

**June 24, 2020 Board of Education Meeting**  
**Written Comments Received Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> through noon Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Submitted via BOE@cps.edu**

1.

Police Free Schools

Members of the Board,

I'm asking you to support the efforts of the Chicago aldermen that advanced a Police Free Schools Ordinance, and to vote to terminate the intergovernmental contract between CPS and CPD.

The Money spent on armed SROs should instead be used to employ unarmed violence interrupters and social workers in efforts at conflict resolution and restorative justice. Having armed officers in our school hallways establishes a combative dynamic of mistrust that will have long-term impacts on all student relationships with the police.

Furthermore, as their ordinance states, "the presence of police inside schools creates dangerous conditions for students that have led to the criminalization, incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force predominantly against Brown and Black students." These conditions exacerbate the racial inequalities that plague our city and that your colleagues seek to remedy.

Please pledge your support for the Motion to Terminate the SRO contract today, and cast your vote in favor on Wednesday.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

██████████, CPS parent

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2.

Cutting Ties to CPD

Hello;

My name is ██████████, and I am a rising junior at Walter Payton College Prep. I'm writing to encourage the Board to end their \$33,000,000 contract with the Chicago Police Department, because I believe that this contract does disproportionate harm to young People of Color in Chicago.

I am extremely fortunate that I go to a school like Payton. We have significant funding that provides adequate mental health outlets, room for smaller class sizes, strong after school programs, and more. Additionally, I feel completely safe at my school - my education and mental health is not jeopardized by extensive policing/a constant threat of punishment for small actions. With that said, other schools are not so fortunate. The 33,000,000 dollars that go towards policing in CPS schools on the south and west sides - largely communities of color - are 33,000,000 dollars spent on fear. How can one expect students to feel mentally prepared in the face of weapons and badges? How can students feel empowered to prioritize their success when they are in a criminalized environment? The answer is: you cannot. What makes a school successful is not policing and over regulation. It is investment in mental well-being, safe classrooms, after school programs, a restorative punishment model, and more. These outlets are what bring success and growth in our schools - taking REAL care of students should be common sense.

With that, I once again encourage the Chicago Board of Education to formally and finally cut ties with the CPD. Keep in mind that the fate of Chicago's youth largely rests on this decision - how will you ensure the potential of their lives?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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3.

#### Board Meeting Comments

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a 2020 graduate, Chicago's school board should terminate the \$33 million contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department for the following reasons:

- Police in schools contribute to the school to prison pipeline. Black and brown students are more likely to be detained in school prisons or sent to juvenile detention centers and from there more likely to go to prison.
  - SROs are trained to deal with perceived criminals and threats not children.
  - It would better serve students in general but, especially in times of conflict to interact with counselors and social workers than officers.
  - The money from this contract could be used to better the quality of education for CPS students.
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4.

Please terminate the CPS contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education Members,

As a recent CPS alumni, I would like to encourage the Board of Education to end the Chicago Public Schools contract with Chicago Police Department. During my time at school, I only witnessed one incident where police officers actively intervened in a safety situation, and even then, school resource officers were on the sidelines while other officers did the work. The money saved by terminating the contract would be markedly better spent on funding resources such as guidance counselors, technology for those without access, and more robust arts or faculty departments. Additionally, as a White individual, I come from a place of privilege in regards to police interaction. I have not had family members harassed or assaulted by police, nor have I had negative experiences. However, I noted during my time at school that many of my classmates who are PoC/Black were uncomfortable around the school resource officers, and even felt unsafe. For a measure intended to make students feel safe, in many cases, school resource officers do the exact opposite. While it is important to have rapid responses to situations of crisis at schools, police officers are not always the best suited, nor the safest option for responding to these situations. For these reasons, I implore the Board to seriously take action to terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]

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5.

Police in CPS

Dear Board of Education,

Please remove all police officers from CPS! Kids should not go to a school where armed police officers roams the halls. This is scary for kids. In addition, kids who misbehave should not have to deal with law enforcement/police officers- those issues should be dealt with by councilors, teachers, and admin at the school instead. CPS could do so much good with the 33 million that they spend on police officers by adding more teachers and councilors and buying better supplies to help children succeed in school.

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6.

CPD involvement in CPS

Good afternoon,

my name is ██████████ and I recently graduated from Jones College Prep High School. I urge you to please terminate the contract between CPD and CPS, and rather use that money to further help CPS students. No real good comes from the police being present in schools, and funds could be much more useful when invested directly into the students and individual schools.

Thank you,

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7.

Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Board of Education,

I am a recent graduate from Walter Payton College Prep. I heard that you are considering a vote to remove CPD from CPS. I would just like to comment that I agree with this movement and would ask that you please vote to remove them.

I have been lucky enough to go to schools like Walter Payton and Stone Academy where we did not have Police and we had plenty of resources. However I have heard stories of the ways in which cops in schools often intimidate students and create a toxic environment from the students. Removing the cops and replacing them with proper services would be an incredible step to help students who would normally just be sent to the cops.

So please consider their removal.

Best,

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8.

### Remove Police from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Board of Education Members,

Thank you for your consideration of terminating the current CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I urge you to vote for termination. This would not only allow for much needed reinvestment in desperately-needed support that does not criminalize our students, but—given that 95% of CPD interventions are directed at students of color—would be a clear statement of support for equity and justice.

Thank you for your consideration,

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9.

### CPS contract with CPD

My name is ██████████ and I serve as a parent representative on the Local School Council at New Field Elementary School where my three daughters are enrolled. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

It is my understanding that LSC members were able to vote on the use of SROs in their own respective schools, but since New Field Elementary has no SROs, I did not have any opportunity to express my opinion in this matter. Although it does not personally affect my daughter's at this time, like any other parent, I am always thinking ahead and know that it will in the very near future. In addition, it is currently affecting all the older students in my neighborhood and I seek to advocate for them.

The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had a SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students. I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are

mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Thank you for your consideration,  
[REDACTED]

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10.

terminate the CPS contract with the CPD

Hi --

I'm a mother of two CPS students, writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target black and brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

CPS mom of two

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11.

Terminate police contracts

To the CPS Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am an incoming senior at a CPS school, and I am emailing to demand that you terminate the \$33 million contract the District has with CPD. In my personal experience, campus police officers contribute very little, if any, to the safety and security of students. In more extreme cases, such as the one involving Dnigma Howard, who was dragged down the steps of her school by her school's campus officer, these officers can present a clear and present threat to students, especially students of color. The funds you have directed towards police in schools would be better suited for

expanding and refining mental health services for students, hiring more counselors, full-time nurses, psychologists, and countless other services that would be far more beneficial for students health, well-being, and overall success in school. Please terminate this contract and invest in services that better serve the students and faculty of this district.

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12.

End the CPD contract

Hello,

Please end the CPD contract and reallocate the \$33 million dollars to hiring more school nurses, mental health professionals, and extracurricular activities. Please help set up Chicago kids for success instead of preparing them for prison.

Thank you,

██████████  
Mother of 2  
Roger's Park

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13.

End the CPD Contract Please

Hi --

I'm a mother of one current and one future CPS student, writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target black and brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

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14.

URGENT END SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE Divest from CPD

To whom it may concern-

My name is ██████████ and I am an alum of Jones College Prep. I am writing to urge you to end the contract with CPD as soon as possible.

I have heard stories upon stories upon stories of teachers paying for supplies out of pocket, schools being closed, programs being shut down, and teachers being laid off because there's no room in the budget.

Make room in the budget.

There is absolutely NO reason why police deserve \$33 million of the CPS budget.

Stop criminalizing children and give them the resources they need. And while we're at it, cut ties with Sodexo too their food is unhealthy and bland and they use prison slave labor.

Please do the right thing. There is no reason children should feel unsafe in the one haven they may have - school. Help them learn, support their creativity and studies.

Cut ties with CPD. Please.

We are literally begging you to do the right thing. End the school to prison pipeline. We are the only major city in the U.S. to not cut our police budget or make any significant changes. Please please please do something about this.

Be on the right side of history.

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15.

Terminate the Contract

Dear Board,

I'm a mother of a CPS student writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD. Policing in schools has been proven to adversely target black and brown students. More than 95% of police incidents involve students of color - how is this acceptable to you?

The money spent on police should be spent directly on services and programs that enrich the student population. We have schools that need full-time social workers, full-time nurses, art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million should go directly towards services and programs that will strengthen the district and enhance the education of the students.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

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Mother of 2

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16.

Police Out of Schools

My name is ██████████ and I serve as a parent representative on the Local School Council at New Field Elementary School where my three daughters are enrolled. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

It is my understanding that LSC members were able to vote on the use of SROs in their own respective schools, but since New Field Elementary has no SROs, I did not have any opportunity to express my

opinion in this matter. Although it does not personally affect my daughter's at this time, like any other parent, I am always thinking ahead and know that it will in the very near future. In addition, it is currently affecting all the older students in my neighborhood and I seek to advocate for them.

The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had a SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students. I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Sincerely,

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17.

Terminate the CPD Contract

CPS Board of Education,

I'm a mother of two CPS students, writing to urge you to sever the Chicago Public Schools contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Law-enforcement agents do not belong in schools. Stationing police officers in schools harms the safety, security and the educational experience of students, in particular Black and Latinx students, low-income students and students with disabilities. Police in schools create an environment that inherently criminalizes students, contributing to the trauma that many students experience outside of school and serving as the starting point for the school-to-prison pipeline. Surveillance by police working in schools is not covered by state or federal privacy laws, leaving students and families with no protections of their right to privacy of their educational record and personal information. In the wake of a global pandemic, massive economic depression and social unrest stemming from the systemic oppression of Black people by the police, the only humane policy response is to defund police and remove them from our schools.

In Illinois schools police officers and security guards together outnumber any category of clinicians providing mental-health services: nurses, psychologists, social workers or counselors. And, furthermore, our schools do not meet recommended staffing levels for any of these clinicians. (Source: [https://www.ilfps.org/june\\_2020\\_news](https://www.ilfps.org/june_2020_news))

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

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18.

CPD in CPS

Hello,

I am a proud product of CPS schools (Murray for Kindergarten, Ray School for Elementary School and Kenwood for 7th-12th grade). I am the parent of a 3 year old who we are planning to send to CPS (Ray School then Kenwood).

Please end the contract with CPD.

I remember when CPD started in Kenwood after Columbine. I never felt safer with CPD in the building, but I felt less comfortable. I never once saw the officers do anything helpful, but I repeatedly saw them hit on teenage girls. It appears that was not unique to my school nor unique to the newness of the program.

Please use the money for CPD to hire more counselors, social workers, and/or nurses. Counselors, Social Workers, and Nurses are making schools and students better and safer.

Thanks,

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19.

Police out of schools

I strongly support removing police officers from Chicago schools. Too many typical adolescent behaviors such as fighting and experimenting with marijuana wind up being criminalized. Mainly black and Hispanic children experience this. We need to end the school to prison pipeline. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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20.

End contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education,

This Wednesday, please vote to end the CPS contract with CPD. Police in schools create a scary environment for children of color (and many white children), that should be focused on learning. Please vote against criminalizing students.

Police have often been the perpetrators of violence against students in schools and their presence has no place in an educational environment. The \$33 million in the contract would be much better spent on teachers, counselors, social workers, therapists, and many other CPS priorities.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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21.

CPD in CPS

I am writing to encourage you to end the contract between CPD and CPS. While there is certainly some need to maintain order and assure the safety of everyone in the school, there are other models for doing this. Our schools certainly need more nurses, more social workers and more counselors which would decrease the stress and risk of violence.

As a social worker who has worked with individuals with mental illnesses, substance use disorders and histories of criminal behavior, I know how serious the early criminalization of traumatic experiences and acting out behavior can be.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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22.

CPS contract with Chicago Police Department

My name is [REDACTED]. I have two daughters in CPS, one enrolled at Drummond Montessori and the other enrolled at Peirce Elementary School. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of

Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO). I urge you to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.

The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had a SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students. I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

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23.

End CPD

Please vote to end the CPS contract with CPD!

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24.

Terminate contract with CPD

Good afternoon,

I am a student at Jones College Prep and believe it is vital that CPS terminate its contract with CPD to ensure a safe and encouraging learning environment for all students. Students of color are most often the target for being criminalized. Instead of a contract with CPD, students would benefit more from counselors, nurses, librarians, and social workers in their schools, which they currently lacking. Please vote towards ending the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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25.

Police in schools

To whom it may concern:

Just another parent who wanted to voice my support for canceling the contract between CPS and Chicago police; this is deeply traumatizing to our children and results in poor outcomes for at risk youth. It's time to dismantle the school to prison pipeline for our youth of color.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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26.

Wednesday's Vote

Thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure. We do NOT need CPD in our schools. We are funnelling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

We have \$33 Million dollars for police who ARE NOT TRAINED to work with kids but our teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and NURSES?

The idea that the schools would not receive the funding back is also a slap in the face to the teachers, students, and parents of CPS schools.

We need to do better for our children. End the School to Prison Pipeline. It starts with you.

Please vote accordingly.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
CPS Parent

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27.

CPD out of CPS

I am a social worker and a parent with two kids in the Chicago school system. I firmly believe that CPD should not have a contract with CPS. Please vote against this contract. [REDACTED]

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28.

Terminate CPD Contract

Hi --

I'm a mother of two - 1 CPS student and one toddler - writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target Black and Brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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29.

Parent of a CPS Student

Esteemed members of the the CPS Board,

I am a proud parent of a CPS student at Jordan Community Elementary School in Rogers Park. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps my child safe or any child on any campus safe. My daughter has been using a nebulizer since November and yet Jordan does not have a full time nurse on staff. That will keep my child safer than any police officer. Please take actions that actually ensure the safety of our students, our children, instead of traumatizing them any further.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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30.

Remove SROs from CPS

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing today to urge the BOE to remove SROs from CPS. As a teaching artist that has worked throughout all of Chicagoland since 2004, I cannot stress how these SROs do not create a warm and trusting environment. They in fact, create a quick and early entrance into the school to prison pipeline. We know that these officers disproportionately target BIPOC children. The agreement as it stands with CPD lays most decision making in regards when to become involved in a school incident and when to engage in the "use of force" directive. A school is no place that needs policing, and we know for a fact that it does not prevent school shootings, but does increase arrests of minors. Please use your voice for the betterment of our city and the growth of a trusting educational environment throughout Chicagoland. A school is no place that needs policing, and we know for a fact that it does not prevent school shootings, but does increase arrests of minors. Please use your voice for the betterment of our city and the growth of a trusting educational environment throughout Chicagoland. Pulling the \$33M contract with CPD will provide the much needed resources of guidance counselors and social workers. Each school should have these positions filled, not just the rich white schools on the Northside.

The teachers and parents have spoken, please listen,  
[REDACTED]

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31.

Please Terminate CPS CPD contract

Hello,

I'm a mother of two CPS students, writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD. Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target Black and Brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
CPS mom of two

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32.

please END the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department

Dear Board of Education:

I'm a resident of the 40th ward and a former CPS parent (Nettelhorst, Lincoln Elementary, Northside College Prep), and I'm writing to ask that you end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. Please get the police out of our schools. They cost a fortune and don't help (and do hurt), which is not what anyone wants. Thanks very much for your assistance.

Cordially,  
[REDACTED]

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33.

End the CPS contract with CPD

Dear Mr. del Valle and Chicago Board of Education,

I am demanding that CPS end its contract with CPD and get the police out of our schools. Admittedly, as school shootings have plagued our country, I have considered that police in schools might be a solution. But there is clearly a huge deficit of trust in the police in this city, and a long record of police brutality inflicted disproportionately on Black and Brown bodies. Given that, I must follow the voices of the Black and Brown community and join them in calling for the end of this contract. Please do the right thing on Wednesday: end the CPS contract with CPD and get the police out of Chicago schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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34.

Support for terminating CPS Contract with CPD

Chicago Board of Ed -

I just learned that you will consider terminating the \$33 million CPS contract with CPD at your meeting on Wednesday. It's staggering the amount of student support that could be provided with the money we spend on police in our schools, and eye-opening how often CPD interventions are directed at students of color. I support terminating the contract. I am a parent of two CPS students at Northside College Prep and Garvy Elementary.

- ██████████

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35.

Cops out of cps

As a parent of a cps student, I support severing the contract with cpd. Policing in schools has been shown to adversely affect students of color and the money should be spent to help students.

Thanks

██████████

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36.

Cancel contract with CPD

Hi --

I'm a mother of two CPS students and I've been a teacher in CPS for a decade. I'm writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target Black and brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger. I work in a school that does not have an SRO and I have never felt in danger or like we were struggling to handle our problems.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
CPS teacher & mom of two CPS students

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37.

End CPS relationship with CPD

Please take the cops out of our schools. There is little evidence to support the notion that they keep kids safe. Consider how many counselors or school psychologists that money could pay for. School Resource Officers receive little or no specialized training in how to deal with students, adolescent psychology, or desecration strategies. They are poorly equipped to deal with the problems they face, and there are few examples of them being able to prevent or interrupt mass shooting events. Even if you argue that more of them would make a bigger difference in such events, all you are really talking about is an uncertain attempt to fix a problem after it's too late. Mental health services and social workers would be much more successful in helping those kids before they come with their guns.

Schools shouldn't be battlegrounds.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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38.

KEEP CPD IN SCHOOLS!!!

Hi, I'm writing in to 'speak out'! I 100% think we should keep CPD in schools!!

Thank you for your time!

[REDACTED]

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39.

Remove CPD from CPS

As the parent of a young child just starting school in CPS, I am writing to urge you to remove the Chicago Police, a racist and unaccountably corrupt organization, from the Chicago Public school system.

Specifically:

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.
3. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

Listen to your constituents,

[REDACTED]

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40.

NO CPD IN CPS

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Woodlawn and a mother to young children, I am writing to voice my opinion that the CPD contract with CPS should not be upheld. We do not need to continue the school-to-prison pipeline in our city. Our schools and students are hurting deeply, especially on the south side, from lack of resources. The CTU Strike last October highlighted many of these issues. Education is one of our greatest safety nets to ensure a vibrant and safe future for our city and we need to prioritize it by funneling those funds DIRECTLY to the schools.

CPD DOES NOT BELONG IN OUR SCHOOLS!

Sincerely,

██████████  
████████████████████  
██████████

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41.

CPD Contract Termination

Members of the Board-

My name is ██████████, and I recently graduated from Whitney Young Magnet High School, in the city's South Loop. I am writing today to encourage you to vote in favor of terminating the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department, and instead allocate those funds to under-supported schools on the South and West sides.

The students of CPS understand, even those of us who are not marginalized, that police officers in our schools work solely to victimize Brown and Black bodies, and, thus, instead of contributing to the safety of our schools, takes away from the security and comfort we should feel in CPS buildings. Instead of posting armed officers, many of whom have prior misconduct complaints against them, into hallways with children, I urge you to focus on non-violent and non-punitive support for the students of CPS. Reinstating nurses and counselors is a perfect first step; fully funding access to technology and other necessary resources is a second step to take.

I would like to leave CPS a better institution than it was when I entered; hopefully, part of the change I've observed since I entered the system in first grade will include the removal of police officers, who work only to perpetuate violence against people of color, from our places of learning. I urge you to do what's right for our communities, and hope my message, and the message sent by the thousands of protesters who have marched in support of protections for Black lives recently, will inspire you to vote in favor of safety for Chicago students.

Respectfully and consciously,

██████████

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42.

Police out of schools

Dear Board Members,

Please take police out of Chicago Public Schools. Students should be able to learn without being in fear of the police. Please allocate the money to social workers, counselors and positive reinforcement tactics instead of police officers.

Thank you

██████████

Mother of 2 Former CPS students and 2 Current CPS students

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43.

Concerns

Hello,

My name is ██████████. I was told to voice my concerns here so I'm doing that. Keeping police at CPS is a terrible idea. It promotes the school to prison pipeline and creates an intense environment. How are kids supposed to be studious and great and graduate when police with their guns are roaming the schools?? It doesn't make any sense. How are they supposed to look forward to the future like the white children in the good districts? It's truly unfair. I hope you guys make the right decision at the board meeting. If you did take the time to read my email, thank you.

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44.

CPS contract with cpd

Dear board members,

Let's spend our resources on librarians, counselors and nurses. We do not need or want police in our school especially given the ample research showing how unlikely they are to successfully intervene in emergencies and the clear racism ingrained in the culture of the department. The CPD officer in our school does nothing to engage our community and inappropriately flirts with female parents and guardians. We can do better.

██████████  
Interamerican School

██████████

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45.

End the contract with CPD

CPS will be discussing whether to end the contract with CPD on June 24th, and as a Chicago resident I say there is no reason to have cops in schools. That 33 million dollars can be spent to pay teachers better, improve after school activities for the kids, to add social workers to school, and so many other more productive uses of the money. Kick the cops out!

██████████  
██████████

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46.

CPD contract

Hello,

As a CPS alumna and citizen of Chicago, I feel very strongly that CPS must terminate its contract with CPD. Police involvement in schools does not make me (or most other students) feel any safer and it also helps to sustain the school to prison pipeline. CPS serves a very diverse group of young people and the Board of Education needs to take into account the voices of marginalized students. Ignoring these calls for ending the policing of children shows a blatant disregard for the safety and emotional health of the student population. Especially in underfunded schools and schools with primarily BIPOC student bodies, police officers only serve to arrest students and cause fear among the kids they are supposed to serve. Police officers in schools only act when problems have already occurred. People like social workers, psychologists, nurses, librarians, and counselors can stop problems at the root. I urge the Board of Education to take steps to terminate the CPS-CPD contract and put funds into more productive ways of serving CPS students. Listen to the community.

Best,

██████████

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47.

Termination of CPS/CPD Contract

To whom it may concern:

As a recent graduate from a Chicago Public School, I am urging the Board of Education to support the end of CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department.

The current \$33 million dollar contract is excessive, especially when so many schools are under-resourced--particularly in schools with majority Black and Brown kids--and money from this contract can be used to make sure every school has social workers, librarians, counselors. This money can be reallocated to ensure every student is receiving a quality education--no matter where in the city they live, no matter the color of their skin.

Along with the lack of resources this contract fails to address, it also incites fear among many Black and Brown students. Minority students are more often targeted and referred to resource officers than their white peers, and when a problem does arise, the police's actions do nothing to amend or properly de-escalate situations. The inclusion of police in a school community--a supposedly safe community--only furthers the historic discrimination Black and Brown students face on a daily basis outside of school.

Many other cities have accomplished the removal of their police from schools, so I urge you to consider why. I urge you to understand and empathize with Black and Brown students, and to make the moral choice for their benefit, and for their right to a quality education.

Thank you for your time.

██████████

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48.

Police in CPS Schools

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I have been working in CPS schools for eight years as a teaching artist. I feel so honored to work in Chicago where teaching artists have work available and the opportunity to touch so many students throughout the school year.

I am writing to urge you to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I have been in so many schools who have very few resources. What these children need is more social workers. More school counselors. Not more armed officers who represent a community that many of these children cannot trust. BIPOC students are arrested disproportionately to white students. We have to take steps to end the school to prison pipeline.

Please, redirect the \$33 million dollars to directly impact the students of CPS. We are all relying on you.

Sincerely,

██████████

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49.

CPD in CPS Contract Vote - 6/24/20

Dear Members of the CPS Board,

I am a proud parent of a CPS student at Hamilton Elementary School. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps children safe. In my opinion having the CPD on campus only promotes a prison like atmosphere in what is supposed to be an educational setting. Please consider voting to redirect the \$33 million in funds to better use in CPS. There are things like libraries, school nurses, physical education classes, the arts, sports and after school programs that can better serve the diverse backgrounds of students in this great city. I urge you to vote on a motion to terminate this contract with CPD. Our children in this city will benefit in countless ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

██████████  
██████████

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50.

No CPD in schools

Esteemed members of the CPS Board,

I am a proud parent of a CPS student at Jordan Community Elementary School in Rogers Park. I wanted to voice my opinion regarding the upcoming discussion about the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps my child or any child on any campus safe. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I believe that having ample full time social workers, nurses, support staff, and special education teachers and aides in schools will more significantly impact the engagement, accountability, and wellbeing of the students and community. Implementing restorative justice in elementary schools will teach students and families an alternative to the broken system of justice and punishment in this country. This will keep my child safer than a police officer could and simultaneously teach him empathy, respect, forgiveness, accountability, and so much more to help him become his best self. Please terminate your contract with CPD and invest in your students in meaningful, supportive ways. It might not be easy at first but the current system is traumatizing our children. I believe in CPS and know that it can be a model for school systems across the country. Please, please chose preventative and restorative care over punitive measures.

Sincerely,

██████████

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51.

Student Safety

To Whom It May Concern;

As the CPS board prepares to discuss the ongoing question of having CPD officers in CPS classrooms, I want to add my voice calling for the CPS board to take real, permanent steps to protect the safety of our students and demand that you end the contract with the CPD. School resource officers do not protect our students, they bring very real harm and violence down upon our Black and Brown students and continue to support the school-to-prison pipeline in Chicago. As Chicago is currently grappling with what to do with the city budget and how to support CPS, there is no clearer option than to end the contract with the CPD effective immediately and to redirect those funds into our schools in a real way for counselors, nurses, and more teachers.

I ask that the CPS board choose the safety of Chicago's students and vote to end the CPD contract at Wednesday's board meeting. Thank you.

- ██████████

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52.

Get CPD Out Of CPS

Dear distinguished board members,

I am a citizen of Chicago, a substitute teacher at CPS, and a frequent teaching artist in Chicago Public Schools. I have seen first hand the ways that CPD creates a poor learning environment especially for students of color.

We simply ask that you consider the following:

1. End the school to prison pipeline (this is kind of the broad idea- stop normalizing treating students like criminals).
2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them. Simple actionable goal.
3. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students. How many times have you heard of a Chicago Police Officer stopping a school shooting, honestly?

CPS does not need cops, you need to take care of the staff you have now, and improve the ACTUAL resources for your students. It's what's right to do by the children of Chicago.

I will be keeping a sharp eye on this situation, and will be sure to hold you accountable in future elections. Please remove the politics from this situation. You know the right thing to do. I pray you do it, for the future of our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

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53.

CPD in CPS Contract Vote 6/24/20

Dear Members of the CPS Board,

I am a proud parent of a CPS student at Hamilton Elementary School. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps children safe. In my opinion having the CPD on campus only promotes a prison like atmosphere in what is supposed to be an educational setting. Please consider voting to redirect the \$33 million in funds to better use in CPS. There are things that include libraries, school nurses, physical education classes, the arts, special education transitional support, sports and after school programs that can better serve the diverse backgrounds of students in this great city. I urge you to vote on a motion to terminate this contract with CPD. Our children in this city will benefit in countless ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

██████████

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54.

We want CPD out of CPS

Hello!

I am a parent to a rising junior at Kenwood Academy and a 2018 graduate from Whitney Young, who is now a junior at Dartmouth College. My kids went to many CPS schools on their way to Kenwood and WY - Murray Language Academy, Lenart RGC, Newberry Elementary School, and Ray Elementary School. We are a CPS family and we want CPD out of our CPS! We need art, music, drama, and dance teachers. We need social workers, librarians and nurses in our schools. We do not need police in our schools.

Thank you!

██████████

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55.

End contract with CPD

Dear Board Members,

As a parent, CPS teacher and community member, I urge you, the Chicago Board of Education, to follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Our country has a long history of racial violence, which has been laid bare most recently in the murder of George Floyd (among so many other Black and Brown people) and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on communities of color. It's beyond time to change these profoundly unjust systems, especially in our schools. Ending the contact with CPD and not only reallocating those funds, but reimagining how our

schools can support rather punish and criminalize our youth, is an essential next step. So do it. Use your power to say no to police violence; say no to systemic racism; say yes to our youth. Black lives matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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56.

Please end CPS contract with CPD

Hi,

I am writing to express my hope that you consider ending the CPS contract with CPD. While we all want the very safest learning environment for our children, CPD is not the best way to create this. CPD has shown repeatedly to intimidate and harm people of color and those feelings do not promote safe learning for any our children, regardless of their background, gender, race or ability. There is no reason to have a gun on site at our schools, whether it is in the hands of a police officer or not.

I would recommend that instead the money be allocated to improve mental health services and support for students and to train staff in de-escalation and advocacy for improved gun control and regulation.

I am writing to you as a physician and as a parent of two young children who will be attending their neighborhood CPS school. It is my professional and personal opinion that CPD does not belong in our schools.

Please please please end this contract.

Thank you for considering public input,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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57.

CPS contract with Chicago Police Department

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my strong support of the motion to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I encourage alternatives to be sought, in light of the large body of research showing that the presence of police in schools serves as an entry point to the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harms Black, Indigenous, and Latinx students; students with disabilities; and students most in need who are furthest from opportunity.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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58.

Please vote NO to CPD on Wednesday!

Esteemed members of the CPS Board,

I am a proud parent of a CPS student. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps my child safe or any child on any campus safe. Some of the students at my son's school are medically fragile, and require medications, yet this school does not have a full-time nurse on staff. This would keep the children safer than any police officer. Please take actions that actually ensure the safety of our students, our children, instead of traumatizing them any further.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

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59.

