

May 27, 2020

**RESOLUTION REGARDING MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, there is an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and infections are being reported internationally, including the United States and the City of Chicago;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency ("PHE") for the United States;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C 5121-5207) in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, on April 1, 2020, and again on April 30, 2020, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation (state of emergency) for the State of Illinois in response to the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-05 ordering the closure of public and private pre-K-12 schools for educational purposes from March 17, 2020, through March 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Executive Order 2020-18 extended Executive Order 2020-05 in its entirety for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamations. Further, on April 30, 2020, Executive Order 2020-33 reissued Executive Order 2020-05 with an extension through May 29, 2020;

WHEREAS, this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation of public health concern and the top priority of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board") is the health and safety of CPS students and staff and their families and community;

WHEREAS, the Board is following and will continue to follow the guidance of local, state, and federal health officials, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH") and the Chicago Department of Public Health ("CDPH") to protect the health of the community, respond to the outbreak and minimize transmission;

WHEREAS, in-person instruction has been suspended since March 17, 2020;

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2020, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-31 suspending the following requirements for twelfth grade students: taking state assessments, successfully passing the Constitution exam, and participating in consumer education. Executive Order 2020-31 also suspends the requirement to successfully complete certain coursework as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, when twelfth graders are unable to complete such coursework as a result of the suspension of in-person instruction due to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the Board's implementation of the Executive Order 2020-31 necessitates amendments to the Board's current high school promotion and graduation policies;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the disruption to learning for the 2019-2020 school year has been so substantial as to render the process of documenting student completion of service learning projects and financial literacy requirements untenable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby directs as follows:

1. During the 2019-2020 school year to be promoted from tenth to eleventh grade students do not have to satisfy the requirement of successful completion of a service project either independently or in conjunction with a course offering during 9th or 10th grade, as stipulated in the High School Promotion Policy, Board Report 18-0627-PO1. These students will have to satisfy the requirement of completing (2) Service Learning projects prior to graduation at a later date in order to satisfy minimum graduation requirements stated in the Policy on Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, Board Report 17-0524-PO1.
2. During the 2019-2020 school year to be promoted from eleventh to twelfth grade students do not have to satisfy the requirement of taking the state-mandated college and career ready determination exam as stipulated in the High School Promotion Policy, Board Report 18-0627-PO1. These students will have to satisfy the requirement of taking the state-mandated college and career ready determination exam at a later date in order to satisfy minimum graduation requirements stated in the Policy on Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, Board Report 17-0524-PO1.
3. Waive the following requirements stipulated in the Policy on Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, Board Report 17-0524-PO1, for all students who seek to graduate in the 2019-2020 school year:
  - a. For students who entered high school as a freshman in 2016 or later, the requirement that Service Learning projects be completed.
  - b. For students who entered high school as a freshman in 2013, 2014, and 2015, the requirement to complete the Service Learning project prior to graduation and a total of forty hours prior to graduation, with a minimum of twenty hours completed by the end of the sophomore year.
  - c. For students who entered high school as a freshman in 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016, the requirement to complete Consumer Education.
4. Waive the following requirements stipulated in the Policy on Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, Board Report 17-0524-PO1, for students who had not already satisfied the requirement and seek to graduate in the 2019-2020 school year:
  - a. For students who entered high school as a freshman in 2013, 2014, 2015 or 2016: demonstrated knowledge of U.S. and Illinois constitutions as part of subject area curricula.
  - b. The requirement to take the state-mandated college and career ready determination exam.
  - c. The Computer Science requirement (1.0 credits) - this requirement applies to students who entered high school as a freshman in 2016 or later if the student was not scheduled to take the course by the second semester of school year 2019-2020.

Credit requirements for twelfth grade students participating in apprenticeships or vocational technical education courses that require in-person instruction.
5. This Resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.