit, and environmental health in Illinois schools and communities.

Participation in Lobby Day is an extension of the EJ Freedom School curriculum and provides students with a meaningful experience in **civic action, public policy, and youth advocacy**. We respectfully request that this student be **excused from classes on October 29, 2025**, to participate in this educational event.

If you have any questions, please contact the EJ Freedom School Program Team at michaelmoriarty@ctuf.org or (312) 329-6225.

Thank you for supporting youth leadership and civic learning.

Sincerely,

Michael Moriarty, NBCT
Children and Teachers Foundation of the Chicago Teachers Union