Terminate CPD contract

Dear Members,

I'm a mother of three CPS students, and a CPS alumna myself, writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target black and brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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60.

No CPD in CPS

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hello,

I am writing to encourage the board to vote yes on the motion to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

I believe this to be a crucial step in the process for justice and healing in our city and around the country.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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61.

Terminate the CPD contract

Hi,

I'm a mother of two CPS students, one current at Beard, because he is 4 years old with special needs, and a (hopefully) incoming three-year-old preschooler. I'm writing to urge you to sever the CPS contract with the CPD.

Not only has policing in schools been shown to adversely target black and brown students, the money spent on police could be spent in so many better ways.

We have schools that need social workers and nurses and art teachers and drama programs -- and not on-site police. That \$33 million could fund so much to make our CPS system so much stronger.

Please terminate the CPD contract.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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62.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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63.

Make Our Schools Safer - Remove CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am a resident of West Town (First Ward) and have deep care and concern for our city's students. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses this week. I do not believe CPD on school campuses keeps children or any campus safe. I urge you to take action and remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools, and reinvest those funds into resources that will ensure the safety and success of our students, including but not limited to: teachers, nurses, social workers, counselors, mental health and behavioral specialists, after school programs, meal programs and other enrichment activities. Please help make our Chicago schools a place safe to all students, regardless of race, and an environment in which they can thrive.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support.

Warm Regards,

██████████  
West Town Resident

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64.

Remove CPD from CPS

Hi,

My name is ██████████ and I am a resident of the city of Chicago. I am writing to urge the Board of Education to cancel the contract with the Chicago Police Department at the board meeting on June 24th. Children should not be subject to biased police officers in their schools, and having CPD in schools helps support the school-to-prison pipeline. In light of recent events, CPD needs to stay away from our students. Please end the contract.

Thank you,

██████████

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65.

cpd contract termination

Dear CPS,

I'm a former CPS student and what I believe our community needs is more funding in other areas: mental health services, after school programming, social workers, the arts. etc. How can you expect children to thrive if you're not providing them w the resources that they need? and instead over policing them? Children need to be educated and taught, not policed. We are growing and learning and we are not in criminal.

- ██████████

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66.

CPD

Hello,

I have 2 kids in CPS and also work as a contracted therapist in a CPS school. I strongly believe that CPD officers do not belong in schools.

'If you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail.' Policing strategies are not what is needed for youth and the money spent on policing would be better spent on other tools like restorative justice.

Sincerely,

██████████

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67.

CPD out of CPS

Good morning, Esteemed members of the CPS Board:

I am the Proud Parent of a CPS student who will attend Pierce Elementary on the North Side of Chicago. I am a social worker and therapist who has been working in the field for 26 years. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of Chicago Police Department on School campuses.

I DO NOT believe that having the Chicago Police on school campuses keeps my child OR other children safe at school. My child has asthma and we would prefer to have nurses and social workers in the school to keep my child and other children in CPS safe.

Please take actions that ensure the safety of our children, instead of traumatizing them any further!

Respectfully,

██████████

Parent, CPS student

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68.

Remove Police from Schools

Dear Board of Ed,

I urge you to remove police from CPS. I am the chair of a ██████████ where we have discussed and decided against having a police presence at our school. We need to have schools where kids feel safe and supported to learn! Where they can trust the adults in the building, there is huge mistrust between the public and police as is evidenced by the continued marches against police brutality. It is unconscionable in a district that provides guaranteed SROs and low cost off duty police officers to schools will not offer a restorative justice coordinator in all schools! Restorative Justice is our priority and conflict is a normal part of social development. Kids need to have trained professionals who can help them learn to resolve conflict. Not a punitive response. Train all SROs as restorative justice coordinators and keep the police out of schools!!

There is so much distrust between the Chicago people and the police. Please use your power to make schools the nurturing environments they must be for children to learn and grow! So they can teach their own children peace circles and healing ways to express their feelings about this world.

Thank you for standing up and doing what's right! Offer LSCs better option then just taking away their school police officer! Offer them Restorative Justice Coordinators! Take POLICE OUT OF SCHOOLS!

Sincerely

██████████

Chicago Public School Parent and LSC chair, who doesn't want to send her son to a high school with a police officer.

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69.

CPD contract

Good morning,

As a parent of 2 CPS students, I am writing to urge you to consider drastically reducing, if not eliminating entirely, the presence of CPD officers in CPS. Many studies show that police officers assigned to schools are focused disproportionately on black and brown students, and this can create conditions that threaten both the physical and mental safety of the students they are purportedly there to protect. I feel that the millions allocated for police contracts would be much better spent on trained counselors and social workers, and that providing our students with better mental health support would make them safer both in the immediate moment and in the long term. Kids make mistakes, and the purpose of discipline should be to teach them to examine those mistakes and understand how to do better next time. Putting police in schools creates an emphasis on punishment over discipline and creates fear and anxiety for many students. We send our children to school so that they can learn; let's create an environment that allows them to do that, with staff who are trained to meet the specific needs of children and adolescents.

Thank you,

██████████

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70.

CPD in school and CPS layoffs

Hello,

My name is █████, and I live in Chicago's 8th ward. I know there's a Board of Education meeting coming up, and I think it's important that I express my thoughts: laying off teachers in CPS while continuing to fund CPD is unsustainable, does not show a focus on education, and is dangerous to the children if CPS. The school board should NOT allow the layoffs of 300 teachers, especially when some of CPD's budget could be used to pay them.

Thank you,

████

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71.

20-0624-M01 and 20-0624-M02

To the Board:

I am writing in regard to the motions below, on the agenda for your meeting of June 24 2020:

20-0624-M01: I am firmly in support of the termination of CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. Please end the contract immediately and reinvest the funds into appropriate supportive and restorative resources in CPS schools.

20-0624-M02: I am also firmly in support of re-evaluating the use of school resource officers and creating alternative support systems for the children in our schools. This is what our communities are demanding and what will make Chicago's children safer. It is imperative that we remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you for taking action on this matter.

██████████

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72.

Remove CPD from schools

Esteemed members of the CPS Board,

I am a proud friend of a CPS student. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of CPD on school campuses. I do not believe having CPD on school campuses keeps my child safe or any child on any campus safe. Some of the students in our schools are medically fragile, and require medications, yet most schools do not have a full-time nurse on staff. This would keep the children safer than any police officer. Please take actions that actually ensure the safety of our students, our children, instead of traumatizing them any further.

All the best,

██████████

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73.

Please Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

On Wednesday, please vote in favor to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you.

██████████

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74.

Chicago Police Department in Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I am a resident of Chicago and I hope to send my young children to CPS schools when they are school age.

I am writing because I've recently learned how much money the CPD receives to have a presence in our schools. I find the 33 million dollars to be a troubling amount, and believe the resources used for punishment could be allocated for care instead. I believe it would be more beneficial for our children and educators to be an environment that supports learning and understands that sometimes kids make mistakes. Police do not belong in schools. It creates an unhealthy environment for everyone. I know that safety is a concern, but I believe if we deal with the root causes there would be less of a need for such fierce discipline. It's also staggering to see how things are divided along racial and economic lines. My heart goes out to officers who want to help, but I don't believe they are given the proper training to deal

with children and adolescents who are still learning and developing. When Police are in schools, they treat children like adult offenders, which is not acceptable.

I am happy to chat with anyone who wants to speak about this. You can email me here or call me on my mobile at [REDACTED]

Best,  
[REDACTED]

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75.

End contract, please

Dear CPS,

My family beg you to cancel your contact with the CPD. We have a 16-month old daughter whom we are afraid to send to CPS when she gets old enough to enter school. People like us will end up moving out of Chicago to send her to a public school elsewhere unless you step it up and cancel your contract with the CPD, freeing up millions of dollars that can be spent on measures to produce real change in your school system. Please, please redirect your money to improve school psychology and addressing food insecurity. We want to stay in Chicago and provide our children with the kind of public education we benefitted from in other states. We believe that you can make CPS a better system by canceling your contract.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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76.

Feedback: End CPS contract with Chicago Police Department

Hi there,

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please re-allocate these funds to providing better social services and support to our students. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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77.

Cops out of schools

Just wanted to add my name to the chorus of voices for keeping cops out of schools.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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78.

Remove CPD from CPS

To whom it concerns,

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please reallocate these funds to providing better social services and support to the students. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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79.

Remove police from our schools

It makes no sense that we're taught how to use restorative justice in our schools and yet we station police in the schools. The police need a complete overhaul and need to adopt restorative justice practices. How does it look to our Black and Brown students to see policed in their schools? Seeing an officer is triggering and traumatic because of the experiences our children have been subjected to. Remove police from the schools. Give us social workers to support our children!

[REDACTED]

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80.

CPD contract

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask that you vote to cancel the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. While the argument to keep SROs in schools seems compelling, please consider the other resources that \$33 million could instead support.

Full-time nurses.  
Social workers.  
Guidance counselors.

All schools and all children deserve these supports over being policed, not just those particular schools with LSCs acting on their behalf. The current system leaves schools, students, and families to fend for themselves based on their neighborhood and zip code. Again, please cancel the contract with CPD and support healthy, holistic, and student-centered resources for every Chicago kid.

Thank you.

██████████  
Parent of a future Shoemith student (Class of 2037)

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81.

Chicago Police Department  
Dear Board of Education,

Please vote to REMOVE the police department from Chicago public schools and use the money to hire more counselors and support staff. There are better ways to keep our schools safe than having police officers in our school buildings!

Sincerely,

██████████  
Parent of two children at Ray Elementary School

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82.

End Contract with CPD

Hi there,

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please re-allocate these funds to provide better social services and support to the students. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention.

Sincerely,

██████████  
83.

Get Police out of CPS

Hello,

I'm emailing to encourage the Board of Education of Chicago Public Schools to protect our students by removing all police from schools. Having police in schools criminalizes students and puts them at greater risk for violence and incarceration. The \$33 million spent on employing racist, violent cops should be spent on mental health professionals and educational staff. A 1:100 ratio of mental health professionals to students would be more adequate to meet the mental health needs of CPS students. Police officers bring violence to every situation they are involved in. Keep cops away from students and vote to remove them from Chicago Public Schools.

Sincerely,

████████████████████

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84.

Remove police from schools

Thank you for the motions presented on the BOE agenda. I support the removal of police from schools. It is intimidating for black students to have police officers at school. Students should feel safe and free from intimidation at school. Security can be provided in another way, not by police officers.

██████████  
CPS parent  
Lincoln Square, Chicago

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85.

Support for Motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Motions 20-0614-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2 on the Chicago Board of Education Agenda for 6/24/2020. I am a City resident that is concerned for the futures and well-being of our children and youth. Continuing to request and pay for services from resources that perpetuate systemic violence and inequities, particularly for our Black, Indigenous and Latinx students, has no place in our public education system. I ask the Board to support this motion to terminate their agreement with the City of Chicago to provide School Resource Officers, Mobile School Officers and Staff Sergeants to the Chicago Public Schools. As part of this motion I ask the Board to direct the CEO and Department of Safety and Security to notify the City of this termination today (Wednesday, 6/24/2020). I also ask the Board to support the motion to direct the CEO to consult with school communities for alternative ways to provide support, including funding for prevention and additional student support, for schools impacted by this termination.

Sincerely,

██████████

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86.

CPD our of CPS

I have three kids in CPS. While I have known kind officers in the schools, their general presence often communicates the wrong message to students for whom the school to prison pipeline is a true reality, whether in their families or communities. For this reason I'm asking as a CPS parent that CPS terminate its \$33 million Contract with CPD.

Thank you for listening to the parents and families affected by these decisions,

██████████  
Chicago, IL

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87.

Police Contract

Hello,

Please terminate your contract with CPD. There are far better way to protect our students and our schools than asking armed officers to patrol school grounds waving a gun around.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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88.

Fwd: Written Public Comment for BOE

Resending to confirm received.

Please find attached a written public comment for the Board of Education authored by Dr. Chrissy Hernandez, Dr. Erica Meiners, Dr. David Stovall, and Dr. Chezare Warren - and endorsed by an additional 23 leading scholars in the Chicago area with expertise in urban educational policy.

Erica R. Meiners  
Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor  
Northeastern Illinois University  
[REDACTED]

Dr. David Stovall,  
Professor of African-American Studies and Criminology, Law & Justice  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Chezare A. Warren,  
Associate Professor of Urban Education and Teacher Education  
Michigan State University  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Chrissy Hernandez  
Assistant Professor, Service Learning Institute  
University of California, Monterey Bay  
[REDACTED]

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89.

Chicago's Students Need You

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I'm reaching out as a current Chicago resident to implore you to vote during tomorrow's meeting to end Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department. CPD has an incredibly harmful effect on our students, and the \$33 million allocated to policing could instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student
- Cash assistance to meet the basic needs of families
- Undocumented employee relief fund
- Students in temporary living situations
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Our most vulnerable students are counting on you - please don't let them down!

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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90.

Board Meeting Comments 6/24

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing today to encourage you to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department. As a teacher, my number one concern is always the students. Allowing a heavy police presence in schools sends the message that school is not a safe place to be, that we are always watching you. It does not send a message of welcoming, acceptance, creativity and exploration.

I have friends who work in CPS schools where there are multiple police officers staffed every single day, but the nurse is only there 1 day a week and there is NO social worker and NO librarian. That is truly devastating for those students and sends a terrible message about the priorities of school and education.

If you truly care about the safety of the students in these schools you would reallocate the police budget towards services that actually HELP the students and help lower the need for police presence in general. If we have social workers to address trauma, mental health issues and help teach coping skills, students will be able to focus more on their studies. If there are nurses staffed every single day in every single school, students will not have to worry about their health and well being, and can focus more on their studies. If every school has a full time librarian, they can help students find books that are a good fit for them. They can help find books that will inspire, engage and uplift. Librarians also help support the teachers by providing guidance and resources. A police officer can do none of these things. A police officer in school sends a message that there is eminent danger. That doesn't sound like a good environment for learning.

Make your priorities known with how you vote tomorrow. Do you want schools based on fear or schools based on support.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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91.

Remove CPD from CPS

Hi!

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Albany Park. My daughter is a rising 4th grader at Palmer Elementary School. I'm emailing to ask you to remove CPD from CPS effective immediately.

Removing CPD would help our students in three major ways:

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.
3. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

If we are going to dismantle the systemic racist systems that affect our BIPOC students and families, we need to start by making our schools safe and equitable places.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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██████████  

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92.

Break ties with CPD

To whom it may concern-

I ask of you to end CPS' contract with the CPD and then spread that wealth to under-funded schools on the south and west sides. Every school deserves a librarian, and every child deserves the same resources.

Thank you for your time.

██████████

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93.

Please take Chicago PD out of CPS schools

Hello Board of Education Members,

I am writing to let you know I support taking the police out of our public schools. I hope that during tomorrow's meeting you will vote to discontinue the practice of keeping SROs in schools. Instead we should be investing in more guidance counselors, mental health workers, and people who can really give students proactive resources rather than solely punitive reactions.

I urge you to vote to remove police officers from CPS.

Thanks,  
██████████

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94.

CPD out of CPS

Dear board,

My name is ██████ and I work with the Y doing after school programs with CPS. I'm emailing you to demand that you vote CPD out of CPS at the next board meeting. Children cannot flourish, learn, and grow in a setting where they feel fearful and threatened. That is exactly what CPDs presence in schools illicites in these children. The resources that previously went to funding police in schools would so much better serve these children and the community at large if it were put towards BIPOC students schooling, mentoring, after school programs, and mental health. I hope that you can dare to imagine a future where children have all the resources they need to succeed and do not need to fear repercussions from law officials in their place of learning. Children are a reflection of the society and community they grow up in. Let's show them love and kindness.

Thank you,  
██████████

Sent from my iPhone

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95.

CPS cut ties with CPD!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge CPS to cut ties with CPD. There is no place for police in a school setting, especially when there is no nurse, librarian, or social worker in those schools. As a lifelong CPS student myself, I can tell you first hand that having armed police officers in my schools was not a comforting presence. There should never be anyone armed in a school, as it is especially intimidating and traumatizing to BIPOC students. I demand CPS to do the beat for their students and cut ties with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

██████████

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96.

CPS & CPD Contract

Please vote to end the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department and instead please consider redirecting those funds of \$33 million a year to support more social workers in schools to deal with those perceived as challenging students. The majority of the students police are handcuffing in the school system are suffering some sort of adverse circumstances or trauma and there is a better way to help young people than to have police deal with them.

Respectfully,

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

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97.

Removing CPD from CPS

Good Morning

We all know that the use of police in school districts has sadly changed its course from safety to disciplinarian. We also know that children of color are being arrested in schools at disproportionate numbers. We also know that children of color are given the diagnosis of defence disorder more often which then increases their risk of being viewed with implicit bias.

Our children need more social workers and psychologists who are trained to work with children who have experienced trauma not policing. Policing does not work and being the muscle in our school district is not appropriate.

I beg you to please consider removing the police from CPS. It can be done in a staged approach which would ease the minds of some parents and staff.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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98. [2 Attachments]

The firing of Michael Beyer

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I'm writing to you concerning the firing of Ogden's former principal Michael Beyer. It is my understanding his lawsuit has finally been exhausted and dropped, and that now the Board is clear to finally finalize his firing from CPS. I hope that this business will be on the agenda of this week's BOE meeting so that this issue will be settled and the Ogden community can move on from Beyer's reign of terror.

This has gone on too long and needs to be finished so the families that were victimized by him can begin to heal. Beyer's attacks on families at Ogden are well documented as are his FERPA violations, one of which my family was a victim of as Beyer purposely revealed my child's private information in retaliation for my criticism of him. To this day CPS has never taken any action or undertaken an investigation against him or the other guilty parties of that violation. The other guilty parties include at least one LSC member and possibly Chip Johnson, who was the network chief at the time.

During his time at CPS Michael Beyer continuously attacked parents who he perceived as his enemies. He was especially awful to women of color and foreign born parents, and despite many complaints about it no action was ever taken by Network Chief Johnson or others. Chip Johnson went out of his way to protect Beyer and attack Ogden families himself, action that seemed to get him promoted by CPS instead of reprimanded or fired. The least you can do now is to vote to finally end Beyer's CPS career. There is a lot of healing that needs to take place in the Ogden community and it cannot do so with this black cloud continuing to hang over their heads.

I would also like to note that board member Amy Rome has a personal friendship with Michael Beyer and engages with him on social media on a regular basis. It would be inappropriate and unethical for her to participate in the discussion or vote on his removal and she should recuse herself.

If there was any question about this man's character and the kind of behavior he engages in I have attached a couple of screenshots from his public Twitter feed. These are from 2017 when he was still the principal of a school with children as young as 4-years-old. This is also after he had already been warned in writing by the CEO on his social media behavior. In one he tells a person to masturbate with a comic book. It should be noted, as the person who was in charge of implementing the district's sex ed curriculum for the school and a person with a PhD in education, he used masturbate as a sex-negative pejorative term. He also misspelled it. It also seems to have "gay bashing" language.

He is an unhinged angry person who brings division and toxicity with him wherever he goes and should not be allowed around children ever again. During his time at Ogden he told many of us parents that we were not modeling appropriate behavior for our children. I hope the irony is not lost on you.

Until he is finally officially fired from CPS too many parents fear that he could actually be returned to his old job at Ogden. Please finally put this issue to rest and finalize his dismissal.

Thank you,

Parent of a CPS student.

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**June 24, 2020 Board of Education Meeting  
Written Comments Received Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Submitted via BOE@cps.edu**

Defund CPD in CPS

The money would be better used on educational resources instead of systems that assume criminality and harm our children physically and psychlogically.

██████████

Ward 5

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My concerns

To the Board of Education:

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing in strong opposition of having the Chicago Police Department contract with Chicago Public Schools. There should be no police in the schools unless a principal calls them. This environment is harmful to kids, especially Black and Brown kids and has proven to be a pipeline to the prison system. I have grave concerns for these kids and I say this as a white mother of a white son who probably will never have to face discrimination.

Please re-allocate these funds to provide better social services and support to the students during school through hiring qualified Black and Brown social workers and also investing in additional after school programs. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention.

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CPD at CPS

Hello,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen. I do not believe the CPD has any place in our public schools and urge the board to vote to remove them from CPS.

Best,

██████████

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Take CPD out of CPS

Hello.

My name is ██████ and I am a resident in North Center in Chicago. What we have seen this past month and beyond shows that CPD do not protect children. Please cancel the contract and use that money for councilors, nurses, and teacher aide.

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CPD out of CPS

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a Chicago resident and parent to demand that CPS end its contract with CPD, and instead invest those funds into the resources that children need to thrive - counseling services, smaller classroom sizes, access to technology at home, advocates for food and housing security, arts curriculum, and consistent nurse and librarian staff. The issues CPS faces with violence and "discipline" are rooted in long standing structural issues that the district has not addressed.

Children need support and nurturance, not punishment.

██████████, Hyde Park

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Remove CPD from Schools

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing to ask that you vote tomorrow to remove CPD from public schools.

Thank you!

██████████

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Support for removing police from CPS

Hello,

As a clergy person focused on restorative justice and a soon to be CPS parent, I am writing to plead with you to remove police from CPS. I do not believe this is a rash decision. Many of us have been pushing for this for years. Chicago is the only major city that has not made any significant progress to curtail police violence after the George Floyd protests. I ask that you have the political will and courage to do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,

██████████

United Church of Rogers Park

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CPD out of CPS

Good morning, Esteemed members of the CPS Board:

I am the Proud Parent of a CPS student who will attend Pierce Elementary on the North Side of Chicago. My training and passion is in public health. It has come to my attention that the board will be discussing the involvement of Chicago Police Department on School campuses.

I DO NOT believe that having the Chicago Police on school campuses keeps my child OR other children safe at school. We know from research that the long-term effects of strong schools raise the entire health of a community. Placing CPD in our schools expands the trauma of our children

without solving the problems they face. Other skill sets such as those of social workers and nurses that require ongoing training based on evidence-based research on de escalation and healing trauma would be a much better way to ensure the long-term health of our communities and a better use of my tax dollars.

Please take actions that ensure the safety of our children, instead of traumatizing them any further!

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Parent, CPS student

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Please take CPD out of CPS

As a Chicago resident, I'm asking that we take the necessary steps to get CPD out of the Chicago public school system.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good morning,

I am reaching out in support of the Board's vote to remove CPD from schools. Schools should not have any presence of an adversarial and armed office in a learning environment. There is no proof that this keeps students safe and likely contributes to the opposite: funneling students into an overused prison system before giving students a chance to learn and grow.

The \$33MM can be better spent on more helpful resources and I encourage the CPS Board of Education to redirect these resources to provide much needed social workers, librarians, and nurses.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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End CPS Contract with CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education:

The growing Black Lives Matter movement has clearly demonstrated the need to rethink the involvement of police in every day life. Police officers do not make schools safer. Instead, they make schools prison-like. They make students adversaries and potential criminals, not developing children and young adults who deserve respect. How many viral videos of police assaulting children in schools do we need to see before we realize the same systemic racism they take part in on the streets are what they bring to schools? How many studies do we need to show Black students are more likely to receive harsher punishments than non-Black students before we take action to make schools a place where Black and non-Black students are treated equally?

Schools should be safe places for kids to grow and, yes, make mistakes, without fear of entering the criminal justice system. There may be times when that kind of extreme result is warranted but that does not justify having police in public schools every day. The millions spent on having a police presence in schools would be better spent giving our students free meals or better textbooks or going towards paying our public school teachers a fairer wage.

Please help defund the CPD by pulling this \$33 million contract. We should not be tying profit to inviting police brutality and the industrial prison system into our schools. Instead, we should have schools model for our students the kind of world we want this to be.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Good Morning Members of the Board of Education,

I am emailing you to share my concern of keeping Chicago Police in Schools. As an educator who currently works in higher education, I have studied the rates in which police are not helpful in schools. They are not keeping our students safe, they are not supporting our students. The money spent on CPD can be better used toward school nurses, counselors, and therapists. I ask that you please vote against a contract extension with CPD.

I appreciate you willing to listen and I trust that you will make the right decision as we move forward in helping our students, our community, and our city.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Upcoming vote to end CPD/CPS contract

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident who will have children in school this fall. I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please reallocate these funds to provide better social services and support to the students. Children need to feel safe at school, and many of them do not feel safe around police officers. Please consider the need and benefit of restorative practices and nonviolent interventions.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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#### END CONTRACT WITH CPD

Hello,

I am a former CPS student, have family going to CPS & would appreciate if you ended your contract with CPD. We need to reallocate the funds to what really matters and that's into resources that will put CPS students well equipped to be successful and NOT CRIMINALIZED.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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#### Removal of CPD Presence in CPS

Hello,

I'm writing in support of removing the presence of CPD officers from CPS schools. I'm finishing up a degree in which I've analyzed crime, education and racial disparities specifically in the city of Chicago and I would like to remind our officials of the school-to-prison pipeline. Increased police presence only introduces young individuals to crime at an earlier age and can make them feel like criminals. And studies prove that when you treat a small child like a criminal, they will likely grow up to be one. If more resources were put into strengthening our schools, especially those in low income areas, we would be ensuring that schools are shaping children into good, well intentioned people. We could ensure that we stop the problem from even happening so no one ever has to even think about bringing the police in on an issue with a child. Also, I'm a product of a CPS school in a predominantly white neighborhood. We didn't have police officers laying their hands on children for acting out in class. Our school handled and solved issues without the police stepping in because that's THEIR job, not CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cops out of CPS

Hello!

I am writing to you today because of your upcoming vote on whether to remove CPD from CPS.

As a Chicago resident, I am STRONGLY in favor of this proposal and implore you to vote to remove CPD. Police presence in our public schools contributed to the school-to-prison pipeline, the institutionalization of our schools, and does not actually make students safer.

The money saved could be spent on more social workers, counselors, or nurses in schools, which we desperately need.

I would love to hear a response from you.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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Get CPD out of CPS

I am writing to express my desire to remove CPD from CPS - this money would be much better utilized by non-armed safety personnel trained in de-escalation and safe restraints, social workers, counselors, nurses, and librarians.

I am the daughter of a retired CPS teacher, graduate of Lane Tech, c/o 91, and mother of 2 CPS graduates, Jones c/o 17, Lane c/o 20.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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Please end the police presence in CPS

The presence of the police in public schools anywhere and including Chicago needs to stop. Here's why:

1. Breeds an early mistrust of police for students of color;
2. Their presence feels like a "Criminalization" of the educational system in Chicago that disproportionately is made up of students of color, many of whom come from home communities that are over-policed. This negatively impacts the students' ability to learn, feel safe or have a safe haven in school, if they do not have that haven in their home communities;
3. Our students grow up feeling like they live in a police state instead of a democracy; and
4. Lastly, CPS is woefully under-staffed when it comes to college counselors. Use that \$33M instead to hire more college counselors and social workers instead of forcing schools to share those resources. More full time counselors and social workers are needed in our Chicago public

schools; not police.

██████████  
Chicago Taxpayer

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CPD CPS contract

Dear BOE,

Please listen to students, teachers and families when they say we need CPD out of CPS schools. The \$33 million can be better spent on restorative justice (a program that is already in place, but that could use more money for counselors and better teacher training), social workers and support for students in our schools. NOT SROs and punitive measures that overwhelmingly harm our black students in CPS.

Thank you,  
██████████

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CPS contract with CPD

My name is ██████████ and I am a CPS parent with a child at Newton Bateman Elementary School. I am writing to you today because of the vote coming up today regarding the CBE voting on a resolution to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I fully support the termination of this contract.

Although my child's school is unaffected by this contract I know that in the future her high school very well may be. It has been proven that police in schools disproportionately affects students of color, increasing suspensions and expulsions, ultimately creating a school to prison pipeline, and leaving no one in schools actually feeling safer. At the same time we are lacking nurses and mental health workers in schools that need them the most.

Three school districts in major cities have already severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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## Break Contract with CPD

Hello to all Board of Education Members,

I am writing to ask that you vote to break the contract between CPS and CPD.

When young students interact with police, when they are "punished" or forced to confront any wrongdoing in a harsh and violent way, it begins a cycle that many POC students never get out of. These students end up in our prison system because no one believed in them enough to make them feel worth a second chance, to make them feel like the police--or the government, for that matter--might ever be on their side if they needed help.

Police in schools aren't *necessary*. Not only are police not trained to deescalate or otherwise handle disputes among young people--which don't require the use of weapons--but police are the ones to *escalate* the situation almost every time. We don't need weapons in our schools. Children don't need to be handcuffed. They don't need to be manhandled. They don't need or deserve to be traumatized by these thoroughly unnecessary experiences unleashed on them by police.

I'm asking you to please consider again the lasting and cyclical damage to students caused by police presence in their schools. There are so many worthwhile alternatives for the \$33 million of this contract that we could urge local law enforcement to provide instead. Here are a few:

- People who commit crimes often don't have the things they need to live. There are endless ways we could start to rectify this. \$33 million toward housing. Health care. Food.
- Young people in schools need school supplies. Lots of them. Let's start to give them what they need to succeed.
- Social workers and guidance counselors. I cannot stress enough how much more these people could help our students than police forces who are not trained even to empathize with, let alone to assist, young people.
- Mental health resources. Uncountable crimes could be prevented with the right mental health care and emotional support it provides--not to mention that many of the students harassed and criminalized by the police haven't committed any crimes in the first place.

