

July 22, 2020

**RESOLUTION REGARDING CURSIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION POLICY
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 a 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, the suspension of in-person instruction limited the ability of many schools to offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing to students in grade 4 prior to the end of the school year as required under the Cursive Writing Instruction Policy, Board Report 18-0725-PO2;

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is important to still provide students with at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing, despite the disruption to learning for the 2019-2020 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby directs as follows:

1. For schools that did not offer their 4th-grade students a unit of cursive writing instruction before school closures:
 - a. schools will be required to satisfy the requirement in the 2020-21 school year when current 4th graders are in 5th grade, which will meet the requirements of Public Act 100-0548 that requires that a unit of cursive writing instruction be offered to elementary students prior to completion of grade 5.
2. This Resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.