

August 26, 2020

**RESOLUTION REGARDING WAIVING THE ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS
REQUIREMENT IN THE ACCELERATED PLACEMENT 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; and on May 29, 2020 Executive Order 2020-38 reissues most executive orders, extending a majority of the provisions through June 26, 2020; and on June 26, 2020, Executive Order 2020-44 reissues most executive orders, extending a majority of the provisions through July 24, 2020; and on July 24, 2020, Executive Order 2020-48 reissues most executive orders, extending a majority of the provisions through August 23, 2020.

WHEREAS, this is an 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 was suspended since March 17, 2020 and through the rest of the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, CPS canceled end-of-year assessments including the Illinois Assessment of Readiness ("IAR"), taken once a year in the spring, which is required as a prerequisite for consideration for Single-Subject and Whole-Grade Acceleration as outlined in Board Policy 301.12;

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") requires in the Accelerated Placement Act (SB1223), an unfunded mandate, that all districts have an Accelerated Placement policy that must use an assessment process that includes multiple, reliable indicators;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that with the Accelerated Placement Policy already requiring two other reliable indicators unaffected by the transition to remote learning (NWEA scores and GPA) to be considered for Single-Subject and Whole-Grade Acceleration, the attainment and administration of an additional valid and reliable assessment to replace the IAR prerequisite would be costly and time inefficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby directs as follows:

1. All students applying for Whole-Grade and Single-Subject Acceleration in the 2020-2021 application cycle will have the Illinois Assessment of Readiness test score requirement waived.
2. This Resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.