Please consider the damage that police cause, mental, physical and otherwise, when they set foot in schools where they have no reason to be, with weapons they have no reason to carry. Please consider the irrevocable damage they are doing to the young people who are our future--even while we're telling them, tacitly, that they don't have one.

Thank you very much,



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Former CPS Teacher in Favor of Removing CPD from CPS Schools

Hello,

I used to teach high school English at a neighborhood high school in Gage Park. The student population was predominantly Latinx. I taught there for three years and saw firsthand the irrefutable truth: police and policing in schools adversely and disproportionately affects outcomes for Black and Brown students in ways that are traumatizing at best, and deadly at worst.

I am writing in favor of the proposal to remove CPD from public schools.

As school officials, you have a moral and ethical investment to support students; right now, that looks like divesting from the police.

In solidarity,

██████████

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Good morning,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. There is no evidence that campus police officers make schools any safer, and instead, Black and Brown students are disproportionately subject to discipline and referrals to the juvenile justice system.

Severing CPS' contract with CPD will free up \$33 million that could be used to hire social workers, counselors and restorative justice coordinators. This would help students feel safer at school and lead to better outcomes.

I urge you to vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you.

██████████

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Students need care, not excessive policing

Dear Esteemed Members of the CPS Board of Education,

I am writing because like most Chicagoans, I care deeply about the success and safety of our CPS students. I also know that that safety comes from investing in student wellness—in nurses and trauma-informed counselors and smaller class sizes where students can be heard and feel like part of a community, not from additional SROs.

It is disturbing that CPS is preparing to lay off a significant number of teachers and staff while embracing a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department that students and teachers don't even want. Think of how many nurses, counselors, librarians and facility improvements \$33 million could buy, how many teachers it could hire to improve class sizes. The students, parents and CTU have spoken, and they want care, not cops.

Do the right thing tomorrow and vote to remove SROs and reinvest that funding into services that support students' wellness and growth. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Chicago, IL 60641

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End Contract with CPD!!

Hello Board of Education Members,

I am a resident of Chicago writing to demand that the board vote to end CPS's contract with the police department.

1. Officers in schools have never prevented violence or shootings. From a 2013 study at Texas State University:

*"In the 25 shootings in the ALERRT study that targeted schools, none were brought to an end by armed staff, guards or police officers returning fire. These shootings most commonly ended when the shooters were restrained by unarmed staff." (The trace)*

2. The fact is many Black and Brown kids associate police with trauma, and this has an obvious negative impact on learning.

*"The National Association of School Psychologists has argued that armed guards increase student fear, rather than making them feel safer." (The trace)*

3. Police officers make hard living situations worse for students. Kids will often be penalized for missing school because they have to be providers for their families. It should not be an officer's job to handle these situations. Schools need more actual, helpful social resources, not more cops.

4. Having a gun on school property is dangerous.

*"A new report from the gun violence prevention group Giffords also found that police have mishandled guns or allowed students to get their hands on weapons more than 60 times. School*

*security officers have left guns in bathrooms. One third-grader managed to pull the trigger of a gun still in an officer's holster." (The trace)*

5. Police have high rates of sexual assault and harassment. Police even 'cat call' female students. In fact, Chicago's FOP's president was removed from duty for harassing school staff, which just goes to show the sense of power and entitlement police have. This power dynamic is absolutely dangerous in schools.

*"A Cato Institute review of police misconduct statistics found that sexual misconduct claims accounted for the second-highest category of complaints against law enforcement officers, after use of excessive force." (Vox)*

If we want to keep our kids safe and cultivate a positive, nourishing environment, it is imperative we get POLICE OUT OF SCHOOLS. We can't waste any more time. There is simply no argument to continue CPD's contract (aside from continuing to perpetuate racism and corruption). It is clear the police budget is grossly inflated. I hope that CPS ending their contract with CPD is a step toward getting more resources for education instead of police oppression. For the health of our city and our children, we will fight for this until it happens. Vote to end your contract with CPD NOW.

Thank you,



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CPD out of CPS

Dear Board of Ed Members,

Please vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. We need to END the school to prison pipeline, and instead use this 33 million dollars to provide restorative support to our neediest communities. Social workers, psychologists, restorative justice coordinators, etc are all FAR better trained and equipped to address the trauma and needs of Chicago's at risk students. The climate and culture in CPD is not supportive of our black and brown communities. Please vote to end CPS' contract with CPD, effective immediately, and work to hire the positions I mentioned above for the 2020/2021 school year.

With restorative policies in place, we can help to heal and provide hope to communities too often torn apart by violence.

Thank you for your time.



CPS parent of two

CPS and safety

Hello,

I am a lifelong Chicagoan and CPS alum. I am writing to ask you to end CPS's contract with the CPD. Reports have shown that having police in schools does NOT make the schools safer and instead contributes to a hostile learning environment. Our city's children deserve safe, nurturing, and forgiving learning environments to grow in. Please vote to end the contract.

Thank you

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CPD in CPS

Dear Board Members,

Tomorrow, you will vote on a proposal to remove the CPD from the Chicago Public Schools. You must vote to remove the police. In fact, it is morally imperative that you do so.

For decades and decades, the CPD has shown itself to be murderously violent and unwaveringly racist. As such, they are a threat to students of color and most particularly to black students. Allowing the CPD in our schools places those children in danger.

How can you allow this to go on? You cannot. The police threaten our city's children. As a father of a third-grader in the Chicago Public Schools, I hope that you do not allow this moment to pass. Make the right decision.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

---

Police out Schools

To CPS Board of Education,

I write to you as parent of a rising 7th Grade student at Taft HS academic center.

I am deeply troubled to learn that one of the SRO's assigned to Taft has 21 civilian complaints filed against him, including 17 for excessive force.

I believe that real help for our youth facing violence in Chicago will only come in the form of trauma informed supports, poverty reduction programs, and schools that nurture and uplift, rather than punish and measure.

It's time for you to take a bold stand. I chose CPS and Taft HS because I believe in the promise of public education. You can help fulfill this promise by removing police from our schools and

using the saved funds from this failed program to invest in our children's futures.

Thank You,

[REDACTED]

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### Remove Police from CPS Schools

Hello Board Members,

As a CPS teacher, I am working hard to do better and be better for my students. In conversation with colleagues, I often hear about the broken system that prevents change in equity in our schools. I know this is not true-we have the power to make positive change for our students. It is however important that the people with the most structural power do their part too. Please vote to remove police from our schools. Be a part of finding better solutions. We are looking to you in this historic moment.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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### CPS Contract with Chicago Police Department

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm writing as a four-year resident of Rogers Park to urge you as the Chicago Board of Education to terminate the CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department for School Resource Officers.

At this weekend's bike ride through our neighborhood in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, I heard from a passionate, intelligent rising senior in CPS about how CPD functions in our schools. Officers don't know students' names or seem interested in their lives, he testified, unlike the school security guards. Students, he said, are always in fear that the SROs in their schools will misjudge a joke between friends or a petty argument as a criminal offense. Across the city, police in schools have been dogged by the same misconduct complaints and allegations that reflect broader problems within the CPD at large.

Simply permitting individual schools to decline officers will do nothing to increase a school's budget for other services, and seems like it will privilege the voices of administrators and officials over the students and families of CPS. I urge the Board to take a strong stand for our city and its students. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to reading coverage of the Board's meeting tomorrow.

Thank you,

--

[REDACTED]

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Get CPD out of CPS NOW

Hello,

As a resident of Chicago, IL and alumni of CPS, I am writing to urge you to vote for the removal of all CPD affiliation with CPS and end the standing contract. Nothing positive comes out of the presence of law enforcement in an environment where students go to learn and feel safe. They make schools feel like prisons. Police presence instills fear and a constant distracting voice at the back of your head wondering if you've done something wrong. I can speak to this feeling personally having gone to CPS for my schooling and seeing cops primarily target black students and students of color for no reason, other than the fact that this is what our racist CPD is trained to do. I would feel extremely uncomfortable sending my children to a school with police presence judging by how many countless murders and aggravated assaults we have seen at the hands of CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPS contract with CPD

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Chicagoan who lives on the South Side and will have a school-aged child in a few years, I strongly urge you to vote to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I do not want CPD in our public schools.

I urge you to do research on the impact policing has in our schools and on our students, and the disproportionate rate at which black students are arrested at school. Considering the civil unrest that has occurred in our country in the recent weeks and the long established racism the police department has shown against minorities, in particular African American citizens of the US, I strongly hope you will listen to the wishes of your peers and parents of the children in our city's schools and end the CPS-CPD contract.

I have included the following article which references an analysis of federal data by the Education Week Research center

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/analysis-reveals-racial-disparities-school-arrests>

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
#BlackLivesMatter  
#ReformthePolice

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You know what we want

The people of Chicago DO NOT WANT CPD IN SCHOOLS. No cops in schools we want to break the classroom to prison pipeline. Having some of the most misbehaved cops around children is so violent in itself. No cops in schools.  
A concerned citizen of Chicago,  
[REDACTED]

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VOTE TO REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a constituent from Chicago, IL (Ward 2). I am emailing you regarding your vote to remove CPD from CPS and I am demanding that you vote to remove and cut all ties with CPD. School children cannot learn in an environment with armed police officers walking around. It just creates more tension in the halls and when situations do arise, they rarely, if ever, know how to de-escalate them. I am demanding that you vote to remove CPD from CPS and instead bring in social workers, mental health workers, and individuals who have de-escalation training to help keep our schools and our children safe. It can be done. We have seen it begin to happen in Minneapolis and Denver, and I believe that it can happen here. Please think wisely and be on the right side of history. This is the chance to revolutionize the school system for the betterment of the future generations of Chicago. Chicago is watching and we demand that you cut all ties with CPD and remove all officers from the halls immediately.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from CPS

Hello-

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Roscoe Village. I'm writing you about your vote tomorrow around CPD in CPS.

Please remove police from CPS. Kids need counselors and nurses, and teachers need to be paid better to help close the disparity in resources and support between schools in wealthy, white neighborhoods and those in black neighborhoods. The money saved by removing the police could be used for better resources for kids. This is a no brainer. Schools are not a place for police.

Now is the time for change!!

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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no police in CPS

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing today to ask you to vote yes on two motions that will be before you tomorrow: 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2. These motions would end the district's contract with the Chicago Police Department and have the district work with schools to identify and recommend alternatives to the School Resource Officer program.

All available evidence indicates that police officers in schools cause harm to Black and Latinx students, and students with IEPs. Research does not support police in schools. Students themselves do not support police in schools. None of you should support police in schools. Please vote yes on these motions and spend that \$33 MILLION on things that will actually benefit students from marginalized and mistreated groups.

Thank you to Board Members Rome and Todd Breland for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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Important notice in advance of tomorrow's Board of Education meeting

Dear Miguel del Valle, Sendhil Revuluri, Amy Rome, Dwayne Truss, Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Luisiana Melendez, Lucino Sotelo, and Katie Ellis --

I am writing to you as a longtime Chicago resident, CPS arts partner, and education scholar, to urge you to vote to terminate the school district's contract with the Chicago Police Department.

As you well know, budgets are a zero-sum game and the funds currently used to place officers in schools could be better used for much-needed school nurses, counselors, social workers, teachers, and other support staff.

Time and again, research shows that police do not make children safer; particularly for students of color in Chicago, police presence in schools leads to intimidation, traumatization, and the harmful criminalization of our city's children. That we would support -- let alone sponsor -- such action, particularly in the face of other pressing needs, is outrageous.

Please join me in supporting the vote to end the CPD contract and ensuring a safe and healthy school experience for Chicago's youth --

Thank you for your support,

██████████

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Vote on Removing CPD from Public Schools

Hello,

My name is ██████████, a resident of Chicago in the 40th Ward (zip code 60625). I'm writing in FAVOR of voting to remove CPD from Public Schools in order to make schools safer for black students and all students of color.

Thank you,

██████████

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Get CPD out of CPS NOW

Hello,

As a resident of Chicago, IL and alumni of CPS, I am writing to urge you to vote for the removal of all CPD affiliation with CPS and end the standing contract. Nothing positive comes out of the presence of law enforcement in an environment where students go to learn and feel safe. They make schools feel like prisons. Police presence instills fear and a constant distracting voice at the back of your head wondering if you've done something wrong. I can speak to this feeling personally having gone to CPS for my schooling and seeing cops primarily target black students and students of color for no reason, other than the fact that this is what our racist CPD is trained

to do. I would feel extremely uncomfortable sending my children to a school with police presence judging by how many countless murders and aggravated assaults we have seen at the hands of CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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#### End CPD Contract With CPS

I implore you to end the Police Department contract with the Public Schools. Chicago's children don't need to try to learn in an environment that strongly resembles a prison. Let's give our students and our teachers a chance to succeed!!

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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#### Wednesday's BOE Meeting

Good morning all,

My name is [REDACTED], and I [REDACTED] in Rogers Park. I understand that two motions will be brought before your board at your virtual meeting on Wednesday concerning the renewal of CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department. As a concerned educator of Chicago children, I strongly urge all members of the board to vote in line with Mrs. Todd-Breland and Mrs. Rome to end the CPD-CPS contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

Research shows that the presence of one or more School Resource Officers (SROs) in our schools leads to higher incidents of violent incidents involving students - including incidents that end with students being arrested and sentenced to juvenile detention facilities - than in schools where SROs or police officers are not present. In fact, police presence in schools has been a major factor in the formation of the school-to-prison pipeline, a system of policies and legislation that disproportionately affects our Black and Latino students as well as other students of color.

As seasoned education professionals, you all have been responsible for passing and sponsoring multiple measures that benefit Chicago students, teachers, and administrators alike. Therefore, with the CPD-CPS contract up for renewal, it is within your best interests to vote to terminate this contract for the 2020-2021 school year as well as to vote in the affirmative on the motion to consider alternative options for school safety that prioritize our students' safety, personhood, and mental & emotional well-being.

I sincerely hope that you all will make the right decision on this issue and that you will take a stand against the thinly-veiled racism and oppression that the CPD-CPS contract has fostered in our schools for the past 20-odd years.

Sincerely,



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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello Board of Education members -

I urge you to heed the call of CPS teachers and students across the city and vote to remove the police from Chicago Public Schools. Evidence shows that police in schools do students far more harm than good, and that this harm is especially magnified for Black and Brown youths and for children with mental and physical special needs. [This Chicago Reporter article](#) rounds up much of that research, along with a litany of abuses committed by CPD officers in Chicago Public Schools.

The \$33 million CPS has designated for CPD would be better invested in constructive resources -- including teachers, nurses, counselors, afterschool programs, and basic materials -- rather than perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline that traps Black and Brown youths in a vicious cycle of degradation and neglect.

Thank you for your time and attention.



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Thoughts from a concerned citizen

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned citizen of Chicago, I am baffled at the lack of action taken to meet the demands of protesters.

Continuing to invest money in the Chicago Police Department is not seeing positive results. As our schools close and community programs continue to be underfunded, the CPD receives \$4 million a day, and growing. This is far too much money to invest in a racist system, especially as we face economic hardship and a struggling health care system. Black and Brown neighborhoods are dying from COVID-19 at a higher rate than white neighborhoods, and they're also more

likely to be killed by police. Continuing to ignore these struggles and actively divesting from essential community programs for underfunded and underrepresented communities is wrong.

One demand from Black Lives Matter Chicago protesters is to remove CPD from schools. Instead of the \$33 million contract with CPD, I think the public schools should use that funding to hire mental health services, have a nurse on staff at each school, and other individuals who help students feel safe and protected. Police do not provide that comfort.

Thank you for reading and considering,

[REDACTED]  
Police in CPS

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Good morning.

I am emailing regarding my thoughts on continuing to have CPD in Chicago public schools. Their presence inside the schools is not necessary. Having social workers whom are actually trained for deescalation, and who do not make everyone around them feel nervous would be much more beneficial to the kids. Regardless of the tensions in the world right now, police have no place in schools with children. Many police have a bias against black and brown children that has been clear and is now being exposed. We must do these children justice and avoid them being arrested for minor issues or worse. With police in schools we can provide pay for more teachers, more counselors, and more social workers. Children and teens need guidance with love, not fear.

Please remove the CPD from CPS.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Taking Cops out of CPS schools

Hello,

I am a CPS alumni. I went to Sayre Language Academy, Taft Academic Center, and Jones College Prep. I am emailing about why CPS should remove cops from all schools. Students deserve to feel safe and respected and police in school makes that impossible. Black and Brown students are targeted by police and having cops in their schools takes away from their right to a safe and welcoming learning environment. Additionally, school isn't jail, and students should be able to look forward to coming to class. By having cops in schools, they become more about discipline than education. Especially when schools in lower income areas (ex: Stienmetz HS where many of my friends from grade school went, had much more of a cop presence and

students faced more disciplinary actions in comparison to my HS, Jones.) If CPS is really committed to educating all students and offering a learning environment that is safe, and welcoming without distractions, they need to remove CPD cops from all of the schools.

██████████

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Urgent

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

As a current resident of Chicago, I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities (data from CPS website), all of whom are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into schools. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be allocated into resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them. We demand you all take the steps to ensure Indigenous, Black, and brown students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and CPD- the power to add and remove officers lies with the principals and LSCs and we call on you to act accordingly and remove the police presence.

Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who are working towards ending the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens this weekend, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Remove CPD from Schools

Hello,

I am a resident of Chicago in Edgewater, and I'm contacting you to voice my very strong support of the proposal to end the CPS contract with CPD. Having police officers in schools does little to nothing to increase safety, and instead disproportionately punishes and endangers Black and Brown students. If we want to have a school system that supports and values its children equally and does not contribute to systemic racism, we must remove these officers and terminate this contract. SROs are direct actors in maintaining and supporting the school to prison pipeline, and

cannot be a part of a school district budget. The funds used in this contract must be redirected to better serve students, through increased counseling and nursing services.

Please vote tomorrow to remove CPD from public schools. It is paramount to the safety of all students.

Thank you,



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Take CPD out of CPS

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to demand that the CPD be taken out of the Chicago public school system. Not only does this contract create an environment that makes kids feel unsafe, but the \$33 million dollars would be better spent providing those same schools with resources and equipment to help provide a better, more rounded education.

I hope you push the right decision for the youth of Chicago who need books and computers more than men with guns patrolling their school hallways

Thanks,



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In favor of removing CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is . I am a Chicago resident in the 47th ward. I understand that the Chicago Board of Education will vote tomorrow on whether to remove CPD from our public schools. I wanted to express that I am in favor of removing CPD from CPS.

I value the safety of our students and teachers, but I believe that could be better achieved by investment in social workers, librarians, etc. I am very concerned about a "school to prison pipeline."

I've used the following resources to inform my opinion:

[-https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/591753884/do-police-officers-in-schools-really-make-them-safer](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/591753884/do-police-officers-in-schools-really-make-them-safer)

[-https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2018/02/22/putting-more-cops-in-schools-wont-make-schools-safer-and-it-will-likely-inflict-a-lot-of-harm/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2018/02/22/putting-more-cops-in-schools-wont-make-schools-safer-and-it-will-likely-inflict-a-lot-of-harm/)

[-https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/28/20837590/cps-cops-police-schools-chicago-public-pipeline](https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/28/20837590/cps-cops-police-schools-chicago-public-pipeline)

[-https://www.julianjohnsonlaw.com/chicagos-school-to-prison-pipeline-problem-is-real/#:~:text=Even%20more%20startling%2C%20African%20American,justice%20system%20a%20alarming%20rates.](https://www.julianjohnsonlaw.com/chicagos-school-to-prison-pipeline-problem-is-real/#:~:text=Even%20more%20startling%2C%20African%20American,justice%20system%20a%20alarming%20rates.)

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Terminate CPD contract!

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Humboldt Park, Chicago and I'm writing the Board today in support of the resolution to terminate CPS' 33 million dollar contract with CPD. CPS should put the safety and well-being of students first by instead using that money to invest in nurses, counselors, restorative justice specialist, and other resources that benefit students' wellbeing and growth. CPS cannot continue to funnel students through the school to prison pipeline. Instead of criminalizing students in schools, CPS should invest in making schools places where students can thrive and feel safe.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Police out of schools

Hello,

I am a parent of a CPS student and I am a teacher in a CPS high school. I strongly urge the Board of Education to remove police from our schools. They do not increase safety, and actually make too many of our students of color feel less secure in school.

Our schools need more counselors, social workers, and restorative justice coordinators to make everyone feel more safe.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

NO cops in schools!

Dear Miguel,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a constituent in Ward 43 in Lincoln Park in Chicago. I am writing because I really hope to see the Board of Education decide to end its contract with CPD tomorrow. As someone who has worked in CPS, I know first hand that cops do NOT belong in schools. Police presence actively makes many Black and brown students feel unsafe and unable to learn. The Board of Education often talks about how safety of students is its first priority. Well, this is an opportunity to make our schools safe for EVERYONE. I hope you will follow the lead of the Minneapolis Board of Education, where they unanimously voted to end Minneapolis Public School's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. They LISTENED to their students, and they are on the right side of history. They are being brave and reimagining what safety can look like. I hope you will do the same.

[REDACTED]

---

CPD out of CPS

Members of the Board:

It is critically important that your votes reflect the need to

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.
3. Prevent LEOs from arresting BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

Please act accordingly and antiracistly.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Removal of CPD from CPS

Good Morning,

I am writing today to urge you to consider voting to remove CPD from CPS and reallocate those funds to more productive places. Ald. Jeanette Taylor put it perfectly when she said, "The money we spend on CPD in CPS can be used for a nurse, counselor, and real restorative justice programs that our students will need once returning to school."

We have to start to reconsider the Chicago Police Department's value in areas where they are immensely under qualified to serve. We have already seen Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle and Oakland take the proper steps to remove their police presence from the schools, and Chicago should be next in line.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

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Public Comment: CPD's contract with CPS

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

You have the opportunity to create safer, better learning environments for all CPS students, by voting to end the Chicago Police Department's \$33M contract with CPS. I urge you to do so.

Whenever students of color or other marginalized populations are in close contact with CPD, they are in danger. Are we to believe that CPD's significant, historical and current problems with racism magically disappear when SRO's step on school property? Frankly, I think that strains credulity.

CPD's \$33M contract could be replaced with any number of things that evidence suggests would work better and create a safer environment for all students, including more counselors and social workers and restorative justice training for staff and peer leaders.

Instead of enabling the school-to-prison pipeline, you have the opportunity to make real change and a better future for the Chicago Public Schools. I hope you will.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hi, I am a resident of Pilsen. I am writing to urge the Board of Education to cancel the contract with the Chicago Police Department at the board meeting on June 24th. Children should not be subject to biased police officers in their schools, and having CPD in schools helps support the

school-to-prison pipeline. In light of recent events, CPD needs to stay away from our students. Please end the contract. Thank you.

---

End contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of the 47th ward- 60640- and I am emailing to express my belief that the Board of Education should vote to terminate Chicago Public School's contract with CPD in tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools

Hi there,

I am a Chicago resident with two school aged children and I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please re-allocate these funds to provide better social services and support to the students. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention. I write this as a survivor of a mass school shooting and a believer that it could have been prevented with better social support systems.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

---

Get CPD out of schools!

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Chicago and a strong support of CPAC. I also believe that CPS would benefit greatly from the removal of so called "peace officers" from our schools. These officers target Black and Brown students and directly contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline.

I urge you to vote in favor of their removal.

[REDACTED]

---

Police officers have no place in Chicago schools

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a 2 year teacher in Chicago schools. I implore you to vote to remove CPD from our public schools.

I have had multiple experiences of students being removed from my classroom in handcuffs by a police officer. In some instances, I never saw those students again because they transferred to schools in a different state. In all cases, students deserve support and do not deserve to be treated as criminals. The Board has shown that they believe police officers are integral members of a school staff while counselors, social workers, nurses, and teachers fall by the wayside.

Removing CPD from CPS sends a literal and metaphorical message: literally, we are able to redistribute funds to areas that will mean better support for students; metaphorically, we decide that our students are young people who need support, not the threat of a pipeline that funnels them to incarceration that starts with an interaction with a police officer. My students know the importance of both literal and implicit meaning, and I beseech you to do the same.

Remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

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End the Contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a CPS alum of Jamieson Elementary School (2007) and Northside College Prep (2011). I am asking you to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department. To continue this contract would be to continue the school to prison pipeline. There is no need to have police officers in schools - there are better community resources to rely on for safety.

Please follow the lead of Minneapolis Public Schools and make the right decision.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Education, Not Criminalization - Police-Free CPS

Hello,

I am a North Chicago resident of the past seven years, a taxpayer, and a concerned citizen.

In advance of your Board of Education meeting tomorrow, I am writing to express my support for your board's motion to terminate last year's \$33 million police contract, without options to renew.

I do believe safety in schools is paramount, and thereby would support the board's motion to consult with communities in developing new safety measures -- measures minded towards restoration and keeping youth out of the criminal justice system.

Having SROs in school communities may make some feel safer, but this cannot be at the expense of disappearing BIPOC youth into a racially-biased legal system.

I hope that Chicago can join cities such as Minneapolis, Chicago, and Denver in allowing communities to self-determine their children's safety and future.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cops out of schools

Hello,

I am [REDACTED] and I have a son who has been in CPS for five years. I am writing to insist that police be removed from CPS schools. All research indicates that their presence does far more harm than good (including depressing graduation rates) and at the expense of more important things. They also disproportionately affect Black students in particular, as well as Latinx students, both of which we need to be striving to support. I urge you to please vote in favor of the proposal tomorrow.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to remove CPD from CPS.

They do not protect our children and increase the school to prison pipeline.

There are MANY other resources our schools and children need before cops.

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

End contract with Chicago Police Department

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RE: CPD in Chicago Public Schools

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

I am urging each of you to do what a majority of Chicago Public School's students, staff, and faculty feel is best for their safety: voting in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from our Chicago Public School's.

It is certainly the case that SROs in some schools across this city choose to use their positions to contribute to school culture positively. However, students, staff, and faculty in countless schools in every corner of this city have voiced that oftentimes these SROs are turning learning environments into spaces of policing and detainment -- contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline.

We must not overlook the reality that if suburban and rural schools can go without police in their schools -- largely because they receive appropriate funding to create a safe learning environment where student accountability is promoted -- this can be the reality in CPS schools as well.

The \$33 million CPS spends on policing alone could fund programs and positions, such as 300 counselors, restorative justice coordinators, and social workers for every school in the district). These programs and positions would most definitely make our schools safer, more positive, and more productive learning environments, without the presence of police.

Take this decision seriously and consider the well-being of students -- children -- in our city's schools. Are the professionals like teachers, counselors, social workers, etc. the ones who have the training to promote student safety and self-accountability, or officers trained to detain the most dangerous individuals in our society?

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Citizen of Edgewater, Chicago

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Chicago Police Department contract with Chicago Public Schools

As a resident of the city of Chicago, I am in support of removing the Chicago Police Department from our schools. I urge you to vote in favor of the proposal to terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

Thank you,



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Former AmeriCorps Teacher in Support of Immediate Removal of CPD from CPS

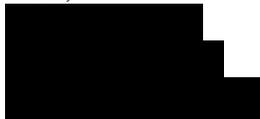
Hello,

I served as an art teacher in an elementary school through AmeriCorps during the 2014-2015 school year teaching predominantly Latinx students.

The disproportionate harm impacting Black and Brown students by police presence in schools is significant on anecdotal and research-based levels. To ignore public outcry on the harassment, abuse, and murder of Black youth and adult community members with inaction is disgraceful. I ask that you follow suit with other districts across the nation such as Minneapolis Public Schools and immediately remove police from public schools and cancel the district's contract with CPD. Alternatives exist that do not cause undue harm to the most systemically vulnerable kids in Chicago.

It is your responsibility to act in favor of students' lives and livelihoods and you will be held accountable for this by your community.

Best,



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Remove CPD from CPS

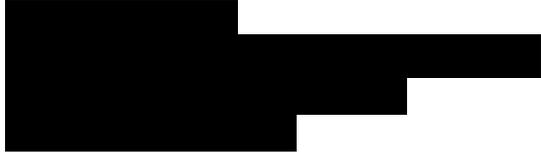
Hello,

I am writing to request that tomorrow during the BOE meeting you support removal of CPD from our public schools. Students would benefit from reallocation of funds to increase the presence of school nurses, librarians, mental health workers, and social workers. Please consider that, although this change may seem radical, we as a society will never progress and evolve and adapt appropriately if we remain stagnant and/or staunchly adhere to precedents before us.

Tomorrow, vote with an open mind and a dedication to improving the lives of the marginalized and underrepresented students in our public school system. They rely on you.

Sincerely,

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Please support a "no renewal" of CPD in schools contract!

Hello Chicago Board of Education members,

I am writing you to ask that you cease using CPD in schools. Their presence not only creates a stressful / authoritarian environment for students, it's been shown to have become a feeder for the penal system, which can have long term stigmatic impacts for these young people.

