

July 22, 2020 Board of Education Food Service Waiver Hearing
Written Comments Received Tuesday, July 7th through Wednesday, July 22nd
Submitted via BOE@cps.edu

1.

Hi my name is Theresa Hehn speaking for the CTU testing committee to request a waiver of all standardized testing for the upcoming school year.

If we follow the CPS hybrid plan for returning to school, In addition to valuable instructional time lost, Standardized testing will add anxiety and stress to an already extremely unsure time.

It would be better to allow educators to do what they do best - *teach and evaluate within their existing teaching practices.*

1. We are asking that CPS take the initiative to continue the federal waiver by The U.S. Department of Education last spring due to COVID-19
2. We are asking that CPS waive all forms of standardized testing (such as IAR, Access, NWEA) for the following reasons:
 - a. Educators are very aware students will be behind and how best to meet their areas of need
 - b. Time spent on standardized tests would be better utilized rebuilding relationships and meeting the academic **AND** social emotional needs of our students who are dealing with trauma related to the pandemic and civil unrest.
 - c. Teachers are trained and skilled to embed a collection of assessment data in their everyday instruction.
 - d. We need to focus this school year on recovery, remediation, and rethinking why we use standardized tests.
 - e. NWEA takes 2 days per subject ...and pulls special education teachers from their assigned students to provide weeks of required accommodations./modifications listed in IEP's
 - f. The state of Georgia was first to request a new waiver to quote their school Superintendent, Richard Woods, "teachers and students need to be free from worry about the tests, and schools have better uses for the time and *money normally* spent on administering them."
3. We also request REACH evaluations be waived
 - a. Administration will not have the time to provide meaningful feedback or give a fair evaluation to educators while enforcing all the return to school mandated guidelines.
 - b. Nothing about teaching will be "normal". The Danieleson and REACH evaluation framework are without merit while following the health and safety guidelines outlined. No teacher could receive even a satisfactory rating based on current criteria in an evaluation.

Thank you for your time and continued support of our students.

2.

Hello president del valle and vp Revuluri and members of the bd

Good morning. Thank you for the honor of speaking before you.

I am Daniel S. Weinberg, a semi-retired part-time 18 year-public librarian and a 25 year resident of West Ridge in Chicago. My father ran for president of the Chicago Teachers Union in 1960 and vice-president in 1962.

I am concerned about not only the COVID-19 Pandemic but about the pandemic that is not being called a pandemic-the diabetes pandemic. School should not be started during the Pandemic.

27.% of 6th graders are obese. Almost 18% of kindergartners are obese in Chicago. This is not good. 10.5% of American adults have diabetes. 33.9% of American adults have prediabetes. That is 88 million people.

This is a pandemic to me.

So what can we do?

These past two weeks I gave up eating sugar (donuts, sweet rolls, etc) and I believe that I went thru withdrawal. Sugar, according to scientists like Dr. Robert Lustig, say that sugar is the same as heroin and alcohol in the way they affect the liver and heart. So why don't we hear about sugar rehab?

We can give public school students a chance with a diet of no sugar and fresh food.

I am with the group eatreal.org e a t r e a l . o r g a California non-profit that will for free, help CPS adjust to more nutritious meals. Last year we gave, for breakfast, breakfast bars that are full of sugar. Eatreal.org has helped Boston, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Oakland, Calif. schools, change their diets.

Thank you for your actions. Diabetes costs are out of control and bringing Social Security and the healthcare system to a stop. Nutrition waivers will only hurt the student's future health.

Best,
Daniel S. Weinberg

3.

Hello,

I am reaching out to demand that you end CPS's contract with CPD come August. It is clear that you all chose to ignore students, teachers and research on Wednesday, favoring your own personal anecdotes and flawed definitions of "safety" in voting to keep police in our schools. Year over year, we spend more money on CPD and yet, 100+ people were shot in Chicago last weekend - clearly, increasing the police budget is not the solution to crime. Similarly, police in schools statistically do not prevent or stop crime; if anything, they contribute to increased feelings of hostility and fear.

Keeping police in schools is the easy way for you and the Chicago local government to give yourself a false sense of "providing security and safety" to schools in neighborhoods whom Chicago has turned its back on; to ignore the larger issue and get to the root of our problems which is that we're spending pennies on our Black and Brown communities and allowing them to wither away to nothing.

I urge you all to really examine how you think police keep Black and Brown children safe in their schools. We have an issue with crime in many of our schools, but police are not solving this issue. It's time we rethink what our communities need and make meaningful changes.

Best,

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4.

Hi there,

I am writing to please ask that you vote to kick the Chicago Police Department out of Chicago Public Schools. They do not make it safer and the police have proven themselves not to be responsible. It takes money away from needed resources.

Thanks for your time,

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