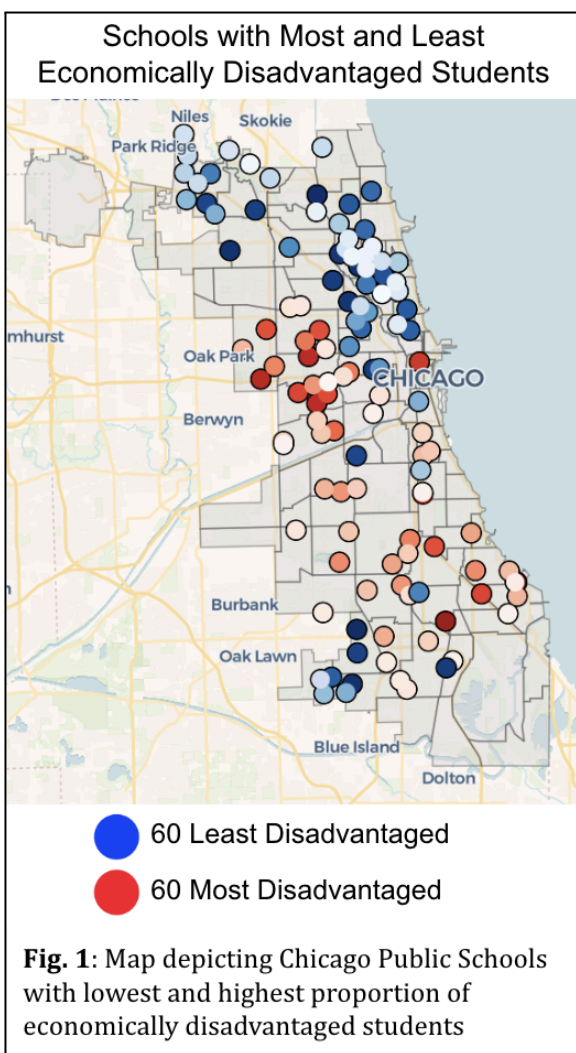Illinois Public Schools data has historically been fragmented, inconsistent, and difficult for families and policymakers to access. This has left parents without the necessary insights to make informed decisions and policymakers without the transparency needed for equitable improvements. To address these challenges, the Data Science Clinic at the University of Chicago partnered with Kids First Chicago, an education nonprofit dedicated to empowering parents and advancing policy to close equity gaps.

Schools with Most and Least Economically Disadvantaged Students

● 60 Least Disadvantaged

● 60 Most Disadvantaged

Fig. 1: Map depicting Chicago Public Schools with lowest and highest proportion of economically disadvantaged students

The team developed a comprehensive Illinois Public Schools Datahub that integrated CPS and Illinois State Board of Education data into a single, interactive, and public-facing platform for exploring school-level data. Using automated data pipelines, the team meticulously cleaned, combined, and standardized over a decade of demographic and performance data. The project provided clear visualizations of key educational metrics, such as a map of the least and most economically disadvantaged schools in Chicago (Fig. 1).

The Illinois Public School Datahub bridges the gap between raw data and actionable insights, amplifying community engagement and supporting informed decision-making. Future improvements may include enhancing search functionality and linking datasets to provide even greater accessibility and potential for impact.