As added evidence of the "why CPD is not the correct function to have in Chicago schools": **in the last two years, the city's Inspector General's Office has released two reports that are quite critical of the SRO program, especially regarding the lack of consistent adequate training and supervision. These failures, unfortunately, have resulted in numerous problematic incidents in which the health and wellbeing of specific students, as well as the ability of SROs to help foster a more nurturing learning environment, have been negatively impacted.**

Please break these ineffective and often traumatizing partnerships. Those funds would be better spent on the appropriate social services (eg, counselors / social workers), not to mention enrichment activities to help lift young minds up to be their best selves.

Kind regards,



---

Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am born and raised in Chicago and went to Lasalle Language Academy and Lincoln Park High

School. There has never been a situation for police to be inside any of these schools. I've seen police officers grope underage girls, I've seen police body slam students against locker and to the floor, and I've seen police officers plant drugs on students. The racial bias these officers hold is also clearly implicit in their actions.

These are children, who have no real concept of their rights at their age. Yet, we have men and women under the guise of a badge in power terrifying and violating them.

Be on the right side of history. Stand up for the children who can't stand up for themselves against these soldiers in our schools.

  
He/Him/His  
Black Lives Matter

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Removing police from schools

To the members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to you from the 47th Ward to urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote tomorrow to rescind the Board's contract with the Chicago Police Department and to reallocate the \$33 million towards creating a more healthy and supportive environment in our city's schools.

My daughter will be joining Ravenswood Elementary School for kindergarten in the fall, and we live in the attendance area for Amundsen High School. I do not want her to attend a school that allows police officers to patrol the hallways. I do not want her and her classmates to have to learn while surrounded by gun-carrying members of the same police force that has consistently demonstrated racial bias and whose members have consistently shown a callous disregard for the lives of those whom they are sworn to protect.

Please vote yes on the motion to rescind the CPS contract with CPD.

Yours truly,



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Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I would like to add my voice to the many calling for removal of Chicago police officers from public schools across the City.

The criminalization and dehumanization of Black and Brown students should go against everything you stand for as agents of public education in Chicago. Ensuring the safety of students is absolutely a priority, but whose safety is best served by having Chicago police officers in schools? Look within yourselves, you know the answer.

Doing the right thing is not a bold choice, it is the only choice. Serve the students of Chicago Public Schools, not the police union.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove cops from schools!

As a former CPS teacher I can say with utmost confidence that cops have NO place in schools. Please vote to remove ALL cops from ALL CPS schools. That money can and should be redistributed to schools so they can hire counselors and other professionals to help our students heal from the chronic trauma of living in poverty, as the majority of CPS students do.

Please, vote to remove all cops from schools.

[REDACTED]

Former CPS teacher

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CPD in CPS

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident in Ward 49, Rogers Park.

I am emailing to implore you to vote to take CPD out of CPS. I cannot imagine the emotional and physical toll, especially on your BIPOC students, to have law enforcement in their schools every single day. Children do not need to be policed, they need to be nurtured and given a chance to grow and learn in a safe environment.

Please, I'm your vote tomorrow, vote to keep our children safe by taking police out of our schools.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Wednesday vote

Good morning all:

Just wanted to remind you of an issue that I and many others in Chicago care about deeply.

Please do everything in your power to help the students of Chicago.

Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.

Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

I appreciate your attention,

[REDACTED]

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Keep CPS SAFE

Good Morning,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a citizen of Chicago residing in Edgewater. I am writing to you urging you to remove CPD from the Chicago Public School system. Police presence is harmful to an educational experience, as there's no learning through fear or coercion. We need to be funding resources for CPS, more social workers and nurses, and especially more TEACHERS. With the most recent layoff, it's despicable that this city would rather place armed individuals in schools rather than properly staff it with instructors.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to make the moral decision of making our school's a properly staffed and police-free space for Chicago's children to learn.

[REDACTED]

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CPS Board of Education and Police

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am an alumni of CPS schools – from Elementary to High School, and I grew up in areas that were mostly immigrant families. I saw firsthand how incapable the police actions and presence at the school only made the atmosphere worse. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while getting increasingly aggressive.

Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. Degrading them through police force is not the solution. Now,

this is all anecdotal, but **there is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college." (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help deescalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access of guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. This is a legitimate concern, as a teacher in college myself, I know first-hand those who actively are most responsible are the victims -teachers, staff, and students. Not police. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

As a Chicagoan, a former CPS student, an educator, I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to

help students SUCCEED. Especially our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, and students who are like me and my friends: marginalized folk who have firsthand experience on how education and policing in our school failed us.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to END CPS contract with CPD

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended CPS schools for all thirteen years of my education. The presence of police officers in schools was confusing as a child, and now that I study education and education policy at Northwestern University I realize that while they may have just been confusing to me, a young white girl, they were symbols of violence for my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD. The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Regarding Police in Chicago Public Schools

Dearest friends,

I write you this short note with hope in my heart and with a commitment to the children of our city. [REDACTED]. With global attention to the anti-Black violence of police officers directed towards Black people, now is the time to remove police from our public schools. When you allow police into the schools they bring with them hundreds of guns, thousands of bullets, and so many other tools of violence. This is not what our schools need. Cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department ensures that new conversations can be had about the role and function of our schools. Schools should not be so similar to prisons. Schools should be spaces of learning. We want our children

to learn not only the basics of math, science, english, and history. We also want them to learn about integrity, healing, consent, power, and justice. Removing the police creates the need for new creative solutions to harm that do not rely on state violence. We put far, far too much responsibility on schools and offer way too few resources. You will not be in this struggle alone. You do not have to come up with the solutions alone. There are community organizers who have been doing work imagining alternatives to policing for generations. Trust them, build relationships with them, and take the important step of ending all contracts and agreements with CPD.

In faithful solidarity,



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CDP out of CPS

Dear board,

You must revoke CPDs contract with Chicago Public schools! Kids need counselors and teachers so they can learn to grow, not live in fear of violence from officers.

- Even while police incidents overall have cut in half in the past decade, they continue to target Black students at 4 times the rate of white students in CPS.
- The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.
- If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses.

Please, I urge you to take real action with lasting impact. Remove CDP out of CPS

Thanks,



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For the Record

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I am given to understand that Elizabeth Todd-Breland and Amy Rome have put forth motions, for the 6/24/2020 BOE meeting, that would end the \$33M CPS contract with CPD. I also understand that these motions would have the district work with schools to identify and recommend alternatives to the School Resource Officer program (i.e., police stationed in schools). I want to thank them for introducing these proposals.

I support both of these motions. I would like to see CPD officers, whether uniformed or not, out of CPS secondary schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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### Cancel CPD Contract

Dear Members of the Board,

I am a CPS parent and LSC member writing to ask you to cancel the contract between CPS and CPD to the tune of \$33M per year.

Yesterday, I was disappointed in Dr. Jackson and CPS for their "press conference." I found it disingenuous. Of course, these principals are going to defend a program that brings them resources with no impact on their budget. Basically, for many of these schools, it's either an SRO or nothing. They are not choosing SROs over counselors or social workers or even additional security guards. Use this money to provide counselors and social workers and security guards, instead.

Furthermore, CPS schools are already under the jurisdiction of CPD. And CPS already employs security officers! Stop subsidizing police while sacrificing our kids' education. Enough is enough.

[REDACTED]

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### Remove CPD from CPS

Good morning,

I am a Chicago resident and I am in favor of removing CPD from CPS. The money currently spent on CPD could be used to hire social workers and nurses or otherwise better serve our students, teachers, and staff.

To have to enter your school the same way you would enter a jail, by being watched and/or searched by officers, is not appropriate. How can we expect students to feel psychologically safe in schools if they are being treated like criminals?

Additionally, many of the CPD officers who are placed in schools are placed there on "desk duty" and have a history of violence. The number of cases of school-based officers committing traumatizing violence on students while they are at school is unacceptable.

With this much trauma and violence, it is clear what we are doing right now, maintaining a CPD presence in CPS, is not working. Tomorrow, I encourage you to vote to remove CPD from CPS. It is time to hold the mayor accountable and honor her pledge to replace police in schools with restorative justice, trauma supports, and other critical student needs.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

First, thank you for your service. I understand that you will be voting tomorrow on whether or not CPS should remove CPD from schools.

As an educator for over 20 years--15 of which I spent in CPS--I ask that you please vote to remove the police from schools.

Schools need to be safe for students to thrive, play, and learn. Schools need to be places where students--because they are still children--can make mistakes and grow without fear of violence or punishment. Why organize schools around discipline and punishment, when we can organize them around resilience, conviviality, and thriving?

Cops in schools are not conducive to growth or learning. The cops in the school where I worked for 15 years talked about the students as if they were all already criminals and treated them as such. These were the same children whom I adored, whom I looked forward to seeing and teaching every day, even when they were sometimes difficult, as children often are. The way I saw my students--as newcomers who were rife with life and possibility--and the ways that the cops saw the students--as criminals--is simply the result of the purpose inherent in our livelihoods. Policing is designed to see the criminality in people; teaching isn't. In this way, cops simply have no place in schools.

There are so many alternatives to dealing with students who act out: kind alternatives, generative alternatives, transformative alternatives, alternatives that see students as newcomers who need guidance and support. Let's vote to move schools in that direction instead. Voting CPD out of schools is the first step in that direction.

Thank you for your time. And, please, vote to make our schools safe for thriving.

[REDACTED]

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Cops Out of CPS

Hello,

I'm calling on you to end CPS's contract with CPD and remove police from Chicago public schools. Our city's codependent relationship with its violent police force has gone on far too long, particularly in our learning institutions.

The officers stationed in Chicago schools have over 2350 misconduct complaints against them, including:

- Otis Watts (killed 20 year old Devantae Young in 2012)
- Alex Calatayud (tased a Black child on school grounds)
- Charles McDonald (urinated on a citizen's face and used racist and sexist slurs)
- Tracy Rogers (tased a 90 year old Black woman in a public school)
- Katherine Moses-Hughes (suspended for medical neglect and improper searches)

Chicago currently spends \$33 million to keep these violent racists in schools, where they target students of color, female-identifying students, and students with diverse learning needs far more than white students. Meanwhile, a scant \$8.5 million is allocated toward school counseling, which actually makes a difference in students' lives.

Chicago must end its contract with CPD and use these funds for counseling, supplies and higher pay for teachers. The people demand #PoliceFreeSchols. I hope you make the right decision this Wednesday.

Thank you,

██████████

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Remove CPD from Our Public Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education Members,

My name is ████████, I'm a Chicago citizen and an afterschool caregiver at many CPS schools. I am writing today hoping with all of my heart that you will vote to remove CPD from our public schools and end the school to prison pipeline.

While there is no substantive research that proves that cops in schools make them any safer - there is much data that shows a large amount of negative impacts officers in schools have on students. Research shows BIPOC students are more likely to be arrested and more likely to meet violence at the hands of school resource officers.

If the BOE cares for our students they will listen to the public - and the students themselves- and stop employing the aggressive and racist institution that is the police and instead fund resources for students that are constructive and supportive like mental health resources, councilors, nurses, etc.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

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Pls remove police from schools tomorrow

Greetings,

I am a parent of two CPS students and a voter in Chicago.

The Chicago Board of Education will vote tomorrow on whether to remove CPD from our public schools. I am letting you know that I would like to have police removed from our schools. We don't need the police in our schools, and having the police in our schools creates risks for our most vulnerable students.

We know that the police in our schools have racially profiled, harassed, and killed black and brown youth. School Police Officers (SROs) have physically assaulted students like Dnigma Howard, who was only 16 when she was dragged down the stairs and tased after getting caught using her cellphone, and have unjustly placed thousands of others on the Chicago Gang Database.

Our students need additional resources, for certain. But they don't need police officers.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

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### Cops Out of CPS

CPS must end its contract with CPD and remove police from Chicago public schools. Our city's codependent relationship with its violent police force has gone on far too long, particularly in our learning institutions.

The officers stationed in Chicago schools have over 2350 misconduct complaints against them, including:

- Otis Watts (killed 20 year old Devantae Young in 2012)
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Chicago currently spends \$33 million to keep these violent racists in schools, where they target students of color, female-identifying students, and students with diverse learning needs far more

than white students. Meanwhile, a scant \$8.5 million is allocated toward school counseling, which actually makes a difference in students' lives.

Chicago must end its contract with CPD and use these funds for counseling, supplies and higher pay for teachers. The people demand #PoliceFreeSchols.

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#### Police out of CPS

Hi, my name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Edgebrook.

I am a proud CPS graduate of Edgebrook Elementary and middle School, and Jones a college Prep High School and am contacting you to support the Police Free Schools ordinance and demand the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage everyone to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

I hope you have also been aware of the CPS Alumni Open Letter signed by almost 3,000 Chicagoans and CPS alumni. It contains countless personal testimonials, 32 pages' worth and counting, from alumni describing the harmful presence of police in schools, from sexual harassment by officers to unchecked use of force against students to racial profiling in CPS hallways.

Thank you and please act for the best of your Chicago students, especially those disproportionately targeted by the Chicago police in and out of school.

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#### Terminate CPS contract with CPD

Hello,

I am a concerned Chicago resident wishing to express my support for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department that will be up for a vote tomorrow.

There are many ways to keep students safe and supported without subjecting them to the possibility of criminalization, and I urge CBOE to direct that \$33 million into exploring those methods with input from students, teachers and community members.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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## No Cops In Schools

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live and work in Chicago. I am a piano instructor and an artist. I also volunteer as a visitor to hospice patients.

I believe that cops should be removed from schools. Give children the chance to learn in an environment that is free from police. No child should grow up expecting cops to be a everywhere they turn.

Use this money instead to hire social workers, health workers, mental health professionals and teaching artists - people who are trained to work with kids.

CPS needs to cut its contract with CPD. There are much better ways to use that money.

[REDACTED]

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## Keep CPD out of CPS

As the world is awakening to the racist practices ingrained in the police of the US, I am writing to urge you to keep CPD out of CPS.

The presence of police in schools not only creates added trauma and fear for non-white students, but it creates entirely new spaces for police misconduct to occur, as we've seen by police throwing children to the ground, beating children in the halls, and cuffing an autistic student above the elbow. It also increases the likelihood that non-white Children will be pushed further along the school-to-prison pipeline.

If you cannot care about the children who will be affected, worry about the possible damages (usually in the millions per case) your district will have to pay should any lawsuits be filed for police misconduct.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## Please remove CPD from CPS

Hi there,

I am a concerned citizen writing you to voice my support for the removal of CPD from CPS.

Students demand to be heard and their safety is put at risk when there is a police presence in our schools. Please remove CPD from CPS. Keep the youth safe and respected within the space of education.

Thank you,

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Regarding the Board's vote on CPS' contract with CPD

To the Board of Education,

Good morning. My name is ■■■■■■■■■■; I have lived in Chicago for going on 15 years and I currently live in the Avondale neighborhood. I am writing to request that the Board vote to terminate Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department. I have covered this topic as a journalist, and the research I've come across while reporting has led me to feel very strongly as a Chicagoan that the Board must vote to end the CPS contract with the CPD.

Countless citizens of this City have been pleading for years to cut the police budget and invest in communities that the City has so cruelly deprived of resources while fueling police harm in these same communities.

There is a host of research and scholarly literature that demonstrates police in schools do not prevent harm, but rather cause more harm to students. I detailed many such incidents and statistics in my article on this subject linked in the first paragraph. The US Department of Education's own data reveals that policing in schools is racist and dangerous for students with disabilities (please see this March 2014 report). Black students and students with disabilities are much more likely to be singled out for punitive action from police in schools than their peers, despite a total lack of evidence that these students behave any differently.

The mere presence of police in schools can be harmful for marginalized students and any student that is currently more vulnerable under the Trump administration. This includes queer and trans students, undocumented students, Muslim students, Black students, immigrant students, girls, brown students, poor and working class students, students with disabilities, homeless students, and more. The same holds true for faculty and staff in schools.

Further, there is a lack of evidence that having police officers in schools makes schools any safer for students. There was significant research and reporting on this following the horrific massacre in Parkland.

Finally, and very critically: There are a wealth of voices in the city that for years have cried out for this change. As an independent journalist, I have covered the issue of cops in schools, and have heard from students around the country who want the police out. I have heard the mayor lie and say that communities want the police but I have seen and heard only the exact opposite from the Chicagoans I have spoken to about policing over the years.

Spending millions of dollars each year on police to harm students while contributing nothing positive to public safety is unconscionable. It is racist and cruel. The Board has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of a movement to end police harm in our communities, and I pray that at least some of you have the fortitude to seize it.

-- [REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Chicago and I am writing to demand that in tomorrow's vote that the board of education chose to not continue CPS's contract with the CPD. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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Terminate CPD in CPS!

We want CPD out of CPS! Terminate the \$33 million contract that puts cops in Chicago schools and reallocate those funds directly towards our students.

[REDACTED]

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School resource officers

Good morning,

I am a CPS parent of two, and a former LSC member. I am writing to urge you to vote to remove SROs from our schools.

The \$33 million in CPS fund should instead be used for:

- restorative practices, counselors, social workers, nurses
- librarians, art teachers, music teachers
- after school programs

I would also like to speak directly to the notion that, in August 2019, individual LSCs voted to retain SROs within their schools.

- 1) The funds for officers in schools are district-level, so schools could not choose to enhance other resources (like those mentioned above) if they voted \*not\* to have SROs.
- 2) I personally know parents who were on high school LSCs last August who said that they were given little notice, AND their LSC did not actually vote on this. I would like for those making this argument to show meeting minutes and vote counts from all high school LSC meetings from August 2019.
- 3) Given the responsibilities of LSCs of the \*school's\* budget, it is not actually within their purview to vote on funds that are district-wide budget.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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## GET RID OF POLICE IN CPS SCHOOLS

hello-

i am a former cps student and i am asking that you please vote to remove police from cps schools. there are schools without computers, air conditioning, art classes, but we still have a budget for cops? seems backwards to me. please i am urging you to make the right choice and fight for students, not for the police that cause trauma and violence for students everyday.

thank you.

[REDACTED]

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## Terminate contract with Chicago Police Department

I am a parent with three children in CPS schools, including one with severe special needs who attends the nurturing Northside Learning Center. Many other diverse learners in CPS are not so fortunate. The Chicago Police, like police throughout this country, lack the training and empathy to recognize intellectual or social-emotional disabilities and handle children with the requisite care. I imagine you are as horrified as I am when you watch all too frequent videos of police officers tormenting and inappropriately disciplining children with autism or other special needs who may not understand nor have ability to control what are perceived as disruptive behaviors. Police officers have NO place in schools.

You know that nearly 90% of CPS students are non-white and are aware that currently and historically these communities are affected by unfair policing and justice practices. Schools are meant as places of learning and should be a refuge from the inequities of society. Police in schools threaten students and thus interfere with their education, inhibit restorative justice, and

feed the school to prison pipeline.

There is NO evidence that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." SROs inside schools result in increased suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system.

I have read many accounts by CPS high school students who are told that SROs are at their schools to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. Furthermore, many of the officers stationed at schools not only lack training but have numerous misconduct complaints and use of force allegations. This is unconscionable.

Imagine the developmental progress children would make if instead of funneling \$33M to the police department it were spent on social workers, psychologists, and arts programs. Please follow other urban school districts in this country and vote to remove police from our schools. I urge you to vote as if you were elected by the people of Chicago to protect the children you are entrusted to serve.

Sincerely,



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Vote for Police Free Schools this week

CPS Board of Education:

I am writing to urge you to pass motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2 this Wednesday to terminate the Chicago Public Schools contract with the Chicago Police Department and research alternative programs to create safe and healthy school environments.

The presence of police in our schools is extremely harmful. To start, **over 300 students ages 6-10 have been involved in police incidents** in the last three years. Ages 6-10. How can you possibly excuse police officers interacting with these students?? Consider for a minute the long-term harm, trauma, and other negative impact that would come out of interacting with a police officer as a six-year-old. Again, how can you possibly excuse this punitive approach and behavior?

More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color. In particular, our **Black students - who make up about 36% of students** - are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools, being **targeted at 4 times the rate of white students**. This disproportionate application of punitive policing on students of color is a clear manifestation of systemic racism that continually disenfranchises young Black, Brown, and

Indigenous people. Additionally, school resource officers and school liaison supervisors in CPS have a combined **2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them**. Now, knowing all of this - why would you continue to give them the power to police and punish our students?

**Our schools do not need police officers.** They need social workers, librarians, nurses, mental health counselors -- and students, parents, and educators have been saying this. Listen to them. Police officers do not address the root causes of the problems we see, and these problems cannot be solved through punitive approaches and measures. Only a real investment in our schools, communities, and young people can address these issues. If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allocated to SROs **could fund positions for 314 school psychologists, 322 nurses, or 317 social workers** (CPS currently has one social worker for every 865 students though the National Association of Social Workers recommends one social worker for every 250 students or one social worker for every 50 students for schools with high levels of trauma).

You have the opportunity to invest in real safety for Chicago youth, and the first step is breaking the school district's ties with the Chicago Police Department. Invest in the future of Chicago; our youth deserve it.



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Please Vote to Remove Chicago Police from Schools

Hello,

I am writing today to urge you to vote to remove Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools and to terminate your contract with CPD.

Multiple school districts across the country are severing relationships with local police, and I urge you to be a part of adding Chicago to that growing list. If you pass this motion, Chicago would be the largest city in the country to do so, and it would be a beacon for other cities to follow suit to make our Education System safer for Black and Brown students.

Please use this as an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with the communities you serve and work together to develop new safety measures that place students' mental and physical well being at the forefront. I recently read in Chalkbeat an analysis that 96% of police officers serving in CPD had allegations against them. I can't imagine being a student knowing this information and feeling safe, especially Black and Brown students. You have a rare opportunity to help dismantle systemic racism in Chicago Public Schools; please be on the right side of history.

Now is the time.

Regards,



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CPS contract with CPD - Urging you to cancel the contract

Hi, My name is [REDACTED] and I'm an Edgewater resident. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

**There is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."**

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. **This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.** Like others, I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school.

The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. **The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.**

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering.

**I am urging you to join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.**

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

---

REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I attend Northwestern in Evanston, IL, and am part of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to do the right thing tomorrow. Vote to **remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.**

Do the right thing.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

---

END your contract with CPD

To whomever is reading,

I know you are meeting tomorrow to vote on your contract with the CPD. Now more than ever, it is crucial that you end it. By keeping that contract, you are all but promoting the school to prison pipeline by criminalizing young children of color. These students deserve legitimate resources like counselors and social workers, not the intimidation of armed police officers. To keep this contract would be a disgrace to our youth and detrimental to our future. **END THIS CONTRACT.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police from Chicago Public Schools

Good morning,

I'm writing today to urge you to consider removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I taught CPS for just under three years, and in every situation where they were utilized, police in the

building made situations worse. On top of that, students vocalized how terrible it made them feel to have police officers in the building. I can only imagine the feelings and messages that are internalized by our students by police presence.

For anyone skeptical, **there is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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Please remove CPD from our Public Schools

Dear Board of Education,

Tomorrow you have the opportunity to vote on a decision that would change the lives of Chicago's youth for the better. Our schools *need* to be a site for learning, not violence and racist villainization. Our students, regardless of race and background, *deserve* to be met with care and understanding. Punitive solutions at the hands of the police are NOT the answer.

Major school districts around the country are finally making this necessary, and frankly, life-saving change. NOW is the time for CPS to adequately support and fight for justice for our Black and Brown students. NOW is the time to remove CPD from our public schools.

We will not back down.

Thank you,



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End the contract with CPD

Hello,

Cops do not belong in schools. They hinder education and are just there to funnel children into prisons. The \$33 million needs to be re-directed to the schools that are vulnerable and underfunded. Give children a chance to learn without the violence of the police in their way.

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## Tomorrow's Vote

I have been informed that Chicago Public Schools spends \$33 million on a contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead you should use that money to ensure that every Chicago student:

- Receive a device to connect to at-home learning
- Receive food services, especially for communities whose grocery stores have closed down from recent uprisings
- Has access to mental health services during this moment of crisis
- Receive tools for at-home enrichment learning like art supplies, sports equipment, learning aids

Make the right choice and create police free schools.

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## URGENT: PLEASE HELP

Dear Board members of the Chicago Board of Education,

Hello, I am a rising third-year at Northwestern University. As you know, counties and cities across the country are terminating their school contracts with the police. This NEEDS to happen in Chicago.

### ***More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color***

There is an abundant amount of robust research (please see [Handcuffs in Hallways](#) and [We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police Free Schools](#)) demonstrating how police presence in schools fuel the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and other students of color and DO NOT PROTECT CHILDREN'S SAFETY. A group called [#CopsOutCPS](#) is fighting for Chicago public schools devoid of violence that render Black, Indigenous, and POC CHILDREN (AGAIN, THESE ARE CHILDREN) expendable and disposable. They, along with the Chicago Teacher's Union and important community orgs, are demanding that the Chicago Board of Education + CPS the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department:

Immediately terminate the \$33 million dollar contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

■ Remove all School Resource Officers from Chicago Public Schools beginning in the '20-'21 school year.

■ Re-invest the \$33 million currently allocated for the CPD contract in non-police supportive services for Chicago students, including counselors, nurses, trauma-informed personnel and restorative justice hubs and practitioners.

■ Ensure all students have access to technology and internet for at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and when school begins.

**The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:**

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Please remember that your individual actions can inflict harm upon hundreds, if not thousands, of Black, Brown, and Indigenous children in Chicago Public Schools. You hold an immense amount of power and people will hold you accountable for your actions. Please listen to communities bolding and loudly saying they do not want police terrorizing and vilifying their children.



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Police in Chicago Public Schools

Esteemed Members of the Board of Education-

I'm reaching out to urge you to end our city's contract and remove Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. I believe strongly that the \$33 million dollars that we are spending to have officers policing children is money that must be spent on resources that support their growth and education. Our students need school counselors, social workers, librarians, nurses. Additionally, the adverse effects that police in schools are considerable, including:

- Students are often taken into custody without warrants and without an adult present;
- Police often fail to inform students of their rights, and students are questioned by police and arrested without prior notification of parents, guardians, or even school officials;
- Students of color are more likely than their white counterparts to be arrested for minor violations of rules or policies;
- Arrests and incarceration increase students' odds of dropping out of school;
- Students with disabilities are three times as likely as students without disabilities to be arrested;
- The arrest rate in schools where more than 80% of students are low-income is seven times the arrest rate of schools where fewer than 20% of students are low-income. (Source ACLU)

I urge you to consider this information and rise above pressure from Police unions. You each have the opportunity to fight for students with this vote. I hope you take it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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49th Ward

Hi, I am a teacher living in Rogers Park and demand our students are allowed the safety and respect of a school without police. Research shows that police in schools put our students at higher risk to become victims of the school to prison pipeline. Let's show our students we care and please, please, take police out of CPS. Thank you.

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Cancel the contract with CPD!!!

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a Chicago resident. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

**There is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."**

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences of having officers inside the schools like an increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. **This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.** Like others, I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school->

discipline-race-racism-gao) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school.

The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. **The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.**

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools are getting. In two weeks' time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering.

**I am urging you to join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.** 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. **At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.**

Thank you,



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CPS Alumni Open Letter: End the CPS-CPD Contract

To the Chicago Board of Education,

We are emailing **on behalf of almost 3,000 Chicagoans and CPS alumni who have signed on to our open letter calling for the termination of the \$33M contract between CPS and CPD** that places police in our city's schools.

Our letter is linked here on our website and here as a living Google document. We are also collecting testimonials from CPS alumni about their experiences with police in schools.

We, as a coalition of CPS alumni, encourage you to both read our letter and the 32 pages of student testimonials that we've gathered thus far. Tomorrow, we ask that you listen to student voices across this city and vote to remove CPD from the city's schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
CPS Alumni

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CPD out of CPS

Dear CPS Board member,

I am a proud CPS alum (Stephen K. Hayt, 1979) who strongly urges you to remove the police from all Chicago Public Schools. Please use the money to increase the numbers of nurses, social workers, psychologists, aids, teachers, etc. There are so many better ways to keep our schools safe, just as they do in the rich suburban schools. We don't need to reinvent the wheel.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No more police in CPS

Hello,

As a Chicago resident I am writing in to demand a police free public school environment. Police have no business patrolling the hallways. As we have all seen, police have a 400 year old history of violence and anti-trust. Police are not the answer to problems in our schools. They are not qualified.

Instead, we need to be replacing police with social workers and counselors. We need tolerant support staff who are specially trained to be working with students of all ages, ability level, ethnicities, orientations and home situations. Students need to trust these workers are there to help serve them.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I'm writing to voice my strong support for removing CPD from schools, and demand that you vote to do so tomorrow.

Young Black organizers throughout our city—and country—are transforming the nation with uprisings against police brutality and cries to remove municipal police departments from their school buildings. Chicago Public Schools, however, controlled by Mayor Lori Lightfoot, continues to exclude those voices, even as cities across the U.S., including Minneapolis, Portland, Denver, Seattle and Oakland, have decided to remove police from their schools.

Students need more social workers. They need more counselors. They need more teachers of color. What they don't need is to walk into school each morning, see a police officer, and revisit the trauma inflicted by the continuous, unchecked police brutality that has plagued our city and nation.

