Chicago Public Schools

Whole School Safety Policy Draft Request for Public Comment Authorization Presentation to Board of Education

May 23, 2024



Whole School Safety Framework Evolution

24-0222-RS1

February 22, 2024

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE WHOLE SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Board strives to create a positive culture and climate at all of our schools, grounded in our vision that all students deserve to learn in environments that provide physical, emotional, and relational safety: and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that safe and supportive school environments are important aspects of improving student learning and well-being. This includes high levels of trust between adults and students, and that students feel safe both in and around school buildings, and while they travel to and from home: and

WHEREAS, since 2012, CPS has significantly reformed the District's approach to school safety, transitioning from a zero-tolerance, enforcement-only approach focused on physical safety, to an approach that also prioritizes emotional safety and relational trust, with a more restorative approach to discipline. This shift has resulted in significant progress over the last decade in reducing overall out-of-school suspensions, in-school suspensions, police notifications, and expulsions, as well as a reduction of incidents as students travel to and from school; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made, recent data show dispartites in certain student groups. For example, the rates for out-of-school and in-school suspension continue to be disproportionately higher for students with disabilities, as well as African American male and female students when compared to their Latinx and White counterparts; calls made to police also continue to disproportionately involve students with disabilities, as well as African American male and female students when compared to their Latinx and White counterparts; and expulsions in district managed schools are disproportionately African American and Latino males; and

WHEREAS, at its August 26, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board adopted a resolution (20-0826-RS10) directing the District to "provide to the Board a comprehensive plan for schools currently using SROs (School Resource Officers) to phase out their use" and that such plan include, but not be limited to "an inclusive, thoughtful, and expeditious process to develop and implement alternative systems of safety for CPS students in every school that prioritizes their physical and social-emotional well-being, learning, and transformation;" and

WHEREAS, in the three (3) school years since the adoption of the above-referenced resolution and as a result of a new engagement process, now called "Whole School Safety Plan" process, fourteen (14) schools have voted to completely remove a total of twenty-eight (28) SROs and instead received \$3.9 million in total funds to be invested in staff- and program-related alternative safety interventions, such as climate and culture, restorative justice, and social service coordinators. However, the District still has thirty-nine (39) schools with one (1) or two (2) SROs, for a total of fifty-seven (57) full-time SROs, with only one (1) school voting to remove both SROs in the most recent vote; and

- Per the August, 2020 Board Resolution, the Board directed CPS to develop an "inclusive, thoughtful and expeditious process to develop and implement alternative systems of safety for CPS students in every school that prioritizes their physical and social-emotional well being, learning and transformation"
- Per the February, 2024 Board Resolution, the Board directed CPS to expand the Whole School Safety framework to the entire district
 - Going forward, all schools across the district will adopt a holistic safety approach that incorporates physical safety, emotional safety, and relational trust.
 - The District will sunset the SRO program at the end of SY24, June 2024.



Whole School Safety Policy Draft Highlights: Framework Review

- This policy will guide all schools to adopt the comprehensive Whole School Safety Framework that addresses the following pivotal components:
 - Physical Safety Administrators understand how best to prevent and respond to threats of violence, neighborhood incidents, and emergencies to keep students and staff safe.
 - Emotional Safety Administrators, staff, and students feel safe to express emotions, are comfortable in their environment, feel secure about taking risks, and are challenged to try new things.
 - Relational Trust Interpersonal relationships among administrators, students, teachers, and staff are built on mutual trust.





Whole School Safety Framework Development and Community

Engagement

Since Fall, 2020, our WSS Steering Committee partners to develop the framework to deliver holistic school safety while driving a community-led process that promoted an ongoing commitment to engaging our stakeholders











Since Fall, 2020, our WSS Steering Committee partners have engaged thousands of stakeholders in the development of this work



Whole School Safety Draft Policy Engagement

Over the past few months, we distributed a public survey (3/21/24 - 4/5/24) to Stakeholders:

- Students
- Parents
- Staff
- LSC Members
- School Administrators
- 9,000+ Responses
 - Of which, over 4,500 responses were from Students





Whole School Safety Draft Policy Engagement (continued)

In addition, nine engagement sessions were held with various stakeholders to discuss their concerns and priorities around school safety.

Host Organization	Audience	Event	Date
CPS OSSS	CTU Members	CTU Virtual Session - 3:30pm - 4:30pm	3/12/24
VOYCE	Youth	Westside Health Authority - 4:30pm-6:30pm	3/14/24
COFI POWER PAC	Parents	Little Village Academy (Bilingual) - 8:15am-9:45am	3/15/24
COFI POWER PAC	Parents	Parker ES, Parent University - 10am-12pm	3/21/24
VOYCE	Youth	Roundtable - 12pm - 2pm	3/23/24
MIKVA Challenge & VOYCE	Youth	Roundtable - 11am - 2pm	3/25/24
COFI POWER PAC	Parents	Town Hall (Bilingual) - 5pm-7pm	3/26/24
CPS OSSS	SEIU Members	SEIU Virtual Session - 3:30pm - 4:30pm	3/28/24
CPS OSSS	LSC Chairpersons	LSC Chairpersons (schools currently w/ SRO program) Virtual Session - 4:30pm - 5:30pm	4/1/24



Highlights of the Whole School Safety Policy Draft



Whole School Safety Key Components of the Draft Policy:

Guided by the Feedback from the Engagement Sessions and Survey Results

Safety Vision

School Safety Vision that prioritizes safety as a key component of student, staff, parent, and community well-being and learning.