It's time for Mayor Lightfoot and the Board of Education to honor her pledge to replace police in schools with restorative justice, trauma supports and other critical student needs.

Do the right thing tomorrow. Represent the voice of the people. The status quo is no longer working, and it's no longer acceptable to the people of Chicago.

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for the removal of police from Chicago Public Schools. I am a parent of a child who will attend CPS schools starting next year, and I don't think police should have any role in education. Replace them with social workers.



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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I attend Northwestern in Evanston, IL, and am part of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to do the right thing tomorrow. Vote to **remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools**.

Do the right thing.

---

Re: CPS meeting - please vote to END the CPD contract

Dear Board of Directors,

As you all meet to vote to end the contract with the CPD, as a longtime resident and someone who gained all of my education through CPS, I would urge to vote in favor of ending this contract.

Children who are aggressive or who show behavioral disorders desperately need counseling, not policing. So please, please give these kids a chance.

Thank you.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

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Breland/Rome - Motion support

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for the Motions on the agenda for tomorrow to terminate CPS contract with CPD. I urge you to vote yes on these motions. And I thank Todd Breland and Amy Rome for introducing these motions.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Public Comment-Virtual Board Meeting-6/24

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a former Chicago Public School System student that still resides in Chicago. I am writing to express my enthusiasm for the push to remove the Chicago Police Department from our public schools. The detrimental psychological and other effects police have on children (especially black and brown children who are disproportionately effected) and their education has been well documented. I am urging you to move where the mayor of our city will not. It is your responsibility to have best interests of students in mind and yes that

means you'll have to do the work to figure out alternate solutions but that is your job. Please consider all of the things that our public schools lack in the way of social services, and how you can address them by foregoing the CPD in CPS budget.

Thank you,



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### REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

I attend Northwestern in Evanston, IL, and am part of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to do the right thing tomorrow. Vote to **remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.**

Do the right thing.

---

### VOTE TO REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

I attend Northwestern in Evanston, IL, and am part of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to do the right thing tomorrow. Vote to **remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.**

Do the right thing.

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### NO Police In Our Schools!

Good morning,

I am a Chicago Public Schools teacher, and I am writing to express my concerns regarding removing Chicago Police from our public schools. Studies have shown that police presence in schools hurts our children and feeds into the school to prison pipeline, which disproportionately affects children of color - especially Black children.

School is a safe place for students. Some students come from unsafe neighborhoods, home lives, and some have experienced many hardships. Students come to school so that they can be safe. With police in schools, students might no longer have a single safe space that they can go to. Anywhere. This is extremely detrimental to students' health and well-being.

As a teacher in CPS, students have expressed their concerns around police officers. Students have expressed that they do not feel safe around the police. Students have witnessed police crimes for their entire lives. Students deserve a safe place. That safe place is a school **without police officers.**

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Public Comment-Virtual Board Meeting-6/24

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a former Chicago Public School System student that still resides in Chicago. I am writing to express my enthusiasm for the push to remove the Chicago Police Department from our public schools. The detrimental psychological and other effects police have on children (especially black and brown children who are disproportionately effected) and their education has been well documented. I am urging you to move where the mayor of our city will not. It is your responsibility to have best interests of students in mind and yes that means you'll have to do the work to figure out alternate solutions but that is your job. Please consider all of the things that our public schools lack in the way of social services, and how you can address them by foregoing the CPD in CPS budget.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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NO COPS IN SCHOOLS!

Get em out of schools! That's the whole email, we don't want em!

[REDACTED]

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Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering removing police from Chicago school systems. **As a new parent whose daughter will enter CPS in just a few short years, I am urgently requesting that you remove police from Chicago schools.** Based on all of the research I've done and reports I've read, police do not contribute to a positive school experience and their presence is particularly detrimental to children who come from Black and Brown communities that are regularly overpoliced. Multiple studies have concluded that police in schools actively harm the learning outcomes of marginalized students. It is clear that the money used to keep police in our schools would be much better spent on social workers, de-escalation experts, and other professionals who do not carry guns or harass children over minor infractions. **It is clear the current system is not working: please consider the wellbeing of our entire Chicago community and remove police from our schools.**

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and your devotion to the children of Chicago.

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[REDACTED]

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Please end CPD contract with Chicago schools

Hi,

I'm a resident of Chicago in the McPherson school district in Ravenswood. I'm writing to ask the Board to end the contract that Chicago Public School has with Chicago Police and remove police from schools. We need to make all children and families who go to the school safe, and it has been shown over and over that people of color are less safe and more stressed with police present. Police and the weapons they carry have no place in our schools, and police have not proven they are accountable and trustworthy enough to be around children. Please end the contract and keep police out of public schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to Remove CPD from CPS  
To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] a Chicago resident and former CPS teacher at Stagg Elementary School. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. 'In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.'"

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  


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Remove CPD

Hello,

Today I write as a resident of Chicago to urge you to vote for the removal of police from CPS. This relationship significantly contributes to the school to prison pipeline. You have the ability to make noticeable change for our youth with this vote and I implore you to let your decision be guided by data as well as your heart. Research indicated that school policing does not make our communities safer and mostly serves to negatively impact the students we care so deeply for. Do

the right thing.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a resident of Lakeview, Chicago. I'm writing you to request that you vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD and use the \$33 million to invest in other programs that promote a welcoming learning environment.

Thank You

--  
[REDACTED]

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Remove the CPD from CPS

As a concerned citizen, I am increasingly distressed by the presence of the Police Department in our public schools. I strongly urge you to vote to remove them. This a small, but crucial, step toward reversing decades of racist policies which contribute toward inequality in our communities. Monies would be better spent offering guidance and other social programs. Remove the police state from our education!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to cancel CPD contract

As a Chicago resident and taxpayer, I'm writing to ask the CPS Board of Education to vote in favor of canceling CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. We need to close off the school to prison pipeline. CPS could use the \$33 million to invest in hiring counselors and social workers for every single school in the district, a move that would actually help the students of CPS who you purport to care about.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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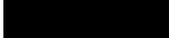
Remove the Cops and their guns from the Chicago Public Schools

Dear Board of Education,

I am a parent of two kids in the Chicago Public Schools at Water's Elementary. Our students have not felt safer because there are police officers in the schools, nor does adding guns into a school space add safety, and we could use those resources to help ALL our students succeed.

If an individual school needs assistance let us give that assistance in counselors, anti-violence and anti-gang programming, programming that lifts up our students and give them resources (technology, art, music, language, and other things to do).

The relationships between the school, teachers, and the students does not need the police as intermediaries. Especially when the Chicago Police Department has a long history of bias against and abuse of black and brown bodies.

Sincerely, 

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Urgent: re vote tomorrow!

Dear Board of Education members & staff,  
as a Chicago resident and voter in Ward 47, I'm writing today to express my strong support for the REMOVAL of Chicago PD from our public schools.

As someone who grew up in a public school with armed security guards, I know the fear and tension it can create. It was wholly unnecessary. The best relationships were with the teachers and other staff who were empathetic and caring and looked out for our collective safety. I can not understand why security felt that it was appropriate to do things like pull people aside aggressively for "acting out," or to spray pepper spray into a hallway, or to pull me into a room and put a hot light on me to "interrogate" me about something a friend said. None of these things make us feels safe. These are kids. They need nurses and counselors and more teachers.

I compare the actions of the school security in high school to the support systems when I attended Loyola Chicago - there is no question: the school clinic, the faith leaders, the counselors were all far greater an impact than any security guard or police officer.

Give these kids a chance at a future, not a prison. Get CPD out of our schools.  
Be remembered as leaders who stood for real, institutional change.

I look forward to thanking you for this change.



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REMOVE CPD

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello, honorable members of the Board!

As a rising senior at Lane Tech, I will acknowledge my privilege in having a School Resource Officer who truly puts students at the fore of his work. In my experience, he has consistently been kind, attentive, and respectful, even while wearing a gun on his hip. But removing CPD from CPS should not be a discussion of anecdotes and verbal recommendation letters for whatever SRO in whatever school - it should be a conversation of the prevailing conditions of SROs' interactions with students, and the prevailing conditions of the current day overall.

Even absent the tone-deafness inherent in placing police officers in primarily Black schools without counselors, librarians, and social workers at a time when Black people are brutalized and murdered by police, it is folly to think that an officer is more instrumental to a child's development than mental health care or restorative justice programs

Budgets are nothing more than a ranking of priorities, and funding police over social services clearly betrays what CPS thinks of its students. *Continuing* to keep police in schools betrays what the Board of Education thinks of its students' advocacy and the struggles its Black students face. Surely there are better ways to spend \$33 million annually? Surely the Board finds more value in uplifting and supporting students than in policing them?

Understand the message you send when you staff schools like prisons. Listen to students, parents, and teachers. Vote YES to remove CPD from CPS. It's simple.

Cordially,



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cops don't belong in schools

Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I urge you to vote in favor of ending Chicago Public School's thirty-three million dollar contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove school resource officers from CPS buildings.

Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that having police in schools harms Black and Brown students as well as students with disabilities. We've got to stop criminalizing our children and put an end to the school-to-prison pipeline.

Imagine the transformative impact the Chicago Board of Education could have on the lives of Chicago students by demanding CPS reinvest that thirty-three million dollars into programs that actually benefit our children. Reallocating those funds to hire more librarians, social workers, restorative justice practitioners, mental health counselors, and nurses would have a tremendous

positive impact on all students, particularly those from marginalized communities. The long-term consequences of this reallocation of resources would be profound.

I am urging you to follow the example of the Minneapolis Public Schools. Get the police out of CPS.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from our schools

Our schools are not prisons, students are not prisoners. Schools are no place for police, they should be safe, healthy nurturing environments. Our children need counselors, nurses, librarians, they do not ever need police.

We must remove the police from our schools, end the contract with the police and invest in our students' lives.

[REDACTED]

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CPS please end contract with FOP

I am the executive director of an arts and culture presenting organization and old enough to remember when there was recess, music and art taught in the CPS. Sadly, over the years all of these programs have been slashed while the militarizing of our campuses via various kinds of security measures have been increased.

At minimum, the FOP has played a tyrannical role in its relationships to the citizens of the city-protecting criminal elements and staving off reforms and transparency that could help restore trust in their contract. For these two main reasons, I join many civic leader to call to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Dear Board of Education:

As a Chicago property taxpayer and an out, gay attorney who practices in Chicago, I request that the Board vote in favor of removing CPD from CPS schools.

CPD has a long history of transgressions against Chicagoans, particularly young people of color and other diverse communities. We are all aware of this history. Sadly, it has continued unabated in recent weeks, during which CPD officers responded with inflammatory and reactionary conduct when Chicagoans of all colors and stations joined together to call for reform.

Let us cut to the heart of the matter: any suggestion that the presence of CPD ensures security for students is specious, at best. I, for one, would feel unsafe in a CPS school staffed by CPD officers, who in 2020 flip off and hurl anti-gay slurs at those they purport to serve. (Source: <https://www.advocate.com/news/2020/6/09/chicago-cop-being-investigated-calling-protester-antigay-slur>)

Do the right thing.



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Terminate CPS' contract with CPD

Hello all,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a Chicago resident (currently living in Lakeview) and CPS Alumni (Lincoln Park High School Class of 2017).

I am writing to deeply urge you to take action and terminate the contract between CPS and CPD. Our Indigenous, Black and brown students and communities are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into our schools. It is widely known that having police involved in schools causes the school-to-prison pipeline, where Black and brown students are funneled into the "criminal justice" system at a young age for doing something as small as scribbling on a desk or talking to a friend. By reallocating the \$33 million dollars in funds that CPS has invested in their contract with CPD, schools could actually invest in the lives of their students. Schools could have more mental health support resources, provide healthy food, house full libraries, have full-time nurses, and establish restorative/transformativ justice spaces in order to hold students accountable for any conflict, rather than treating all conflict as a reason to punish students and strip them of their humanity. I demand that you all take the steps to ensure Indigenous, Black and brown students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police cause. Police do not protect students, police do not protect staff. They are the tools of the state to ensure equity can never be accomplished. The police hold a monopoly on the violence that is allowed to occur in this country, the police can not be reformed. No system intended at its core to maintain the racial hierarchy can be reformed. Do what you can do in this battle by terminating the contract with CPD, be on the right side of history, take Minneapolis Public Schools as an example. The police must be removed from our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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School Resource Officers

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering the issue of the function of our School Resource Officers. My name is [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. I have not seen any evidence that suggests SROs improve safety at our school, or on the way to and from school. Based on 5E surveys, as well as my own conversations with students, the safe passage workers and school security seem to have a positive effect on students' sense of safety, while SROs have not. In fact, students more often claim that "school feels like prison" with metal detectors and armed guards profiling them by seeing first their potential for crime, rather than their potential for excellence. I have also read more outside evidence of predominantly Black schools like Phillips being more heavily policed, exacerbating stereotype threat and the school to prison pipeline. Anecdotally, just before the pandemic, two SROs walked into the dean's office while I was having a restorative conversation with a student. Another student present immediately tensed up and said "I remember you, you're the officer who beat me with your baton at Mariano's. For no reason." In that moment, the SROs brought the trauma of the streets into the school building that serves as one of the few safe-havens for many students. His mere presence forced us into a conversation about the details and context of that situation, undermining trust. On his way out he said "rough crowd" of the students I know and love.

In conversations with our security, they have mentioned that SROs are often officers near retirement or with many documented complaints, who aren't as helpful as they could be. I have seen instances of police brutalizing students at other schools in the district, and cases of sexual assault on students by SROs. Our security officers mention that they could use assistance, but perhaps better in the form of more unarmed security from the community, mental health counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. Please do what is best for my students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPS end contract with CPD.

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a Chicago resident of the LakeView neighborhood, and a recent Depaul University Grad. I have the privilege to live in a wonderful neighborhood in Chicago with many families who will be affected by your decision to fund the police. I'm writing because Chicago Police has no place in our public schools. It's confusing to all children, but especially black and brown young people who are faced with Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD. The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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End the Contract!

Hello!

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a resident of Chicago and a preschool teacher.

I am writing to urge you to PLEASE vote to end CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. School Resource Officers, despite their euphemistic name, only serve as a critical juncture in the school-to-prison pipeline. They transform what should be a safe environment for learning and curiosity into an environment of fear and violence. As [this report](#) - written in large part by CPS students - make clear, School Resource Officers perpetuate racism and state-sanctioned violence in schools. They were instituted out of fear and that is what they create.

The students at CPS deserve solutions to the problems that they face that involve imagination and compassion, not violence and incarceration. Instead of spending money on School Resources Officers, CPS should hire more counselors, social workers, or nurses instead.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD From Public Schools

Hello there,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm writing today to urge you to vote to REMOVE CPD from public schools. Support the growth of this city's children and help to provide alternate safety advisors.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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End CPD Contract

Good morning,

I am a resident of Uptown and I am writing to demand that you vote to end the contract with CPD. Police do not belong in schools. It is your job to create a safe environment that meets students' needs and enables them to learn. Children who "act out" are communicating unmet needs, and rather than hiring police to punish and harm your students, you must instead direct funds to programs and services that meet their physical and emotional needs.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Motion to Terminate CPD in CPS schools

Dear CPS BOE,

I am writing in support of the motion 20-0624-M01 to terminate the intergovernmental contract between CPS and CPD. We need to remove police from CPS schools and reinvest the 33 million dollars in supports for students including counselors, social workers, and restorative justice programs. CPD inside schools does not keep our students safe and encourages the school to prison pipeline.

[REDACTED]  
CPS parent

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Cops Out of CPS

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a former Americorps member who has served in CPS for the past two years. In my time working in schools, I have noticed how ineffective resource officers are. While they may have good relationships with some students in general the \$33 million used to fund their presence could be put towards much better resources. Additionally, cops who choose not to form relationships with students, or only specific students, or even the ones who say they have good relationships, show extreme racial bias in schools. Is that the kind of

environment we want to provide growing minds? These are students who will change the world for the better if given the opportunity. The time is now to provide them that opportunity.

We need more counselors. We didn't have a librarian - no way for students to access and check out books. Some schools don't have a nurse. The elementary school next to mine had to send their kids to our high school for band aids because their nurse wasn't full time. We need more social workers - people actually connecting students and families to resources they need to lead successful lives. The relationships that officers create in schools do nothing to support students in the ways they need. I urge you to defund CPD from CPS so that money can be reallocated to better serve the needs of students.

Students are calling for the same based on their own experiences. Please take the time to read this open letter from CPS alumni and understand their demands. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pjJy4mkccmkCliSukHWU\\_rEISomY2yMIhWo\\_csn7mnkM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pjJy4mkccmkCliSukHWU_rEISomY2yMIhWo_csn7mnkM/edit) Like I said the time is now. Take action. Remove CPD from CPS and allow for more resources for our students who deserve SO MUCH MORE.

Thanks,



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For Your Consideration  
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I hope you will vote tomorrow to remove CPD presence from our public schools.

Since it's inception, Police forces around the country are institutionally designed to enforce racial and gender stereotypes in a way that specifically harms Black and Brown populations. The school system already struggles with the amount to which the physical and mental designs of our architecture, curriculum and penal system align.

Let us draw a line in the sand tomorrow. You have the power to make a historic decision to stand with the people of this city on the right side of history. You have the power to commit to educating our children fairly without the presence of harmful individuals beckoning them into a life of imprisonment.

Some say that CPD provides safety and security. Some may even use the idea of school shootings as a political pawn to keep things the way they are. We cannot fold purely to fear. Look at this country! We are broken, sick, divided and dying. You can make a positive step tomorrow and go boldly into a new future. Let us heal and build this city to a standard we will continue to raise.

Do the right thing. Cease CPD presence in our public schools and cancel their contract. Only you have the power to be remembered forever.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Children do not need to be policed

The people of Chicago do not want police around their children.

I grew up in a school with police officers rather than resources. I am still recovering from the damage that did. Please stop allowing this trauma to continue. Invest in these children and their possibilities and dreams rather than their negation.

I'm concerned that you support these people with stun guns, batons, and tasers in our school hallways. As a responsible leader, you must cut ties between CPS and CPD for the safety of our students.

Support the proposal to terminate the agreement between CPS and CPD and use the \$33 million you save to consider alternative restorative justice programs for school safety.

Please do what is right.

[REDACTED]

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End CPS' Contract with CPD

Hello,

Tomorrow you have the opportunity to help protect Chicago's children by recognizing that police do not belong in our schools. I am asking that you vote to end CPS' contract with CPD and institute alternatives to school safety that do not include any officer of any kind. When police are at our schools, our Black & Brown students feel unsafe, targeted, and repeatedly harmed. Instead of using funds to harm our students, you could vote to use the \$33 million you spend on police to create programming and resources like technology and wifi access for students relying on you the most.

This is a systemic civil rights issue - it can not be resolved by presenting LSCs with the false choice of resources for police in their schools or no resources. We need you to lead.

Vote in support of both proposals to end CPS' CPD contract and instead create alternatives to safety that model what real care and support look like for the young Black & Brown students looking to you in this moment.

As a CPS alumna and Chicago resident, I am imploring the board to act in the best interests of my friends, my community, and myself.

Thank you,

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End police contract

Please end the police contract with Chicago public schools and invest in more social workers instead.

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Remove CPD From CPS  
Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ I am a member of the Chicago theatre community who has had Teaching Artist residencies in CPS. Anyone who works with CPS knows the most important members of CPS are the students and their futures. Unfortunately, for so many students, their futures are predetermined by a flawed and racist system that decides who will succeed and who will be punished based on their wealth and color of their skin.

The people of this city are tired of the CPD. It has proven to be reckless, aggressive, and discriminatory towards minority groups time and time again with little to no oversight. We are taught that cops keep our children safe, but the reality is that all they do is intimidate and target minority students, setting them up for a school to prison pipeline. If we really care about the futures of the youth in this city, we cannot keep spending tens of millions of dollars on putting cops in our schools. I'm asking you today to consider re-committing your promise to help our children, and redirect the \$33M CPD contract to guidance counselors, social workers, and artists who have the tools to support our student's growth and success. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you,

██████████

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Please break the contract with the CPD for policing in our schools

Dear Board Member of the Chicago Public Schools system,

Please vote to remove CPD from CPS tomorrow. The CPD has proven to be a cog in the wheel of over policing, over criminalizing, and over incarcerating the youth, specifically the black

population, of Chicago (and the rest of the country, as it turns out). As a 18 year resident of the city and a lifetime resident of the Greater Chicago area, I have seen first hand how the police racially profile those that they are supposed to be serving. Even in my 92% white school the police would have a talking-to with those they didn't perceive as "meaning it" or those that "came from good families" - and then punish or even take to jail those from non-white upper class families for the same offenses.

The recent events in our city have allowed the police department to show their true intent as they unabashedly and violently struck out at peaceful protesters, and then decided to enforce curfew violations in a disgusting racially biased way, leading to over 70% of arrests for curfew being non-white offenders. I myself violated curfew several times and saw police and wasn't so much as given a double take. These people are not to be trusted with our children! Violence is their only language and communicating with violence is the absolute most damaging and terrifying way to communicate with a child. These officers are not building bridges, they are acclimating our students to incarceration.

Let individual schools deal with security issues they find they have with private security if needed. In addition, take the money saved from CPD and replace those offers with mandatory or optional therapy, support, and social engagement activities for the students in those communities.

Please realize the CPD is not in a position to fix their own problems quickly and they have miles and miles to go before we should consider letting them guard the experience of children in school in our city.

Thank you in advance for making the right choice for our city and focusing money on community building instead of community-incarcerating.

- [REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a North Center resident urging you as the Board of Education to do everything in your power to remove the CPD from our schools.

Our children deserve a learning environment that values them and creates a sense of community. We could use the funds we pay these cops to provide more nurses, social workers, and psychologists to kids who desperately need their help. We do not need to criminalize misbehavior in schools and put more children in the school-to-prison pipeline. I'm sure you're also aware of Chicago's track record of SRO's disproportionately arresting and disciplining black children as well.

Cops in our schools do not make our children safer, they simply take precious funds away from needed services and can have a very negative impact on our students' lives.

I hope tomorrow you vote to remove CPD officers from CPS schools and take a bold action on this moment that demands it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPS Student Wellbeing  
To the Chicago Board of Education:

I am writing as a Chicago citizen, taxpayer, and voter in the 47th ward. My name is [REDACTED]. I would like to begin by extending my thanks to the Board of Education for their serious consideration of ending the CPS' current contract with the Chicago Police Department. It is imperative to the wellbeing of students (regardless of the area of their school) that they are separated from police officers. Police do not aid student wellbeing - in fact, there is substantial evidence that they are detrimental to students. They are aggressive, focus on punishment and creating an environment of fear, and often this aggression is used against mentally unwell children and teenagers. This is simply unacceptable. As a person who has struggled with mental illness my entire life, I can definitively say that the presence of police, especially during an emotionally stressful time (such as a panic attack), only hurts the situation.

Furthermore, a policed environment is not a safe or happy one, especially for Black and Brown students (who are also statistically more likely to be targeted by police officers.) If these students continue to experience school as an environment that is defined by police presence, they are more likely to associate negative memories and feelings with school altogether. Why would a teenager who has such negative associations with school choose to stay enrolled? Why would a child's attendance stay strong if they are routinely bullied by law enforcement when they attend? How can a student focus on schoolwork when they are under emotional stress and/or under threat of physical violence?

I understand that safety is a concern and that often, schools face student-on-student violence that requires outside intervention. However, these are highly delicate situations that require a deep understanding of childhood and young adult psychology in health. My mother was a high school substitute teacher for many years - she was able to break up and de-escalate fights between students. If she, a five-foot-one woman in her 40s with no weapons to protect herself can de-escalate a situation like this, there is no reason for an armed police officer with no training in education or psychology should be needed for these situations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of removing police from our schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts: people who are trained to HELP students, rather than to punish and harm them. This is an investment in the lifelong wellbeing of

students: I urge you to invest in their success, not their punishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS!

Dear Chicago Board of Education members,

During your vote tomorrow, please move to remove CPD from CPS, and redirect the \$33 million CPD contract to guidance counselors and social workers in schools that don't have them.

Police don't stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students. By redirecting CPD/CPS funding, you can help end the school to prison pipeline.

Thank you so much,

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from CPS

Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Chicago.

I am asking that you vote to terminate the \$33 million contract between the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Public Schools tomorrow. I am asking that CPS use this money to hire more social workers, school psychologists, and school nurses.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

As a Chicago resident (of the 39th ward) I would like to voice my support of removing Chicago

Police from our schools.

While security/safety is important, having police officers leads to our young folks getting charged with assault and other crimes at a MUCH higher rate than if non-law enforcement security was employed. Schools should be a safe place for our kids to learn from their mistakes. By having LEO present, these mistakes are met with life-altering legal consequences which will drag them down without giving them a chance to improve and excel.

Please do what's best for the long-term benefit of our young Chicagoans & vote to remove CPD from our schools.

Thank you,

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Public comment in support of Motion to Terminate CPD Contract with CPS

Good morning,

My name is ██████████ and I am a resident of the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. I am writing in support of the motion to terminate the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Chicago to remove Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools. We demand that the \$33 million contract with CPD be terminated immediately and any further negotiations for contract renewal be ended as well.

We urge you to listen to the Chicago Teachers Union and the students of CPS, who have been asking for that \$33 million to be reinvested in school counselors, restorative justice coordinators and social workers for every school in the district. The CPD school resource officers DO NOT make schools and students any safer. Safety does not exist when Black and Brown young people are forced to interact with a system of policing that views them as a threat and not as students. For many Black and Brown youth, the presence of police in their schools disrupts their learning environments. There is a culture clash that exists between law enforcement and the learning environment: police enforce criminal laws, while schools are supposed to nurture students. This moment calls on us to take action and question why police are in schools at all and conclude that police are incongruent with the educational environment we envision.

The data speaks for itself. Even while police incidents overall have cut in half in the past decade, **they continue to target Black students at 4 times the rate of white students in CPS.** The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least **2,354 misconduct complaint records** on file against them. If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for **317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color. 316 students ages 6-10** have been involved in police incidents in school over the past three years. Each data point included in this research is a child in our community, and it is our duty to protect these children and foster a healthy

environment for them to learn and grow, which is incompatible with any type of police presence in schools.

We are at a pivotal juncture in the reshaping of our cities and communities, and we urge members of the Board of Education to make the only responsible decision in this issue and invest in real safety for Chicago's youth by cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department immediately.

Thank you,

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A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

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#CPDoutofCPS

HEY! HELLO! HI THERE!

I am a product of the Chicago Public School system. I am a white female in my 30s that had the privilege of attending Sutherland Elementary School in Beverly. I also had the privilege of feeling safe in my classroom environment. This was not because of the police in my school, but unfortunately because of the color of my skin. This is not the case for all children attending these institutions, as I'm sure you very well know.

As a current resident of Chicago, I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department Department. Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities (data from CPS website), all of whom are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into schools. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be allocated into resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them. We demand you all take the steps to ensure Indigenous, Black, and brown students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and CPD- the power to add and remove officers lies with the principals and LSCs and we call on you to act accordingly and remove the police presence.

Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who are working towards ending the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so

will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens this weekend, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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#### Public Comment on CPD Contract

Hello!

\$33 million is far too much money to spend on CPD in our schools. It is concerning to me that especially in this moment the Chicago Board of Education is continuing to support police in our schools. The School-to-Prison-Pipeline is very real and we must do everything in our power to prevent it. Time's like these require bold action. Please end the contract for police in Chicago Public Schools. Allocate the funds for something else that will directly impact students.

[REDACTED]

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#### CPD out of Chicago Public Schools

Board of Education Members:

I am an LGBT attorney and resident of Chicago. I am keenly aware of the statistics on having officers in schools. Since Columbine, this has become standard practice in many urban schools. To date, such officers have stopped exactly zero school shootings. What they have done, however, is needlessly harassed, arrested, and given criminal records to far too many children--largely children of color--who then become the justice system's problem and face undue consequences as a result.

I have also had personal interactions with the CPD. Despite being an attorney, polite, and, let's just say it, white, the officers threatened me, falsified a police report (e.g. listing "answers" to questions I was not asked), and hurled homophobic insults at me. I cannot imagine having such a taxpayer-funded presence in my high school growing up.

Please vote to remove the CPD from public schools. They do more harm than good. The numbers speak for themselves.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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### End police contract with CPS

Hello I am a resident of the 40th ward and I request that you vote to end the police contract with CPS as it over polices minorities and facilitates the school to prison pipeline. It does not serve or protect our students it criminalizes normal children's altercations and behavior.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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### CPD out of CPS

As a concerned resident of Chicago, I believe that my well-being is intertwined with the well-being of all the city's residents, including children. Policing students does not foster a positive, safe learning environment for CPS students. I urge you to terminate the CPD contract with Chicago Public Schools in advance of the upcoming policy renewal deadline. Data shows that students of color are disproportionately criminalized by the presence of police in schools. CPS' current \$33 million contract with the CPD is egregious, considering many of our students lack proper textbooks and learning materials, funding for meals, school nurses and social workers, art and music teachers, extracurricular activities, adequate support for teachers, and the list goes on. I demand CPD out of CPS.

Signed,  
[REDACTED]

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### CPD Vote

Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the 47th Ward in Chicago. I am emailing to urge you to terminate the Chicago Public School district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in your vote tomorrow, June 24th. The \$33 million contracted to CPD must be reallocated to fund resources for our schools, including social workers, librarians, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors. These resources will support marginalized students by addressing root causes of readily visible problems, instead of continually relying upon punitive enforcement structures that disproportionately criminalize Black and brown students.

I implore you to ask yourself this question: What is the *purpose* of police officers within educational spaces? Law enforcement within our schools is not safety; it is not justice. The presence of law enforcement within our learning institutions both increases the susceptibility of marginalized students to unchecked police violence and systematically funnels students into the

criminal justice system. Police in schools defers and denies the necessary guarantees of public education: a pathway to prosperity and health.

The funding of police in schools, at the expense of critical school resources, does not ensure the children of Chicago the bright future they deserve. Remove the 220 police officers from Chicago Public Schools and terminate the city's contract with CPD. Show these students that they are brilliant and worthy of care, quality education, real safety, and joy. Invest in the future of Chicago, because these youth deserve it.

Signed,

[REDACTED]

---

Remove CPD from public schools

Members of the board,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Chicago resident of ward 47, represented by Matthew Martin.

I had the privilege to attend a public school where I felt welcomed, not policed. I felt safe because I had no armed officer present to made me feel otherwise. I felt supported because I had guidance counselors trained to work with kids of all age groups.

I do not believe CPD has any place in Chicago schools and do not want my tax money to pay for officers to be there.

I ask that you vote to remove CPD from the Chicago public schools tomorrow.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Cops in schools?

Hello,

I'm a resident of Chicago and I am reaching out because I know that tomorrow you all will be voting about taking the CPD our of CPS.

I'm an educator and artist. My students are smart, funny, and insanely talented young people. They have hopes and dreams and ideas about what their future could look like. It is not

fair that the place where they go to learn is being policed by thugs. Yes, you read that right- THUGS.

Police were placed in schools to help prevent school shootings and they have yet to help prevent that from happening instead, they are arresting BIPOC students at an insanely high rate. How is this okay with you? How is it okay that BIPOC students are being openly targeted in the place where they are trying to learn?

I beg you to rethink about having CPD in CPS schools. Our students don't need police in their schools, they need nurses, social workers, their teachers need supplies and academic support.

Our entire world is on the brink of a huge historical moment of change. Do not be the one that stands in the way of it happening.

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No CPD in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that

**finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).**

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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## REMOVE CPD FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hello,

I’m writing to voice my opinion that Chicago police officers should be removed from all public schools. The Chicago Police Department has been a criminal and racist organization since its inception. Their crimes are staggering, given their scope and the damage they've caused. Theft, assault and murder are regular occurrences, along with assassinations (RIP Fred Hampton) and participation in ICE raids.

These people have no business being around children, let alone an authority figure in a place of learning. They continue to use brutal force in schools in the same way they brutalize adult minorities on the street.

Divert those funds to hire social workers, drug specialists, help community organization efforts, HIRE AND PAY TEACHERS! Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Northwestern student with CPD concerns

Hello,

I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I have failed to speak up on behalf of the young Chicago student community in the past, and while living in the little bubble of Evanston, have often not spoken up enough about issues in our city. This ends now. CPD is unsafe and continues racist acts of police brutality throughout the city. I do not support their presence in schools.

Thank you for doing what is right.

Respectfully,



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End Contract with CPD in CPS!

Dear Board Members,

Please pass the motion to end CPS's contract for \$33 million with CPD.

It is long overdue to end the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. The police have no place in our schools, they are not protecting our children they are hurting them. Please end this contract so that we can funnel the \$33 million into the Public Schools that do not receive nearly enough funding as is. This money needs to be used for the education of our children first and foremost, NOT for the wages of a force that has not protected them from harm and actually CAUSES harm to these students. Students deserve a safe learning environment and the police do NOT provide this. In fact it is the opposite.

Please end the contract!

This is so important for our students. You need to hold their best interests first and foremost. They deserve better. They deserve a school that is fully funded and free from police threats.

Thank you.



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Keep Police out of our Schools

Good afternoon,

I am a lifelong Chicago resident and former CPS student. I am deeply concerned about the nature of CPD presence in CPS schools. Police can be a source of profound danger to students, both because their potential inflict violence on students, but also for their potential to criminalize students and bring them into the inherent violence of the criminal justice system.

Their presence in schools sends students the message that they are a population that needs to be policed, with all the racial subtext involved. The funds used to maintain a police presence in our schools could be better used to enhance our students' education experience and opportunities.

When you vote tomorrow on continuing the SRO program, I urge you to vote against it.



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## Removal of Police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a former CPS student and feeling strongly about this. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that

**finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).**

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD Vote

Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the 47th Ward in Chicago. I am emailing to urge you to terminate the Chicago Public School district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in your vote tomorrow, June 24th. The \$33 million contracted to CPD must be reallocated to fund resources for our schools, including social workers, librarians, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors. These resources will support marginalized students by addressing root causes of readily visible problems, instead of continually relying upon punitive enforcement structures that disproportionately criminalize Black and brown students.

I implore you to ask yourself this question: What is the *purpose* of police officers within educational spaces? Law enforcement within our schools is not safety; it is not justice. The presence of law enforcement within our learning institutions both increases the susceptibility of marginalized students to unchecked police violence and systematically funnels students into the criminal justice system. Police in schools defers and denies the necessary guarantees of public education: a pathway to prosperity and health.

The funding of police in schools, at the expense of critical school resources, does not ensure the children of Chicago the bright future they deserve. Remove the 220 police officers from Chicago Public Schools and terminate the city's contract with CPD. Show these students that they are brilliant and worthy of care, quality education, real safety, and joy. Invest in the future of Chicago, because these youth deserve it.

Signed,



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Police Contract

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident, and I am writing to voice my support for ending the CPS contract with the CPS.

Schools can and have succeeded without the presence of police, and armed officers have no place inside places of education. Money that is funded towards the CPD should be instead allocated to programs which directly help students, such as nurses, social workers, and teaching resources.



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Remove CPD from Chicago's Public Schools

Hello,

I am emailing to voice my support for the proposal to remove CPD from Chicago's Public Schools.

Thank you.



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Call to remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am Chloe Pelletier, a resident of the 32nd ward. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[Redacted signature block]

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Message from a concerned Physician

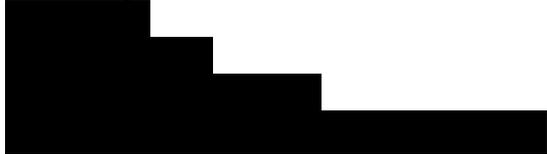
Hello Board of Education!

My name is [Redacted] and I am a resident physician practicing family medicine in Chicago. I am contacting you to seriously urge you to vote to end the public schools relationship with the p\*lice.

P\*lice presence in public schools is absolutely unnecessary and ending the \$33 million contract could open up funds to provide more nurses, advisors, mental health professionals and teachers for our schools!

In addition, presence of employees who have a history of targeting black and brown folks for DECADES enhances the chronic stress of your students, preventing them from reaching their full potential and encouraging the existence of the school to prison pipeline.

Vote for your students.



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CPS contract with CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am a Chicago resident since 2010 with family in Chicago since the late 1910s. I have been able to get a good perspective on safety and education issues in our city from my relatives as well as extensive experience in CPS programming and schools. I have worked as a substitute teacher in CPS schools as well as extensively in after school and summer leadership programming around the city. My introduction to community focused work in Chicago was through an organization at my college focusing on urban education. I have gained much insight from being in schools, and from getting to know the experiences and perspectives of CPS students and friends who are alumni. I think that now is the time to change the tone and approach in our school system and I ask that you listen to people reaching out in favor of ending CPS' contract with CPD and transitioning to employing other professionals to work with students in our schools.

Through my involvement in the urban education organization I was able to explore the School to Prison Pipeline. This is an alarming reality faced by our students. It's up to us up support their development as people or to funnel them into the carceral system and hurt their chances at a freely developed life.

As adults in our schools, we are in charge of setting a tone. Students mirror that tone and know exactly what kind of energy is behind it. I know they respond better and are more vulnerable to a caring, compassionate, intuitive and non-judgemental, gentle approach than a tone set by the presence of a police officer. Communities have long distrusted police due to their experiences outside of school walls. We have so much work to do to change the culture of our schools and truly supporting the well-being of the communities each of our students live in. We can start with this.

Restorative/transformational justice facilitators, social workers, counselors and other workers should be in place of police officers. If somehow needed, a police officer can be called.

I do really believe we get what we create and what we put out in terms of tone. These are young people in our wider village. Let's show them we want to support them instead of police them.

I have taken the rest of my letter from a template created by a fellow stakeholder in this issue because I agree with what it says.

I do want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "**[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you for your time,



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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I'm writing to request that you please vote to REMOVE Police from Chicago Public Schools. I am a Chicago resident, Social Worker, and youth development specialist and I care deeply about this issue.

I have seen with my own eyes young people being violently pushed up against walls, physically forced into uncomfortable holds and humiliating positions, being put into handcuffs, and being verbally harassed while they are at their public school. I have seen youth being treated like criminals by school resource officers - often just for expressing typical adolescent behaviors - "talking back", "rolling their eyes", "not following instructions" and "giving [the officer] a hard time".

Schools should be using other resources and techniques to support positive behaviors and keep kids out of trouble - and if the expenses of the CPD contract were to be eliminated from the CPS budget, there would be more resources available to deploy strategies that are more effective and more trauma informed for children and their families.

Thank you,



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Citizen inquiry

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am emailing to plead that the Chicago school board vote to terminate the contract with the CPD. There are so many different areas within the budget that that funding would be better allocated to. Thank you for your time

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

To the Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I urge you to end your contract with the CPD, and instead, engage communities on alternatives to policing and targeted resources centering Black students. Use those funds to support students in crisis and provide emergency response counseling.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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CPS Needs to Cut Ties with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a student calling for the removal of the CPD from CPS. Police presence in an educational setting is not only unnecessary but detrimental to the safety of your students. Police brutality in our country is rampant and unavoidable as long as the police remain an institution. If you really believe in protecting the safety of your students, you will end your contract with the CPD.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Policing in our Schools

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a proud Chicagoan living in the 39th ward with my husband and three children. I've lived in many neighborhoods in Chicago for over 15 years, and I am an alumni of Loyola University. I am a youth sports coach, a member of our "Friends of" community at our elementary school, and a poll worker in my neighborhood. I believe in the city of Chicago.

My oldest son, [REDACTED], has just finished his kindergarten year at [REDACTED]. In the next few years, his younger sister and brother will join him, because we believe deeply in the education promised by the public school system. We also believe deeply that being invested in our community is an extremely important part of making our neighborhood the amazing place that it is. It is everyone's job to ensure that our community continues to thrive.

I know that tomorrow there is a vote to decide whether or not to remove the CPD from our classrooms and schools, and I want to urge you to vote to remove them. I do not believe that the presence of police officers is doing anything to make our schools or our students safer, and instead is a threatening presence that disrupts the learning that our young people are trying so hard to do. Our teachers work so incredibly hard to support the students of their schools, no matter what their home circumstances, mental health, or neighborhood experiences are. Police are frequently using bullying tactics to keep kids in line, with no nuance or regard for the complicated circumstances that we know many of our neighbors face. They're undoing the good work of our school system,

Dealing with mental health and psychology means deescalating, and we have seen from the past few weeks that this is something our police officers struggle with, especially when it comes to brown and Black students in the city. If we truly are to strive to make the future brighter for every citizen of this great city, then it needs to begin with setting them up to succeed. Allowing police officers to harass our children simply has no upside. I know as a mother of white children in an upper middle class neighborhood school, my children will not have to face many of the issues that I mention above, but their classmates, friends, and our neighbors will, and I simply cannot allow my voice to not be added to those who call for educational reform. This is one step toward that reform. Our children need mental health resources, therapists, guidance counselors, and nurses. They do not need the police, who in many cases only add to their trauma, and again, distract from their learning.

As a body designed to focus on the education of our young people, our next generation of leaders in Chicago, I'm asking you to do what is best for the students and to vote to remove the police from our schools. Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

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Demand for Police Free CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Evanston, IL. I stand in solidarity with protesters across the country who are out in the streets in response to the horrific murders of George Floyd, a Black man, by the Minneapolis police, and are appalled by the recent murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and countless others. More broadly, we call for an end to police terror and anti-Blackness. One site of immense police terror and anti-Blackness is schools.

I recognize the importance of education. As a current graduate student earning my elementary education license, I have seen and studied the devastating effects of prioritizing militarization and punitive violence over community engagement and care, and I demand that Chicago refocus their priorities toward critical youth, education, and health services and take actionable steps such as removing the CPD from CPS. It is imperative that Black students are free from police violence and terror in their schools. This safety and freedom is not possible if the district continues its relationship with local police departments and private security companies.

Having recently graduated from a college in St. Paul, MN, and seeing the Twin Cities as another home for me, I am inspired by Minneapolis' decision to terminate their contract with the Minneapolis Police Department and I urge Chicago Public Schools to follow the lead of Minneapolis Public Schools, and take action to divest from policing and remove police from schools.

To that end, I demand that CPS immediately terminate all of their relations with police departments and private security companies. These policing institutions enact violence, and through these relations our public schools support this violence and continue to uphold the white supremacy that is foundational to this country.

I join students, teachers, parents and alumni around the country in our demand that schools remove police and security officers from CPS. I call on CPS to take the following actions –

1. Break ties immediately with the police departments and private security companies in that contract with CPS. Police, and their proxies, private security companies, have no place on elementary, middle and high school campuses.
2. Redirect funds divested from policing to provide educational opportunities for communities impacted by police violence.
3. Commit resources to support community-led alternatives to policing.
4. Propose plans for ensuring the safety of Black and other marginalized students on campus from racial profiling by police and other security forces with input from members of the Black, indigenous and other communities of color themselves.
5. Issue statements condemning these recent murders.

Although the murder of George Floyd was the catalyst for these recent protests, it was not the sole cause. Black people have been subjected to centuries of state terror, and economic and social exclusion. The current protests reflect concerned members of society taking direct, collective action to demand an end to the abuse and violence directed against Black people. Tomorrow, I hope to see a vote to remove police from Chicago Public Schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please vote to terminate contract with CPD

Hello,

I am writing to you again to urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the contract that CPS has with the CPD. I am a resident of the Chicago Lakeview neighborhood, and a former resident of Hyde Park, and have heard firsthand how menacing the police presence in CPS has been. Terminating that contract and using that money to invest in proper social services as well as librarians, social workers, nurses and other mental health counselors, would be a far better use of that money. I hope to one day raise a family in Chicago and send them to public schools, and I don't want to send them to a school where police officers have full reign to terrorize students. Please invest in the social services that these schools so desperately need. You have an amazing opportunity here to terminate this contract - please listen to the voices of our community here and vote NO.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school.

Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Support for the Proposal to Remove CPD from CPS by the BOE

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a medical student at University of Illinois College of Medicine and have been a resident of Chicago since 2017. I am emailing to show my support for the BOE to represent Chicago residents justly by meeting the demand to remove the CPD from CPS facilities.

Police systems were built out of corruption and have shown an unfathomable amount of power abuse and have caused a public health emergency. CPD disproportionately enact this abuse of power towards POC and specifically Black individuals, which is a large make up of the student body within CPS. I urge you all to take the correct actions to minimize/stop the CPD’s

involvement in schools so that POC and Black students can strive for equity within education without fearing the loss of their life or their peer's lives. We must actively fight against systematic racism, and I hope to see you all join this fight tomorrow as you vote on the proposal.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Vote in Favor for Removing CPD from CPS

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois studying social policy. I am especially passionate about issues that affect our nation's children and youth and policies that can be implemented in their best interests. Additionally, as a member of the broader Chicago community, I am especially concerned with the city's policies.

Thus, in line with my concern for policies that support the well-being of children and youth, I am writing to you to **vote in favor of removing CPD from the Chicago Public Schools**. As has become evident by now, police presence in schools only acts to reinforce the school-to-prison pipeline and rips futures away from so many young Black and Brown youth. They do nothing to support a learning environment meant for children to grow and thrive.

This is a critical step in attaining racial justice and promoting the health and safety of all children. It should be done now.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove Chicago Police Officers from Chicago Public Schools

Hi,

Thanks for taking the time to read this email.

**I believe YOU have the opportunity to drastically improve the lives of Chicagoans by removing CPD from CPS.** Already, cities across the nation are taking this step: removing school resource officers and re-allocating that money to comprehensive social services and enrichment programs.

Some facts:

-The \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for **317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses.**

-**Officers with the highest complaints against them are sent to schools on the South and West sides:** <https://copsoutcps.com/map/>

-**More training of police officers doesn't and will not work.** It is not enough to try and "train officers" to be better. The police department failed to meet consent decree reform deadlines and the president of the police union said he wouldn't follow new guidelines that restrict the use of chokeholds!

### **WE CANNOT LET POLICE BE AROUND OUR CHILDREN!**

I am not an alum of Chicago Public Schools. I'm an alum of New Trier Township High School, a school where I cannot remember ever seeing a police officer inside the school. Instead of police officers, NTHS invested in arts programs, STEM programs, adequate mental health counseling, and teachers who weren't completely burnt out trying to work within a system of oppression and inequity. I recognize that the resources afforded NTHS is due to the unfair system of property tax funding social programs in the district, and this too needs to change. But we can start with cutting police from CPS.

In my time working with South Side Weekly for the past three years, I've gotten to know students, teachers, and parents within the CPS system, specifically on the South Side in some of the most resource poor neighborhoods. From my conversations with them, I've learned that the things that are needed are NOT POLICE. What's needed is comprehensive social services.

### **REMOVE CPD FROM CPS!**

Best,



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CPD in CPS

Hello,

As a concerned Chicago citizen. I urge Chicago Public Schools to end its contract with CPD, it but our students of color in danger and is a huge waste of money, We just had a strike last year due to funding!!!



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Removal of CPD Officer Presence in CPS

Good afternoon,

I write to you today in support of removing the presence of CPD officers from CPS. Throughout my courses at UIC regarding urban education, I've analyzed crime, education, and racial disparities specifically in the city of Chicago, and I would like to remind our officials of the school-to-prison pipeline. Increased police presence only introduces young individuals to crime at an earlier age and can make them feel like criminals. Research demonstrates the destruction that this has on the development of youth and that it makes them more likely to actually engage in criminal acts. As a teacher of CPS today, I have seen the effects of this firsthand. Different resources would be more beneficial toward strengthening our schools and improving the lives of our students, such as allocating more money to nurses, social workers, librarians, etc. rather than the CPD. I believe in making the right decisions for our schools in order to ensure that our students grow up to be good, well-intentioned people, but this is only possible if the correct resources are put into place to help support them. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Members of the CPS Board,

I am writing to show my support for the removal of CPD officers from Chicago public schools. I am a new parent and my child will start attending CPS schools in the coming years. Law enforcement should not have any place in public schools. Study after study finds that the presence of police in school feeds the school-to-jail pipeline, especially of black and Latino students. They also lead to worse academic outcomes for POC students. Most importantly, not only do they not contribute to a safe school environment, in many cases police are the perpetrators of violence against children.

The CPS Board needs to prioritize the safety and the wellbeing of every child in the system. The CPS Board needs to take action and do its part in ending the racist policies that have enabled the intrusion and the harm done by police to our communities.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Please vote to cancel the contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO). The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had an SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like **increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system**. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research ([https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao?fbclid=IwAR2N1c-4zngMCHNEzrPU\\_FKsbngnhJfAbqBUT\\_Jph0CV4W2pBEQ\\_yd7cbYk](https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao?fbclid=IwAR2N1c-4zngMCHNEzrPU_FKsbngnhJfAbqBUT_Jph0CV4W2pBEQ_yd7cbYk)) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. **I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.**

90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Thank you,



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## Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

To all Board of Education members,

I write to you, as a former CPS student and lifelong Chicagoan, with the intention of urging you to vote tomorrow **IN FAVOR** of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from our public schools. City Council has already failed our students; but BOE members, you need to take the lead.

Simply put: criminalizing and punishing students for their behavior is ineffective, unjust, and violent. Schools do not need to punish, shame, silence or isolate students for their actions. Instead, students need healing, resources, and support. The cruelty of police officers will not end student misconduct. Schools need to address the root of student's "bad behavior" - generational poverty, domestic violence, lack of recreational programs, lack of creative outlets, etc. Schools need to build trust and show students that people care for them.

There is no need for the presence of police officers in an educational environment. This environment should be **safe, restorative, and transformative** for students. Schools should be a site of learning, healing, and growing. CPS students should not have to spend 8 hours of their day fearful that one of their actions could be misinterpreted and lead to them being physically or emotionally assaulted by someone in a position of power.

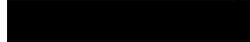
Additionally, many Black, brown, and low-income students already spend most of their day being violently overpoliced in their own neighborhoods, before and after school. Therefore, at the very least, schools should be spaces where students can breathe easy. Our schools need mental health and trauma counselors, a lower teacher-to-student ratio, trained de-escalation staff, violence prevention programs, after-school programs, and so many more resources to help students thrive. Schools can achieve this by first removing CPD from our schools, and then by continually demanding that Mayor Lightfoot reallocate funding from CPD to education.

Board of Education members, YOU can ensure our schools are safe and supportive, not spaces where students are further terrorized by CPD.

The public school system has a lot of work to do to prevent teachers and administration from taking advantage of their authority and power to harm students. School officials and educators are not guilt-free. But the first step is removing police officers from our schools, and giving school officials and educators the training and resources needed to successfully embrace individual students and their varying needs.

So, once again: **I urge you to vote to remove CPD officers from CPS schools**. Use your power to ask the Mayor to fund our schools, not police.

I look forward to your decision to uplift and protect CPS students,



[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am [REDACTED] and am a resident of Pilsen, Chicago. I graduated of Benito Juarez High School (2016).

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "**[police funding] has the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are

multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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Please Vote to Remove CPS from Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering the removal of police from the Chicago school systems. I live in Andersonville and will be raising my family in CPS. My partner grew up in CPS and taught in the City Year program at Robeson, and his good friend is an English teacher at Lane Tech. They have confirmed that police in schools typically harass students over minor infractions and behave aggressively toward minors. I worked in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center for two years and can also attest that police in schools contribute to a primarily Black and Brown community school-to-prison pipeline in Chicago.

School should be a place where children have resources that address the root causes of any poor behavior, not where they could face arrest for acting in response to their circumstances. I know others are sending you results from studies such as “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” and “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” published by the American Sociological Review. The research shows that having police in schools has a disproportionately negative impact on Black and Latinx students in particular.

Investing in employees trained and experienced in de-escalation, child psychology and development, and therapy will do more to help our young people than having police in schools. Please vote to remove police from schools so we can replace them with professionals who can lead to better outcomes for everyone.

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Removing CPD from CPS

Hello,

As a CPS teacher of nine years, I am asking that you vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you for your service on the board.

Best,

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[REDACTED]

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Remove Chicago Police from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I'm writing in support of removing CPD from our public schools. My alderman, Matt Martin 47th ward, will be speaking in favor of this proposal tomorrow as well.

As a concerned citizen and former educator in both early childhood and higher education, I insist that we remove CPD's presence from schools. It is clear from the extensive incidents of police brutality documented all over the country these past weeks that having police in schools does not make them safer for students, particularly Black students as well as other students of color. It also doesn't make these spaces safe for BIPOC educators.

Please do the right thing and vote to create equitable learning opportunities for all students in Chicago.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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On tomorrow's CPD vote: In favor of nurturing

BOE members:

The concept of "give money to teachers, not police" in regards to schools should be as straightforward to act on as it feels to say.

Restorative measures rather than punitive ones – for example, the presence of counselors instead of people with firearms – is a conversation that should take place in all areas of society, but school resources are an incredibly straightforward first step: providing for peoples' needs, rather than exacerbating their problems and then devoting resources towards ostensibly protecting them from the negative repercussions of their needs not being met in the first place.

I have two children; we homeschool them because I have the resources to provide for my family and allow my wife to take on a full-time stay-at-home teacher role. I'm a privileged exception. If I needed basic resources to raise my children, I'd need them in the form of food, proper education, and a nurturing environment. To take money that could be invested in the nurturing of children and instead fund anticipation of the need for punitive backlash is a sobering and pessimistic view of humanity. Guns and police don't restore; they exist to "solve" problems – often violently – that should have been addressed far earlier, during the formation of the problem, by investing in a safe, restorative, and nurturing society.

This measure is one small step that can signal an investment in a positive future instead of further preparation to violently respond to a negative one.

Thank you for reading,

- [REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Board of Education members,

I clearly remember Columbine and the changes that followed. In the 21 years since that massacre we've placed police in public schools throughout the country, yet have seen no decrease in the rate of mass shootings and instead seen exponential increases in the rates of suspension, expulsion, arrest, and incarceration of black students.

Data clearly shows that police presence in schools negatively and disproportionately affects students of color and does *nothing* to make our children safer from gun violence.

I understand you are voting tomorrow on the subject of police in Chicago Public Schools. Please remove all police from our schools and add counselors, nurses, and resources to truly support students dealing with the effects of poverty, homelessness, family crises, and mental health issues.

Police badges and guns only make our schools resemble the prisons they so helpfully supply. Please vote to remove this piece of the school-to-prison-pipeline: remove police from all Chicago Public Schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Motion to end contract with police

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to voice my support for the motions to terminate CPS contract with the police and to redirect funds to support students.

Police are not trained to help students. Elementary, middle, and high school students who "mis-behave" do not need police intervention. They need support from people trained to work with children; then need counselors, psychiatrists, and health care workers; they need adults who care about them. Reading through point #6 of 20-0624-MO1, I am convinced - and hope you are too - that police can cause more harm than good. Why are police with misconduct charges against them allowed near our vulnerable children; children who should be protected from abusive adults. Why are police involved in incidents with young children; children who need nurturing, not violence. Police are a force to be used against true violence; not a force to be used against our children in school.

Please terminate the contract and redirect funds to supply all CPS schools with counselors and health care professionals.

Thank You,  
[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

Hello Chicago Public School board members!

Hope you are having a fantastic day!

I am writing to demand that tomorrow you vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public schools. The 33 million dollar contract that is currently held with the CPD should be used for supplies, books, nurses, social workers, and countless other resources that would greatly benefit the students of the Chicago Public School district. Also having police officers on school grounds is proven to result in more students (mostly black students) being arrested instead of simply disciplined by the school or their parents.

Please consider that police presence at these schools are often doing more harm than good.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

North Shore resident.

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Terminate CPS contract with CPD

Hello,

I'm [REDACTED], a student at Northwestern University. I'm writing to show my support for terminating CPS' contract with CPD. Police in schools do more harm than good, especially toward people of color.

Data show that schools with cops are more likely to refer children to law enforcement, including for non-serious violent behaviors. In 43 states and the District of Columbia, Black students are more likely to be arrested than other students while at school.

Additionally, the resources put toward policing could be used for much needed and underfunded programs such as counseling services or more educational resources. Please make our schools a better or safer place to learn by terminating our contract with CPD.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Ending CPS contract with Chicago Police

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the Ravenswood neighborhood. I want to express the importance of getting police out of Chicago Public Schools. Students deserve to learn and grow within an environment that cultivates freedom of exploration and growth, not criminalization and containment. We can be better, and we have to start by treating our children better. If we meet them with violence and punishment during their formative years, that only sets the unfortunately accurate precedent that they are viewed as criminals in a system that is set up for them to fail. In order to effect true change, we have to start with our education system and stop treating children like they are a threat that needs to be contained.

The police have demonstrated time and time again that they do not have Black and Brown citizens' best interest in mind. The police force is incapable of being nonviolent, for violence is their primary method of problem solving. How is this good for anyone? Aren't we better than resorting to violence, especially in schools? Please, remove them from classrooms. They are designed to be an oppressive force. How are kids supposed to feel comfortable to learn and grow in an oppressive environment?

We have to do better.

Please hear us,

[REDACTED], Chicago Resident

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Please Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

Good Afternoon,

I'm a concerned educator and Chicago resident of the 47th Ward writing today to urge you to vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools and re-invest the funds towards trauma-informed professionals and programs that promote learning and disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

According to a 2011 report from the Justice Policy Institute, "when schools have law enforcement on site, students are more likely to be arrested by police instead of discipline being handled by school officials. This leads to more kids being funneled into the juvenile justice system, which is both expensive and associated with a host of negative impacts on youth." Data suggests that this discipline is not applied evenly, with black and brown students and students with disabilities suffering harsher punishment. Those types of punishment, including being funneled into the juvenile justice system or receiving out-of-school suspension, further disrupt learning and leave these children behind their peers.

Even if police officers have undergone anti-bias training and are truly doing their best to keep students safe, the mere presence of police in schools can be traumatizing to students. Chicago Public School students are approximately 40% black and 45% Latino, communities that have historically been subject to racist policing practices in Chicago and nationwide. Black and Latino students report feeling unsafe and distressed in schools, even when they do not interact directly with police. Interactions with police in schools are known to make matters worse, leading to anxiety, restlessness, lack of motivation, inability to focus, social withdrawal, and aggressive behavior. Broken down – that means that students who interact with police in schools are more likely to exhibit behaviors that lead to further interactions with police in schools. The body of evidence is clear: police do not make schools safer.