Whole School Safety Committee

Whole School Safety Committee, which includes administrator(s), teacher(s) and staff, security officer(s), at least 2 current parents, and at least 3 current students.

Relational Trust

Fostering relationships between students and trusted adults, as well as with parents and other staff.

Culture & Climate

Creation of a safe and welcoming environment that builds upon and enhances schoolwide and classroom connectedness.

Student Voice

Investments in student leadership and decision making processes.

Engagement

Authentic parent and community engagement opportunities.



Whole School Safety Draft Policy Highlights

Support to School Leaders and School Communities	Community Engagement	Success Tracking and Transparency	Sustainability
 Training will be a critical component of the implementation. Schools will receive support throughout the implementation of the Policy. We plan to lift up exemplars of schools who have demonstrated best practices. During rollout, school will be advised on how to integrate with existing systems such as Culture and Climate Teams. 	 To ensure ongoing collaboration, the cornerstone of this work centers around ensuring that there is ongoing community engagement and inclusion of the voices of those who are most affected by this policy, students. Upon the request of students/parents who want to initiate the process in their schools, the District will support schools in establishing WSS committees. 	 Each year, once established, the Whole School Safety Committee must present a Whole School Safety presentation to the school community (e.g. at a public Local School Council meeting) prior to the start of the annual school budgeting process. As part of this structure, schools will have established a process for measuring, monitoring, and analyzing data aligned with positive culture and school climate on an ongoing basis. 	 CPS Central Office Departments will integrate key components based on the WSS framework and the District's Healing Centered framework. Over time, the WSS process will be integrated with the District's CIWP process already in schools.



Whole School Safety Draft Policy Implementation

Year 0 SY24

Year 1 SY25

Years 2-4 SY26-SY28

Year 5 SY29

- SRO program will sunset for all CPS schools (39 remaining high schools) effective June 30, 2024.
- All applicable schools will transition to alternate WSS supports by June 30, 2024 in time for Fall, 2024.
 - Total 72 high schools will have WSS plans by end of year (up from current 33 high schools with WSS plans)

- Review and refinement of existing WSS Plans.
- A baseline assessment will be conducted for each school.
- A tiered criteria for implementation will be used, based on each school's use of exclusionary disciplinary practices, high number of misconducts, including out-of-school suspensions and police notifications with a focus on the use of disproportionate application of these actions.
- All schools will establish Whole School Safety Committees, based on the timeline, driven by the tiered criteria from their Year 1 assessment.
- All schools will have established Whole School Safety Committees and have developed and implemented a Whole School Safety Plan.
- All High Schools will have a Student Voice Committee established.
- All school security officer allocations will be budgeted through the Whole School Safety Framework implementation.





Whole School Safety Draft Policy Highlights:

Recission of BR 04-0922-P03

- In collaboration with the Office of Social and Emotional Learning we are looking to rescind Board Report 04-0922-PO3, Policy on Student Social and Emotional Health.
- The Student Social and Emotional Health Policy has been in place since 2004 and was developed in response to the requirements of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Act of 2003.
 - Key components of this legislation and policy include incorporating social, emotional and mental health development into the District's educational programming and the Comprehensive Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Policy, as well as;
 - Establishment of protocols for responding to children with social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning.
 - These key areas have been embedded and further expanded upon in the Whole School Safety Framework Policy Draft.



Timeline of Upcoming Events Public Comment Period



Timeline for Public Comment Review Period

May 24 - June 24

June 3rd - 30th

Week of July 1st

July 25th

- Public Comment
 Engagement Sessions
 with Internal
 Departments &
 External Stakeholders
 in partnership with the
 Whole School Safety
 Steering Committee.
- Draft the Preliminary
 Whole School Safety
 Implementation Guide
 for Administrators in
 collaboration with the
 Whole School Safety
 Steering Committee
 and other
 stakeholders.
- Stakeholder
 Feedback on the
 Preliminary Whole
 School Safety
 Implementation
 Guide for
 Administrators.
- Recommend WSS
 Final Policy to the
 Board for Adoption.





Upcoming WSS Steer Co Events for Policy Feedback

Organization	Audience	Event Time & Location	Date
COFI POWER PAC	Parents	Virtual (Bilingual) 10:30am - 12:30pm	6/4/24
MIKVA Challenge & VOYCE	Youth	In Person 12:00pm - 2:00pm	6/12/24
COFI POWER PAC	Parents	Virtual (Bilingual) 5:30pm - 7:30pm	6/18/24
BUILD Chicago	Community	In Person 5:00pm - 6:00pm 5100 W Harrison	6/24/24

Please check in on our Whole School Safety Web Page for additional details and updates: www.cps.edu/wholeschoolsafety



In Closing... Additional Reflection from WSS Steering Committee Partners



Thank you for your time Questions?