Thank you,

██████████

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Police DO NOT Belong in CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education, My name is ██████████, and I am a parent of two children living in Hyde Park. I am writing in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

The rise in SROs is credited largely to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. However, there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows

otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

Perhaps more important than the fact that SROs do not result in safer schools, is the increasing body of evidence demonstrating that, for Black and Brown students in particular, the presence of SROs result in schools that are LESS safe. Officers in the schools are likely to increase suspensions, expulsions, and even arrests for students, funneling students into the adult criminal justice system. Further, those same students are significantly more likely to face violence at the hands of the police who have been stationed in the schools with the mandate to keep those students safe.

Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latinx communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

The stated mission of the Chicago Public Schools is “To provide a high quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, that prepares each for success in college, career and civic life.” At this time, it has become abundantly clear that a police presence in school does not contribute to that mission, and in fact, explicitly hinders it.

It is time to sever the relationship between the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. When you cast your vote tomorrow, please stand on the right side of history, and vote to invest in a truly safe education for all of the students of Chicago, in every Chicago neighborhood. Vote for an educational system that actually supports students. Vote to discontinue the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,



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Parent in support of CPD removal

Dear Board Members,

I am a parent of a student in pre-K at Jordan Community Elementary School, writing to strongly urge you to support the removal of CPD from Chicago Public Schools. My reasons for supporting the removal of CPD are:

- The money should go towards nurses, social workers, and other support staff. Jordan currently has no full-time nurse, and I would feel much more secure with a nurse in my child's school than with a police officer. Our child had a stubborn cough all last winter and has been doing twice-daily breathing treatments. Now with the added risk of COVID-19, having an on-site nurse would make us feel much better about sending her back in the fall.
- Schools are not the right environment for a police presence. Children should not be made to feel that the potentially-violent force of the state is ever-present in their learning environment. Disciplinary issues for children should be handled through school staff, not the criminal justice system. I want my child to feel free, nurtured, and supported -- not intimidated and surveilled.

I urge you in the strongest possible way to vote in favor of removing CPD from CPS. Thank you!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing today to support the removal of the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. I am a theatre educator with eight years of experience teaching in school residencies and after school programs in CPS. CPS kids are my kids. CPS teachers are my valued colleagues and friends.

I am writing because we need to end the school to prison pipeline. The \$33M CPD contract should be redirected to provide desperately needed guidance counselors and social workers to schools that do not have them. Please take action to provide for the needs of our students and teachers. Our kids' lives are in your hands.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Chicago, IL and demand you vote to remove CPD from CPS.

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## Take CPD Out of Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm sure you are getting plenty of emails right now with all the facts and figures stating there is evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience. In fact, having police present in schools is scary and confusing. Children shouldn't be policed like criminals.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and **replace** them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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## Police Removal from Public Schools

I am a Chicago resident who asks that you please vote to remove CPD from CPS. Please use your position to do the right thing.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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## Remove police from our schools

Dear members of the Chicago Public Schools Board,

While I am not a CPS parent, I'm sure you will agree that we all have a vested interest in the quality of education that our younger generation receives. As such, I'm writing to you today as someone that has spent considerable time and effort on several fronts in writing and working towards policy solutions that create a more equitable world for us all.

We have known for a considerable amount of time that police in our schools do not make our kids safer, nor do they provide for an appropriate environment in which to learn. We must stop the criminalization of our students at once and take the same aim towards supportive services, including nurses, social workers, and other support staff in every school, that was amplified during the Chicago Teachers Union strike. Whatever sides we might have been on in that fight, we all have seen the data that shows that these are the resources that actually help our students

learn better, find solutions to their current problems, and allow them to plan for the future as we should wish for every single student everywhere.

Adding police to schools is shown time and again to simply create a carceral atmosphere to those schools. It encourages and accelerates the school-to-prison pipeline that any educator and equity-focused citizen should absolutely dread. Divesting from police in our schools is an investment in their future, one that doesn't need to include prison and the broken life that results from such an attack on that child's life.

Even those students that aren't subject to being thrown in prison speak to being brutalized and/or treated as criminals by the police in their schools. This is not something that training of police can ever solve. It's a flaw with policing in general. Especially upon our most marginalized populations.

As an activist and advocate in disability circles, I can point to story after story of mistreatment and even downright abuse of students at the hands of police. These echo strongly in BIPOC circles as well and are compounded when those circles overlap.

Meanwhile, the same money that is wasted on police now in CPS could instead be invested in those support services, nurses, and social workers mentioned above to far greater benefit and cost effectiveness. The results from such an investment would enhance the student experience, result in more students graduating, more students having the help and support they need to navigate difficult conditions outside the classroom, and more healthful outcomes as a whole.

We would ALL benefit from such an outcome.

I urge you all to vote to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department immediately this Wednesday. Use that money on resources that will lead to supportive and productive outcomes. Thank you.

All the best,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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Student Summer Concern

Hello all,

I'm reaching out to please ask the Chicago Public School district to end the contract with the CPD, to promote healing within our schools. The CPD has actively harmed the Chicago community, specifically BIPOC which many students are. Other school districts have successfully done so, and replaced these officers with trained professionals who promote student welfare over law and order.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: End CPD Contract

Hello,

I have been informed that Chicago Public Schools spends \$33 million on a contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead you should use that money to ensure that every Chicago student:

- Receives a device to connect to at-home learning
- Receives food services, especially for communities whose grocery stores have closed down from recent uprisings
- Has access to mental health services during this moment of crisis
- Receives tools for at-home enrichment learning like art supplies, sports equipment, learning aids

CPD presense in CPS is detrimental to our future generations. It criminalizes Black and Brown students, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline. I demand you end your contract with CPD and invest in your students, in the future of the city of Chicago.

Make the right choice and create police free schools.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD From CPS

To whom it may concern:

As a former CPS teacher, I am writing to demand that you remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. CPD funds should be reallocated to social workers, nurses, and restorative justice programs.

Sincerely,

--

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS!!!

Good morning,

I am a resident of Logan Square and I am writing to demand that you vote to end CPS' contract with CPD. Police do not belong in schools. It is your job, as members of the Board of Education, to create a safe environment that actually meets students' needs and enables them to learn. Children who "act out" are communicating unmet needs, and rather than hiring police to punish and harm your students, you must instead direct funds to programs and services that meet their physical and emotional needs. Children need to be treated with respect, empathy, and understanding, not the threat of police brutality and the fear of being criminalized. Please do what you were appointed to do and work to create a more supportive and less hostile learning environment for CPS students to thrive in.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Removal of CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Uptown. I am reaching out to express my full support for removing CPD from CPS. I have seen numerous videos of police committing acts of violence against children in Chicago schools. Money should be allocated on social workers, conflict resolution, and other therapy programs to support students. Schools should be nurturing environments - police do not create this.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Thank you for doing what is right to ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students in the Chicago Public School system.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS!

To whom it may concern on the Chicago Public Schools Board,

As you all gather to determine whether or not the CPS board should discontinue its contract with the Chicago Police Department, I urge you to do so without hesitation. CPD presence in our public schools does nothing to protect students and teachers, and instead harasses and arrests predominately black and brown students.

Instead money from this contract should be used to hire more social workers, more nurses and more school counselors, so when students are in need, they have adequate resources to aid them, rather than arrest them. We need more resources given to teachers to buy books and supplies, and maintain a fair wage for our educators, rather than police who handle student conflict with force and discrimination.

I have included a NPR article that highlights these points, for your reference, at the bottom of this e-mail. Chicago students deserve all the support we can give them, and that includes the immediate removal of CPD out of our students halls.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/23/881608999/why-theres-a-push-to-get-police-out-of-schools>

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Rodger's Park resident ad concerned Chicago citizen

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remove CPD from our public schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for reading this email. I am a concerned resident of Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood (40th ward) and a parent. I am asking for your consideration in removing police from Chicago school systems. Please take a historic stand and vote to remove CPD from our public schools. There is evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience. There is no place for heavily armed guards in the form of CPD in our schools where children are being taught. I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students success. The way to stop the school-to-prison pipeline is not to essentially replicate a prison by stationing armed guards throughout, but to provide students more services to deal with their hardships so they can avoid this cruel future.

Please follow the lead set by cities like Minneapolis, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle and vote to remove the CPD from CPS.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Terminate Contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a CPS alum of Locke Elementary School and a Noble Network Alumna. I also have a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

I am writing this email to encourage the Board of Education to terminate the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Having Chicago police officers in schools would initiate harassment towards students over minor infractions as well as using aggressive behavior tactics to instill fear in students. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and target disabled or mentally unstable youth. This is not appropriate or healthy. These officers pride themselves on having power and use it to put down students from Black and Brown communities, whose hardships largely derive from inadequate resources in these minority neighborhoods. **There is also evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience.**

In NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer" it is noted that "there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools... But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools. In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

In academically published articles such as "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes," it also states that "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to

stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of adolescent and behavioral psychology. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to terminate the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Removing police from schools and replacing them with qualified psychologists, social workers, and even school nurses will largely change the dynamic of a school's culture, especially in our Black and Brown communities. Funneling this designated money to go back into the areas where youth development is critical will have a far larger and positive impact on retention rates and seeing more CPS students go to college. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Take CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a health educator that works in several Chicago Public Schools. I am asking for the removal of police from schools because police in schools have harassed students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell youth. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experience.**

The Chicago Sun Times has reported that "having police presence in schools in fact contributes and is the entry point, often, to the school-to-prison pipeline — and particularly for black students, Latinx students and our students with disabilities. It's both academic research but also juvenile court judges say this." Additionally, the police are more likely to discipline and arrest BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in comparison to other races. In Chicago, specifically, African American children account for 63% of the 2,244 school referrals to police. Criminality is disproportionately associated with Black children in Chicago and it is driving children into the criminal justice system at alarming rates. In 2017, CPD arrested over 8,000 minors.

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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Funding in Schools

Hi There,

Please vote to remove police from schools. That funding would be better spent on school counsellors, nurses, librarians... anything but the police.

Thanks,  
Parent of two CPS kids

Hayleigh

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Justice NOW

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a recent graduate of Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I am part of a children's theatre organization and I have been in many of Chicago's schools. The use of CPD should not be within the Chicago Public Schools. Put your revenue where it is needed.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Chicago resident and a mother of a toddler who will attend CPS schools. I want to strongly urge you to consider ending the contract between CPS and CPD for resource officers. I myself grew up in a school that was over-policed, and know firsthand the kind of escalation, violence, and school-to-prison pipeline issues it can cause. I personally do not want my son and his peers in this kind of environment.

This is a historic moment and you have a chance to be on the right side. You can follow the lead of other school districts who have considered the other ways this money could be spent, and how it can benefit their schools and communities.

Please end the contract.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Regarding Tomorrows Vote

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and as a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote police out of Chicago Public Schools. Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute says that police in schools do not result in safer schools.

Rather than spending tax dollars on professional bullies for Black and Brown students, I would like to see CPS make positive change and hire qualified therapists and deescalation experts to

facilitate learning and improve the atmosphere of schools. Our students who already lack resources do not need to be punished by the law in a learning environment.

Thank you,



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Vote to remove CPD officers from CPS schools

Hello,

I am urging you, as a resident of Chicago and CPS parent, to vote today follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. I am also a Licenced Clinical Social Worker and know that interactions with police compound trauma reactions in youth. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Thank you for your attention to this matter,



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From an alum

Hello,

I was lucky enough to attend an excellent Chicago Public School, Hawthorne Scholastic Academy. I can't remember if we had a School resource officer--I don't think so, just a security guard. Either way my memory of school is of hallways full of art projects and teachers and kids and noise --and that alone says something about how decentered the police were/are in predominantly white schools. But once I started recruiting for the University of Chicago, and started walking into high schools all across the state & country, I saw the incredible divergence of what young people walk into when they go to "school." Some are walking into country club-like landscapes of incredible natural & architectural beauty. Some are walking into carceral spaces. This is a problem that extends, obviously, far beyond the issue of today: CPS's contract with the police. But I draw attention to this disparity because while we have an "emoji"-ideal version of what a school is in this country ready to hand, many many many people--especially White people--have no idea what it's like to walk into a school through a metal detector or be threatened with handcuffs for a disciplinary issue. The thing is, until we develop, as a society, a

healthy relationship with public safety--whatever role police might play in that--we need to do everything we can to keep young people, especially Black and Brown young people, disentagled from a criminal justice system that has ensnared them and their families for 50 years, to the detriment of their health.

PLEASE, get cops out of schools and let's re-allocate that money by listening to children and families about what makes them safe.

██████████, HSA '97

From NPR: "Federal data analyzed by the American Civil Liberties Union shows millions of students, especially students of color, attend schools that have police officers, but no nurse or school psychologist. In the past, parents have largely supported the presence of armed officers in schools, and until recently so have teacher unions. That changed on June 18, when the American Federation of Teachers, one of the country's largest teacher unions, passed a resolution calling for the separation of school safety and policing." "There isn't much evidence indicating that police officers in schools make schools safer," says Dominique Parris of the research organization Child Trends. "What they do do is increase the likelihood that Black and brown children are going to be involved in the legal system early and often.""

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Please Vote CPD Out!

Hello -

My name is ██████████ and I am a homeowner in the 48th Ward of Chicago at ██████████  
██████████ I am also an educator and I am writing today to demand that tomorrow you vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from our public schools. They do more harm than good for our black and brown youth. Please think of your constituents and your community when voting tomorrow and remove CPD from our schools.

Thanks in advance -  
██████████

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Removing CPD from Public Schools

To the CPS Board of Education,

My name is ██████████, and I'm a Chicago resident (47th Ward). I write to urge all of you to vote for the removal of CPD from public schools tomorrow.

The presence of police in schools is highly detrimental to CPS students, especially BIPOC students. Furthermore, those funds used to pay the officers could be reallocated into paying for school counselors, medical professionals, art programs, and so on.

My alderman Matt Martin will be speaking tomorrow in favor of this proposal, and it is my deep hope that you heed his argument.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Police out of CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education:

Tomorrow you will be asked to end the CPS contract with CPD. Please CANCEL that contract. With that \$33 million we could hire over 300 social workers to serve our students. Please listen to the Black and Brown Chicago students who are demanding that we remove the police from their daily learning environment. I am a high school teacher and I can emphatically state that police in schools do NOT make those students safer. And they certainly do not help students learn. Cancel the contract, invest in social services for our city's young people.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

resident of Rogers Park

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End the Chicago Public Schools Contract with the Chicago Police Department

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the North Center neighborhood of Chicago. In the vote tomorrow regarding the CPS contract with CPD, I strongly urge you to sever the contract. I am proud of my Alderman Matt Martin for his plans to speak in favor of this action. The city's Inspector General's Office has released two reports already that are critical of the SRO program, particularly regarding the lack of adequate training and supervision, which overall has resulted in numerous trouble incidents in which the health, wellbeing, and ability to learn of CPS students has been negatively impacted.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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End CPS Contract

Hello,

I live in Chicago and I firmly support ending the contract between CPS and CPD. Please stop giving money to CPD that they don't need, and instead use the \$33 million to support the students, staff, and community of CPS. That money could be much better spent paying teachers, supplementing the school with more nurses and trained social workers, and bettering the environment where these children spend the majority of their time.

Thank you,

██████████

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### Chicago Artist Against CPD in CPS

Hello!

My name is ██████████, and I'm a current Northwestern student. I'm writing in support of tomorrow's vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. As a former public school student, I'm acutely aware of the difficulties of reconciling with the fact that armed law enforcement officials surround you during all hours of the school day-- this kind of environment makes learning challenging, and fosters division among students, especially when these armed officials have a clear bias against Black and brown students. As a white person, I can speak firsthand to the ways that police officers' targeting of students of color informed my own biases-- I'm fortunate that I've had this pointed out to me and am able to work towards unlearning this racist conditioning, because I have many peers who are still victims of this disgusting stereotyping, which is perpetuated by the explicitly racist and racialized policing practiced by CPD officers in Chicago Public Schools.

As tomorrow's vote approaches, and you receive thousands of emails like mine, I encourage you to think not of your legacy, but of the good you can do today. If removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools saves one Black student's life, if it lowers suspension and expulsion rates for Black students, if it fosters an environment in which Black students feel safe and able to learn, you will have done the community service you were elected to perform. If you choose to keep CPD in Chicago Public Schools, you will be consciously endorsing the structures of white supremacy that continue to kill our Black community members. Choose wisely.

All best,

██████████

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### Remove CPD from all CPS schools

As a CPS parent and CPS high school teacher, I am asking that the Chicago Board of Education takes action to show that you believe Black Lives Matter by removing CPD from all of our schools immediately. We will use the \$33 million for counselors, nurses, social workers, custodians, teachers, and restorative justice work.

You must listen to the voices of our black and brown students. They are clearly communicating to you and our city that policing in schools has a deeply negative impact on them as students. Do the right thing now.

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a student at Northwestern University as well as a concerned member of the Chicago community. I'm writing to you today to urge you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. When students are in school they should be focused on learning and growing, they should not feel like they are being surveilled or treated as though they will do something wrong.

I've spent a lot of time working with students in CPS during my time at Northwestern, and I'm certain that having law enforcement in these schools is not what we need: what we need is more investment in educational resources, quality teachers, and student enrichment programming. There are so many amazing things happening in CPS, let's take it one step further and remove CPD.

Thank you for doing what is right, and fighting for our children!

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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CPD and CPS

Dear Chicago Public School Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern. As a psychology major, I am extremely concerned about the presence of police in the Chicago Public School system. I am writing today to urge you to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department.

There is a wealth of data that exposes the dangers of having millions of students in schools that are occupied by police rather than using that money to fund nurses, counselors, and other programming. For Black students, the danger is paramount. Black girls are 5 times more likely than their white counterparts to get arrested, according to the ACLU. This risk increases with police presence in schools, because behaviors that otherwise might be addressed with compassionate care from a school psychologist are instead turned over to the police to criminalize. For Black boys, the risk is much higher. Disabled students are three times as likely to be arrested than non-disabled students. Putting cops in schools does not make schools safer for anyone--they make everyone less safe. I'm sure I need not remind you that the Marjory

Stoneman Douglas High School school police officer in Parkland, Florida ran AWAY from the gunman, allowing harm to the students when the mass shooting began on February 14, 2018.

Illinois does not meet any of the federal Department of Education guidelines for the follow ratios: student-to-counselor, student-to-social worker, student-to-psychologist, or student-to-nurse. You have a chance to help Chicago ameliorate this issue by reinvesting the 33 million dollar contract in the people who matter the most: the students.

You are all on the Board of Education presumably because you care deeply about the children of the Chicago Public School system. The very best way you can protect them is to divest from the Chicago Police Department. Use the money to nurture and protect your students; not criminalize and jail them. We all have a responsibility to create safe and compassionate environments at school for ALL children.

Please do the right thing and end the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Terminate contract with CPD

Dear members of the board,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago, Illinois and a Chicago public charter school teacher. I am emailing you to ask that you support the proposal to terminate your contract with the Chicago Police Department, and remove police from our schools.

Police presence does not make our schools safer. Police officers target black and brown students, make students especially, and are a key piece of the school-to-prison pipeline. Many of our students across Chicago have faced trauma and terror at the hands of police officers, and school should be a place where they feel safe and supported. If our goal is truly teaching our students, then our response to misbehavior should be restorative rather than punitive. The \$33 million police contract would be much better spent on services that are actually proven to make our schools safer and our children more successful: social workers, nurses, and community involvement.

The presence of School Resource Officers sends one message to our students when they walk into our buildings: we think you are a criminal. How can we ever expect them to succeed, to grow, to learn and improve their communities if we assume the worst in them? I urge you and your fellow board members to reconsider the role of police in our schools and our society, and consider the causes of student misbehavior rather than responding only to the symptoms. Our students deserve better, and that \$33 million can be better spent on services that will actually improve their outcomes as well as their safety.

Our students, especially our Black, Indigenous, and students of color, are watching us. They learn best from our example. I implore you to terminate the Chicago Public Schools contract with CPD and show our students that they deserve to be treated with compassion and care rather than mistrust and brutality.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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My Present Concerns

Hi there,

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and an informed local voter. I have been deeply disturbed by the actions of CPD in this current historical moment and I have recently learned about its fraught history (and present). It is clear to me that CPD does not serve the interests of Chicago and its young people specifically. For that reason, I am asking you to vote in favor of removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I ask you to choose to be on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Removal of CPD

Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30

percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "**[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove the CPD from CPS

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Thank you for doing what is right. A place of learning, community, love, and growth is no place for police.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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End contract with CPD

Dear CPS Board:

I am writing as a concerned citizen who firmly believes in the value of education. Thank you for taking the time to vote on the presence of police in schools.

How is it conscionable to spend \$33 million on police when schools do not have NURSES? And the statement that the schools would not receive the funding back if the contract were cancelled is a slap in the face to the teachers, students, and parents of CPS schools.

Now is the time to do right by the children of Chicago, to end the School to Prison Pipeline, and to ensure a safe, welcoming, supportive learning environment.

Please vote accordingly. Thank you for your time.

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End CPD's Contract with CPS

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I demand that CPS end it's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Hiring police units does not provide safety to the students in the district, it only provides for more opportunities for harm. It is completely unnecessary, a waste of money and resources, and completely unethical.

I hope you do the right thing.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

Hello all,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a student at Northwestern University. I'm writing to you today on the occasion of the Chicago BOE vote on removing the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools and would like to express my support of **removing CPD from our schools**.

I'm a strong believer in what education can do for the youth of America, and I've been incredibly fortunate throughout my entire life to view school as a safe haven for self-exploration, learning, and growth and I hope with all my heart that Black and Brown children across the country can also experience this. However, with police presence in schools, this is often not a reality. Police presence in our education system reinforces the school-to-prison pipeline for the Black and Brown communities of Chicago and makes school--a place of learning--instead yet another place of police violence and brutality.

I instead urge you to divert funding from schoolground police officers to resources that **invest** in the life of Chicago's children. According to the ACLU, Illinois does **not** reach the recommended ratios for counselor, social worker, psychologist, **or** nurse-to-student. These, alongside life-affirming programs such as arts education, up-to-date school supplies, and mental health resources are a much better use of school funding.

I hope you vote in favor of removing the CPD from CPS schools today and stand up for the lives of the children of Chicago. These children deserve a full, abundant life and a school system that affirms that life. I hope you do your city's children right.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

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### Ending CPS Contract with CPD

Hello,

I am the parent of a child entering kindergarten at Nettelhorst this coming fall. I support ending CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. There is no evidence that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools; in fact, there are many stories of children being harmed by police officers in schools. Police in schools threaten students and thus interfere with their education, inhibit restorative justice, and feed the school to prison pipeline.

There are better ways to spend this money--social workers, nurses, counselors, teachers, and more. Investing in social services in schools instead of policing is especially important as our children's mental health has deteriorated over the last few months due to the pandemic and being at home.

I urge you to end CPS' contract with the CPD. Thank you very much for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Vote to get CPD out of CPS

Good afternoon,

I am writing to ask that you vote to end the CPS contract with CPD tomorrow.

I have been a second grade teacher for 7 years, and my years of experience, overwhelming data, and the demands of CPS students make it clear that the police have no place in schools. They don't make them safer and they actively make our Black and Brown students feel unsafe. One study shows that **"a disproportionate number of police incidents involve Black students. Black students currently make up 35.9% of all CPS students yet 65.77% were the subject of Police Notifications from 2011/12 to 2017/18. This is 4 times the rate of white students in CPS."** 33 million dollars would be much better served funding nurses, social workers, and restorative justice programs. My students who have dealt with trauma don't need a police officer in their schools; they need counseling, small class-sizes, and an environment that actively supports them instead of criminalizing them.

So, should you leave it up to the LSCs?

**No.** If LSCs vote to not have police in schools, they don't get to use that money to fund something else. That's a false choice, and does nothing to empower community members. Imagine if we told schools "you can either have this teacher that has **4 use of force complaints** against them or lose the teacher position altogether." That's ridiculous, but it's exactly what the Mayor and Dr. Jackson are suggesting. (<https://cpdp.co/officer/3145/edward-bryan/>). Our students deserve to be safe, but police in schools do NOT make students safe. If we want our schools to be safe and welcoming, let's fund things that truly improve safety. We must stop criminalizing our students now. We must listen to our students now. We must invest in their futures and their schools now.

Tomorrow, listen to the students of CPS and vote to end the CPS contract with CPD. Student lives depend on it.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am writing to request the board vote in favor of Alderman Martin's proposal to remove CPD from our public schools in Chicago. The money spent on policing are schools should instead be used for more productive efforts like social services, mental health, and counseling for our children.

Thank you,

██████████  
Uptown, Chicago

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Remove CPD from CPS

To whom it may concern,

My name is ██████████ and I am a student at Northwestern University. Additionally, I am an engaged and concerned member of the Chicago community. With that, I am urging you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Police have no place in the classroom and have been proven time and time again to detract, harm, and jeopardize learning environments for a variety of student populations. The money that is spent on CPD in the schools can be redistributed to add counselors, resources, and programs to aid the communities that have been harmed by the police in the past. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Vote To Terminate The CPD Contract

Dear School Board Members,

I strongly urge you to use your vote to terminate the contract with the Chicago Police Department.

This city needs to do better at uplifting our future generations in ALL communities. Stop the school to prison funnel. Put the money, energy, and resources into taking care of our students.

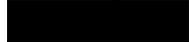
**Set your students up for success - NOT for failure!**

Police in schools should be about security for all students. NOT PUNISHMENT. Terminate this contract and re-negotiate a new contract or discuss alternatives for school safety that doesn't not have 200 officers in 70 schools for \$33 million. Invest in providing school nurses, career

counselors, and social workers. Invest in your teachers. Invest in materials and technology. I'm willing to bet that \$33 million can get you a lot more than a few hundred cops.

We are 20 years into this new millennium and it is clear that the old systems of our society need to be stripped down and rebuilt to reflect a changing world. Let the Chicago Public Schools be the example of meaningful and bold action. Our country cannot move forward and pave a better path for our future if we don't first take care of our children. As a board members you have a heavy responsibility and high expectations to uphold.

Best Regards,



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End the Police Contract

Hello,

Please end the Chicago Police Department's contract with the Chicago Schools. It is unsafe for students to be around armed fascists serving their own agenda.

Thank you.



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Withdraw the CPD from Public Schools

Good afternoon,

Police officers have no business in our schools. It is a known fact that black children are routinely arrested by these school-based officers for simple school-aged behavioral transgressions when they should instead be in school learning in an environment where they feel safe; furthermore, since police officers have been stationed in schools, not a single school shooting in our country has been stopped. It is a waste of resources on top of contributing to an environment where black school children are harassed for simple behavioral issues that teachers are well-equipped to handle without a badge or a gun strapped to their sides.

It is a known fact that nationwide, four times as many black girls are arrested in our schools than their white counterparts for things that absolutely do not require being arrested or manhandled by the police. This is unacceptable and putting our black schoolchildren at a disadvantage.

The Chicago Police Department should be immediately withdrawn from our schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
A Ravenswood Resident

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No More Cops in Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. If you care about the safety and wellbeing of students you will remove the cops whose presence endanger them. Thank you for doing what is right.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello and Good Day,

I'm writing to plead with you to terminate the Chicago Police Department's contract with CPS.

Chalkbeat found that in the last school year, 96% of SROs had allegations of misconduct against them and 41% of those were sustained. That shows that the reforms from last year didn't work. There is still much ambiguity over what SROs are supposed to do and that combined with the greater probability of harm to Black and brown students leads to much more risk over benefits of having police in schools. The money from this contract can be reallocated into programs that show a greater return and work on harm reduction of our most vulnerable students.

For those of you already planning to vote to remove police from CPS, thank you.

For those still undecided, be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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Keep the CPD out of CPS

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I have been a Chicago resident for over 13 years. I have been living on the west side including Humboldt Park and I have seen the severe negative impact

of CPD being way too involved with CPS. We demand CPS to break contract with CPD granting NO more police in schools. CPD should be DEFUNDED and those funds should go towards mental health clinics and after school programs and centers.

My last message had a typo unfortunately.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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STOP CRIMINALIZING STUDENTS: Vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong Chicago resident and although I attended a Chicago private school, I had friends who attended CPS schools for all thirteen years of their education. From their perspective, the presence of police officers in schools was confusing as a child; attending private school, I never had to worry about seeing police officers as I entered the school or walked down the hallway. Despite being there to "keep students safe," their presence often made my friends feel like it was more to police the students (many of whom were BIPOC and came from low-income families/neighborhoods) than keep out intruders.

My friend, who attended a CPS school made a poignant point, as both of us are white females: "now that I study education and education policy at Northwestern University I realize that while they may have just been confusing to me, a young white girl, they were symbols of violence for my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop."

I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD.

The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Support removal of CPD from CPS

To the Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a resident of the 49th ward. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. I urge you to please do what is best for the students and vote in favor of the proposal.

Thank you,

██████████

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As a Chicagoan, CPS alumni, and current student at Northwestern University, I am writing to deeply urge you to take action and terminate the contract between CPS and CPD. Our Indigenous, Black and brown students and communities are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into our schools. It is widely known that having police involved in schools causes the school-to-prison pipeline, where Black and brown students are funneled into the "criminal justice" system at a young age for doing something as small as scribbling on a desk or talking to a friend. By reallocating the \$33 million dollars in funds that CPS has invested in their contract with CPD, schools could actually invest in the lives of their students. Schools could have more mental health support resources, provide healthy food, house full libraries, have full-time nurses, and establish restorative/transformational justice spaces in order to hold students accountable for any conflict, rather than treating all conflict as a reason to punish students and strip them of their humanity. I demand that you all take the steps to ensure Indigenous, Black and brown students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police cause. Police do not protect students, police do not protect staff. They are the tools of the state to ensure equity can never be accomplished. The police hold a monopoly on the violence that is allowed to occur in this country, the police can not be reformed. No system intended at its core to maintain the racial hierarchy can be reformed. Do what you can do in this battle by terminating the contract with CPD, be on the right side of history, take Minneapolis Public Schools as an example. The police must be removed from our schools.

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no cops in schools

Hi,

As a veteran teacher, I sincerely hope you will remove school resource officers from CPS. I have spent 5 years in middle and high schools with Resource Officers and 4 years in high schools without. During my entire time teaching I have never felt more safe because of the SRO and I have never felt less safe without the SRO. I can confidently say all of my students feel the same way or they feel less safe with the SRO. If an emergency happens, we can call CPD like any other citizens can, but we do not need them there daily.

The money could be MUCH better spent staffing schools with counselors and other important staff who could prevent the concerns in the first place. Promoting the school to prison pipeline by involving officers in issues that could be handled by school staff is inappropriate, dangerous, and racist. Research repeatedly shows little to no evidence this makes schools safer and dramatic

evidence that it increases the likelihood Black and Brown children become involved in the legal system early, often, and unnecessarily. Our students would be MUCH better served if CPD was not stationed in CPS.

Thank you,

██████████  
Chicago Math Teacher

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### Vote to Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I graduated from Northwestern University in 2019. I consider Chicago my second home and am writing to you today to ask you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. This year, I worked as an Americorps Fellow at Great Oaks Charter School in NYC. I saw first hand that Black and Brown students do NOT need any more police presence in their lives. Please take the CPD out of schools. Thank you for doing what is right.

Respectfully,

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### Remove CPD From Our Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am urging you to vote tomorrow to cancel the contract with CPD and remove police from Chicago's public schools. We should focus our resources on building a better future for Chicago by supporting the health and development of all of our children and youth. The presence of police in schools runs counter to this vision.

Law enforcement was not designed to understand, address, or respond in developmentally appropriate ways to the challenges that arise in schools. Where social workers and counselors are trained to redirect negative behaviors and resolve conflicts, police are more likely to resort to arrests and other unnecessarily harsh disciplinary practices. These traumatizing experiences create toxic levels of stress that, over time, erode a child's resilience, confidence, and sense of safety and belonging.

Removing CPD from schools is also a matter of equity for Black and Brown students. National data show that students of color are much more likely to be subject to school-based arrests than white students – for identical behaviors. Chicago's history of racism in its allocation of resources has already put Black and Brown children on shakier ground than their white peers. Having police in schools exacerbates this challenge.

We need to remove police from our schools and reinvest those resources into school- and community-based supports.

Thank you,



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PLEASE VOTE TO REMOVE CPD from Chicago Public Schools. No Cops In Schools!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a concerned parent. Police in schools are known to harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from black and brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is ample evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "**[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Funding Board of Education NOT Police

Hello CPS,

I am [REDACTED], a rising sophomore in college attending DePaul University. I live in the 42nd Ward in the LakeView Neighborhood.

As a an active member and resident in Chicago, I would like to encourage the board who is meeting today to place the \$33 million dollar contract with the Chicago Police Department into the Chicago Public Schools.

By allocating money into schools rather than harmful institutions, specifically targeting Black communities, it allows for better education and even social help as well. It will allow the children to have adequate social workers, counselors, nurses and teachers who help the children towards a better future.

The Chicago budget has been suffering CPS students for too long now and they deserve to have adequate public education. Also, the Chicago Police Department have proved time and time again that they are not helping the community we want to keep safe but rather are hurting it.

I demand ties be cut for all CPD workers inside Chicago Public Schools and let the kids have an amazing education at the schools they want to feel comfortable in.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Get CPD out of CPS

Hi there,

I'm writing to encourage you to end the contract with CPD and remove or greatly reduce the number of officers in schools. Schools should be investing this money in social services for students and restorative justice officers.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
Chicago Resident

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CPD Vote

Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the 47th Ward in Chicago. I am emailing to urge you to terminate the Chicago Public School district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in your vote tomorrow, June 24th. The \$33 million contracted to CPD must be reallocated to fund resources for our schools, including social workers, librarians, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors. These resources will support marginalized students by addressing root causes of readily visible problems, instead of continually relying upon punitive enforcement structures that disproportionately criminalize Black and brown students.

I implore you to ask yourself this question: What is the *purpose* of police officers within educational spaces? Law enforcement within our schools is not safety; it is not justice. The presence of law enforcement within our learning institutions both increases the susceptibility of marginalized students to unchecked police violence and systematically funnels students into the criminal justice system. Police in schools defers and denies the necessary guarantees of public education: a pathway to prosperity and health.

The funding of police in schools, at the expense of critical school resources, does not ensure the children of Chicago the bright future they deserve. Remove the 220 police officers from Chicago Public Schools and terminate the city's contract with CPD. Show these students that they are brilliant and worthy of care, quality education, real safety, and joy. Invest in the future of Chicago, because these youth deserve it.

Signed,  
[REDACTED]

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End CPS's contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education -

Please vote to end the relationship between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Departments.

This termination is critical to interrupting the school to prison pipeline, which impacts some of CPS' most vulnerable students and permanently changes their course in life. Having officers in schools has not corresponded with a decline in school shootings, but it has led to a dramatic increase in the arrests of BIPOC students.

Terminating this contract will also allow the board to redirect the \$33M budgeted towards the CPD to guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them. These would be important resources for students suffering from trauma related to gun violence.

I know you are on the board of education because you care about Chicago's students. Please take care of them by investing more in their school buildings, teachers, and counselors, by divesting in the CPD.

Thank you,

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CPS contract with CPD

Dear Mr. del Valle,

Thank you for all that you do on the Board of Education.

I am writing to urge you to vote tomorrow to end CPS's contract with the CPD. My good friend is a teacher at Lincoln Park High and feels strongly that her students do not need policing from armed officers, and that these interactions can not only be unhelpful, but be actively harmful, often escalating conflict.

Thank you for reading this, and have a great day,

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Regarding Mtg 6/24 CPS/CPD Contract

Hello Chicago Public School Board of Education,

My name is ██████████. I am a resident of Rogers Park. I am writing to you today as a passionate citizen and advocate for the children of Chicago. It has come to my attention that you

will be discussing the contract between CPS and CPD tomorrow. I implore you to cut ties with CPD as there are many compelling reasons police officers should not be in schools. I have listed the following reasons and personal anecdotes for your consideration.

1) The funds are best put to use elsewhere. Especially in restorative or preventative measures for children. In the CPS FY20 Budget, programs are outlined that receive less funding than the \$33M contract with CPD. For example, \$31M for equity grants for 219 schools with low or declining enrollment, \$12M for english learners and bilingual education, and only \$5M for the equitable program application for 32 schools to fund STEM and IB programs. I believe this \$33M could help bolster these great programs or pay wages of other more child-safe professionals. I am appalled that many CPS students go to school where there is a "resource" officer but no nurses, social workers, or therapists. I would much rather the money be put to use in ways that will help children achieve in the classroom and at home. As a private equity accountant, I know that budgets are important. It's hard to change them, especially on short notice. However, when it is in the best interest of the primary stakeholders (students) reallocation can and must be done. [https://cps.edu/FY20Budget/Pages/FY20Budget.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3gjCFcFvP0T6RoM6fys8\\_GWNwCRtwW4UX39UxJan242fOBw54krIRg8Kc](https://cps.edu/FY20Budget/Pages/FY20Budget.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3gjCFcFvP0T6RoM6fys8_GWNwCRtwW4UX39UxJan242fOBw54krIRg8Kc)

2) Police in schools are bad for students. The presence of police in learning environments contributes heavily to the school to prison pipeline. Having an officer starts children's records far too early. Giving the CPD exigence to arrest them as soon as they turn 18, or even worse, incarcerate them in juvenile detention centers. During my time as a youth coordinator at Housing Opportunities for Women in Rogers Park, I had a 15 year old CPS student tell me "I'm not going to graduate. I don't like going to school because all my friends are in juvie now". This breaks my heart. Penalization is not the answer at this age. We know that children can thrive when given the right resources. Police are not the right resources. Furthermore, I want kids to graduate ready for college, trade school, or the work force; not for prison. I draw this belief from the following studies that present credible information on why police in schools is a harmful practice. <https://www.povertylaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/handcuffs-in-hallways-final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR15Twb7rSzupH2w3ZrVguz0Qd3ijcwlFUNjw2gYe2-ejkdQldqTUXEUrE> [https://www.aclu.org/report/cops-and-no-counselors?fbclid=IwAR0Ga5g0IJuIo2SGhHn8uZJ2jogwNOK-TZR1Y48Yf\\_TtMmjblY3k8cs1a40](https://www.aclu.org/report/cops-and-no-counselors?fbclid=IwAR0Ga5g0IJuIo2SGhHn8uZJ2jogwNOK-TZR1Y48Yf_TtMmjblY3k8cs1a40)

3) Police have proven that they are not fit for positions in school. I would like to share a personal story that was highly traumatizing to me. During a protest in the Lawndale area earlier this month I was verbally assaulted by a police officer for holding a sign that said "NO COPS IN CPS". I did not speak to this officer at all, I was holding the sign out of a car during a peaceful car caravan. This officer told me "Don't be one of the 12 killed tomorrow" in reference to a CPS alumni protest calling for an end to the contract between CPS and CPD happening the next day. After reporting this incident a sergeant followed up and completely discredited my experience saying that "we don't like to be in schools anyway so I don't think an officer would say that to you".

I hope that these 3 reasons among many others illustrate why I and so many others are calling for an end to this contract. I please ask you to do right by our city's kids. To end this contract and reallocate funds into the many ways CPS helps our youth. I ask, has there ever been this much buzz? This many demands? This many people taking the streets, sending emails, and calling? There is a reason that this force is unprecedented. We demand this change for our kids. I care about the children in my neighborhood- they deserve great schools without police.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this issue. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I recently graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. School should be an unequivocally safe space for students, not a militarized one, and not a microcosm of the police state in which Black students are disproportionately targeted and punished. Please, please do the right thing— lives and children's futures are at stake.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Written Comment- End CPD's contract with CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a CPS teacher. I just finished my 9th year of teaching. I am writing this e-mail to urge that you all vote to take the Chicago Police Department out of Chicago Public Schools. While I am sure that many of the SROs are very nice human beings, I also believe that the money that is budgeted for them could be used on things that would really help our students thrive and become college and career ready, such as librarians, therapists, social workers, and counselors.

There are many studies that show that having police in schools is actually detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the student population. These studies show that students are often met with harassment or feelings of discomfort, which directly impacts how a student will participate in their education for the day.

Our schools need more resources to help support our students of color. Leaving this up to the LSCs is NOT an option, as many schools just have advisory LSCs, as well as the fact that if an

LSC votes to not have a SRO, they do not get the money in their budget in return. It is time for the Chicago Board of Education to really take a stand and do what is right for students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Police out of CPS!

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing today as a concerned citizen of the City of Chicago. I live here in Chicago in Little Italy and I believe that Chicago Public Schools should end their contract with the Chicago Police Department and have police-free schools.

Having police officers within schools in the city only strengthens the school to prison pipeline and affects children's perceptions of themselves and their classmates. The money used to staff schools with police officers should be redirected to the schools themselves - so more social workers, counselors, and teachers can be hired and paid a fair wage, and so more school programs can be implemented to help children in schools grow and learn.

Please vote this week to terminate the presence of police officers in Chicago schools!

[REDACTED]

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Police in schools

Good afternoon,

I understand that we all want our kids to be safe when they go to school. However, cops are not the way to do that. Time and time again we see cops using unnecessary force especially on people that are the most vulnerable, like people of color or differently abled people. Police do not have proper training to be in schools. They do not belong there. Money that funds them should go to the students for proper special needs aids, social workers, and counselors. Money could be used for programs to keep our kids busy and off the streets.

You must reconsider the path that CPS schools are on. You have the chance to change it. Prepare our kids for a brighter future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPS contract with CPD: cancel it!

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a Rogers Park resident. I'm writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

**There is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."**

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools, like increases in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. **This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.** Like others, I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school.

The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latinx communities, with LGBTQ+ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. **The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.**

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention to police contracts in schools. In two weeks' time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with their cities' police departments to remove officers from schools. Precedent has been established, and now it's Chicago's turn to follow suit.

**I am urging you to join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.** 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets.

**At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor-to-student ratios are 1:650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.**

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Regarding Today's Vote

Hi there folks,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a student at Northwestern University, and I'm reaching out to you all today to let you know that you should vote to **remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools.** It's vital that the kids in the Public School System feel safe in school, and the constant policing of children is not accomplishing that. Please take this into consideration as you vote today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Urgent: Police Free Schools Now!

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a proud Chicago resident who attended Chicago Public Schools for 13 years. I am writing to demand that the Board of Education cut ties with the Chicago Police Department. My Black and Brown classmates should not be forced to interact with with a system of policing that treats them as a threat rather than as the incredible students and individuals that they are. The presence of police makes it impossible for Black and Brown students to feel safe in their schools, a place where students are meant to be nurtured, grow, and learn. The presence of CPD in CPS schools is fundamentally disruptive and promotes the criminalization of young Black and Brown Chicagoans. Furthermore, in a city where some public schools lack access to basic resources including books, technology, and even soap, the \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used to support essential educational services. I urge you to follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relationships with the Chicago Police Department. Redirect the \$33 million allocated for SROs toward increasing access to technology and internet for all CPS students; providing assistance to students in temporary living situations;

counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police; and investing in public schools on the South and West side that have long been ignored by the city.

You have an opportunity and a responsibility to make real change in our city. **Do what is right. Invest in Chicago students and remove the police from our schools.**

Thank you.



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CPD Contract with CPS

To the Board of Education,

As a community member in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago, I'm writing today to encourage you all to vote to end the contract with the Chicago Police department.

While I am not a parent of a student, I truly believe that we should be removing the police presence from our schools and redirecting that funding to more holistic, nurturing resources. I personally benefitted from mental health services and arts programs being well funded in my school district growing up. I know making those types of resources more robust in our schools creates a safer place to learn and grow, much more so than the police officers who end up creating an antagonistic and sometimes permanently harmful atmosphere, particularly for students of color. I hope you'll vote tomorrow to end the contract with the CPD and rebuild resources that truly protect and serve your students.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,



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Vote to remove CPS from Schools

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I am emailing all of you directly Because I think that it is critically important that you please vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

As a friend of many teachers, after school program workers, and having connections to the children in my community as well as previous work, I'm sure they could tell you as much as I could that children do not feel safe with police. In fact, many of these children are harmed by the presence of police in their schools.

If we're concerned about violence--How about funding in de-escalation programs, potentially hiring more counselors

If we're concerned about protecting the children---let's fund the resources that they and their communities need? Increased funding to after school programs, to resources for teachers in the classroom.

We have so many things readily available to use to support our children. A 33 million dollar contract with CPD is surely not serving our city's children.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Invest in guidance counselors, mental health professionals, and teachers!

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I value your commitment to CPS students and your desire to provide the best possible education that will contribute to both students' individuals and Chicago's collective successful future. With this in mind, I implore you to provide CPS students with the necessary guidance counselors, mental health professionals, supplies, and technology, and to ensure that teachers have the resources they need to make classrooms safe, healthy, collaborative, and rich learning environments. Please end your contract with the Chicago Police Department and reallocate those resources to help students thrive and provide them with the resources they need.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Urging you to vote for Police-Free Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident of the 47th ward. I love this city and the people that live here, and I want them all to feel safe in Chicago wherever they are - at work, on the Red Line, or in Chicago Public Schools. One way we can start making Chicago safer is by removing all Chicago police officers from CPS and investing in actual safety for our city's schools. **I am urging you to use your vote to terminate CPD's \$33 million contract with CPS**

**and reallocate those funds toward programming and resources for CPS students (like technology to ensure all CPS students can access remote learning during this pandemic) and hiring more CPS teachers to reduce crowded classrooms.**

I am a Chicago museum educator and I see thousands of CPS students, teachers, and parents each year that deserve care, compassion, and immediate resources. \$33 million dollars is a lot of money that the students in our city deserve for THEIR benefit. Our students deserve mental health services, not cops in their classrooms looking to criminalize children.

Please use your position to vote YES for Police-Free Schools.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

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CPD out of CPS

Please consider taking police out of our schools and re-investing that money in programs and supports for our students.

Thank you.

<https://news.uchicago.edu/story/preschool-education-can-benefit-generations-families>

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CPS and CPD

Good afternoon,

Please consider the following facts from ACLU before voting tomorrow:

1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors

3 million students are in schools with police but no nurses

6 million students are in schools with police but no school psychologists

10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers

14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker

schools with police reported 3.5 times as many arrests as schools without police

**No data indicates that police in schools improve student safety, student educational outcomes, or student mental health**

Roughly 25 percent of school police surveyed by Education Week stated that they had no experience with youth before working in schools

Students of color are more likely to go to a school with a law enforcement officer, more likely to be referred to law enforcement, and more likely to be arrested at school

Students with disabilities are disproportionately arrested and physically harmed by school police  
Black boys with disabilities suffer an arrest rate 5 times the rate for all students. In nine states, their arrest rate is 10 or more times higher than the national rate for all students. Latino boys with disabilities also have school arrest rates 10 times higher than the rates for all students in three different states. Black and Latino boys with disabilities are only 3 percent of student enrollment nationally, but comprise 12 percent of all student arrests.

CPS spends \$33M with CPD

Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest Black and brown kids disproportionately.

Please, please vote to put that \$33M to better use than criminalizing our children

Yours sincerely,

██████████

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Keeping Students Safe With Police Out of Schools

Good Afternoon,

My name is ██████████ and I am a Chicago resident, as well as a CPS teacher in Pilsen. I am writing in regards to the upcoming vote to remove police from schools. Chicago is the largest major city that has yet to commit to making substantial changes to their police department and by voting to remove police from schools we will join cities such as Minneapolis, Seattle, Denver, and Milwaukee that have already taken this historic step towards necessary change.

If you are not planning on voting to remove police from schools or are unsure, I would like to share some facts with you from a literature review on the impact of cops in schools. The paper is attached to this email for additional information to help guide your decision.

Here are the facts that stuck out to me:

- Data from the Citizens Police Data Project showed that 96% of police officers in schools had allegations of misconduct against them
- Over a 4 year period from 2012-2016 the Shriver Center found that the police officers assigned to CPS accumulated over 2 million dollars worth of misconduct settlements
- In this current school year among the 201 police personnel assigned to CPS there was over 2300 misconduct complaints on file against them

These numbers paint a clear picture of danger police officers in school pose. There are many more in the paper that further prove the point. These are not people who I want keeping my students safe and students have been saying the same thing for years. It is time we listened to our students, community members, and teachers in the call to remove police from our schools. It is

time for us to imagine a new way to keep ourselves safe by addressing the root problems, instead of further entrenching the cycles of violence and imprisonment that have destroyed the black and brown communities of Chicago. By freeing up \$33 million, CPS will have enough money over 350 counselors, social workers, and restorative justice coordinators who will give students the skills they need to be successful and actually address issues that are at the root of these problems.

Tomorrow you have the opportunity to be a part of history, I hope you can make the right choice.

[ 1 Attachment ]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I hope my message finds you well. I am aware that the Chicago Board of Education will be voting tomorrow on whether to end CPD's contract with Chicago Public Schools. I am emailing to express my support for the movement to end this contract because the CPD presence in schools clearly puts Black students at risk in a place they should feel safe. Dnigma Howard's experience and the many awful experiences of Black and Brown CPS students should move you to rethink CPD's presence in Chicago Public Schools. I implore you to please make the decision that will keep every student safe.

With Respect,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Keep CPD out of our schools!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a resident of the 1st Ward, specifically West Town, Chicago. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy.

As a clinician working with young Black and Brown children who have autism, I fear what could happen to them if they attend a school with police officers present in the future.

Police engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer," states "the data really shows... that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Remember our CPS teachers who went on strike for days earlier this school year demanding these same things. Cutting ties between CPS and CPD will not only create a safer environment where students can be more comfortable, it will also free up **millions** of dollars that CPS can use to address the issues that CPS employees were on strike for, especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group.

This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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As a teacher, we need to rethink police in schools.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to urge you to vote in favor of **removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools**. We are realizing as a nation that police do not protect and serve everyone, and that they are not equipped to effectively intervene and de-escalate an emergency situation. We owe it to our students to handle this in a smarter way.

As it stands, one of the first things I will be asked to collect from my students is a signed document stating that they have read the 76 page Student Code of Conduct in its entirety and understand their rights. However, I feel that by formalizing the process of facilitating interactions between students and police, given what we know about the school to prison pipeline, we are not honoring our students' right to safety.

I have seen teachers, administrators, and other school staff intervene in crises and effectively de-escalate them. These are leaders to whom we can look for better solutions that center our students' humanity and allow us to address harm and repair a student's relationship with their school or class community. These are the tenants of Restorative Justice, and I assert that our city's dollars would be much better spent investing in resources and training to implement more restorative practices.

I believe our schools will be stronger when we cut out police and begin to find creative ways of engaging with student behavior that address the source of pain rather than punishing the symptoms. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. We need our leaders to step up and do what is right for our students, our schools, and our communities. I hope you will make the right choice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Demand for CPS cutting ties with CPD

To whom it may concern,

Hi there my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago. While I did not personally

attend CPS, my older brother did and every single one of my friends did. Cutting ties with CPD is so important for the youth, it is traumatizing and fear inducing to have cops with guns roam the halls everyday. Just the other night I was sitting with my friends and in a group of 7 people every one of them had been handcuffed by a police officer in school, SCHOOL, for scribbling on a table for wandering the halls outside of class, is this the environment you want? And not to mention these are white kids, black and brown kids in Cps get far worse treatment by CPD within the CPS system. School is supposed to be a safe place for children, a space where we are supposed to life children up and educate them, not have a constant threat of a cop with a gun holding it over children heads if they do something wrong. The kids are protesting, YOUR students are protesting and organizing because they don't want this and alumni and others are coming together to join them. By cutting ties with CPD it allows for the absurd amount of money you are spending on cops to go to much more important resources in schools, counseling and therapy, more teachers (and better pay for teachers), more nurses, more resources for kids (i.e teachers not having to buy their own supplies, being able to buy the students their own books for classes, better meals, the list goes on) there is so much more productive ways to be spending 30 million dollars. Please strongly consider cutting ties with CPD, the youth is counting on you guys big time right now. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read through this and once again I hope you leave your mind open to all the ways cutting ties with CPD couldd benefit CPS.

Thank you,



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#### BOE meeting/ Reallocate CPD Funding

I would like to voice my opposition to continuing funding for CPD in public schools in Chicago. A large amount of data suggest that this is a negligent and illogical use of tax payer money. Furthermore, CPD in schools are not only a distraction to the black and brown students of Chicago, but indirectly serve as a deterrent to attendance. How can we believe that children in underserved communities, feel safe to learn with police officers in their halls, when they don't feel safe in their own neighborhoods? I strongly urge the Board to reconsider its support for funding CPD, and reallocate that money into ensuring schools are sanitary and ready for the upcoming school year. As well as staffing social workers and other aids that will productively help students learn and foster in a safe and anxious free environment. In addition, ensuring both teachers and schools have the resources they need to have a outstanding school year. The board of Education owes it to the thousands of children that have missed out on memorable milestones such as graduation, prom etc, the past few months to ensure they return to a safe environment, both from Viruses and Law Enforcement. I hope the board values the voice of these communities, and make public education in Chicago equitable for the students disproportionately effected by crime and police brutality.

Regards

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terminate contract with CPD & identify alternatives

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to urge the Board to vote YES on the motion to TERMINATE the contract with the Chicago Police Department (20-0624-Mo1) and vote YES on the motion to identify/recommend alternatives (20-0624-MO2). Take the money saved and invest in social workers, guidance counselors, college counselors, nurses, parent mentors, community partnerships, more teachers, and restorative justice staff. These are the people who will support the well-being, success, and safety of Chicago Public Schools' students--not cops!! Be a role model in this city and show that Chicago takes to heart the urgent calls for change advocated by the Black Lives Matter movement. Real policy change will demonstrate the Board of Education is listening--not platitudes. Millions of people are demonstrating in Chicago and millions more are active online--their voices deserve to be heard and acted on! Justice and educational equity for Black students!! Black Lives Matter!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Schools

As a Chicago resident for my entire life, I am asking that the Chicago Board of Education takes action to show that you believe Black Lives Matter by removing CPD from all of our schools immediately. The \$33 million can be used for counselors, nurses, social workers, custodians, librarians, teachers, and restorative justice work.

You must listen to the voices of our black and brown students. They are clearly communicating to you and our city that policing in schools has a deeply negative impact on them as students. Do the right thing now.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Urging CPS to break contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], a Chicago nonprofit working to empower girls and gender nonconforming youth through Shakespeare and social justice. We are a CPS vendor.

Between this role and work with other Chicago arts and cultural organizations, I have been working directly with CPS students and their communities for the past 8 years. I have worked

with schools that have closed and schools that are consistently rated with excellence. I have worked with schools on the North Side, South Side, West Side, and East Side.

I preface the rest of this email by saying that I read the SRO policy draft in its entirety earlier this month and commented during the public comment period. I recognize that steps have been taken to limit the scope of power that police will have at schools. However, I remain convinced that this is still not enough.

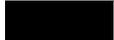
Plainly, research overwhelmingly shows that police presence in schools is the entry point to the school to prison pipeline. More specifically, police presence in schools disproportionately harms Black and brown students. How can CPS publically state that Black Lives Matter when by simply having police officers in schools sends the exact opposite message to their students? Chicago and CPS cannot afford to continue to enable this.

What Chicago's youth need are investments in their mental health and SEL competencies. Each school needs more social workers and counselors. Students need restorative justice practices when conflicts emerge. Young people need arts programs as outlets to express themselves and better get to understand and empathize with those and the world around them. These are initiatives that are constantly cut from our schools and the result is devastating for our students.

The Minneapolis, Denver, and Portland school districts have all broken ties with local police this month. I urge you to help add Chicago to this list. We owe it to our young people.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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No CPD in CPS

The CPD has NO PLACE in CPS.

Instead, allocate funding to mental health and community services. Begin rebuilding the mess we're in as opposed to continually feeding into the School to Prison Pipeline.

Give this city and its kids a chance. Give us hope. Give us CHANGE.

Grateful,



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Police Free Schools

Dear Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I reside in the Avondale Neighborhood of Chicago. I am emailing you to put my support towards removing Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools and encourage you to do the same.

Students are harassed over minor infractions and I've seen an increase in aggressiveness over time that has become very concerning. Additionally, the police presence silences or attacks children that are disabled or mentally unwell which is not appropriate or healthy. I don't see how a police presence contributes to a positive school environment or experience.

In fact, there is no evidence to prove that SROs result in safer schools.

Law enforcement creates more aggressive and uncomfortable environments, which one could assume could have a large impact on anyone's learning abilities. We are not sending students to an environment where they are set up for success this way.

Chicago's students deserve the best we can give them. I do not think allowing CPD into their places of learning (learning curriculum and who they are as individuals) is the best we can give them.. These young people deserve opportunities, not punishment.

I strongly urge you to remove CPD from CPS.

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Redirect CPD CPS contract to guidance counselors and social workers

Dear Board of Education,

I'm writing to stress the need to end police in schools and to cancel the contract with CPD. This is a vital step in ending the school to prison pipeline and the \$33 million dollar CPD contract would be put to better use funding guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them. Police officers in schools do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students. Please vote to end the contract and redirect funds to do what is best for all of our children and the Chicago community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please Remove CPD from Chicago Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am sending an email to request the removal of Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools. I understand this decision will be made at a meeting tomorrow. And I would like you to strongly consider CPD removal from schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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terminate agreement with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education Members,

I am writing today to urge you to terminate the agreement between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. The presence of armed police officers in schools does not make our students safer. A large proportion of Black and Brown students have been the targets of police violence and infractions in school buildings where students should feel safe.

Instead of \$33 million dollars going to fund police in our schools those dollars should go toward case managers, counselors, social workers, and nurses. Our students need these support services every day in every school. Teachers, administrators, and other staff members need to be trained in restorative justice practices by experts in this field.

We need to treat our students with compassion and understanding. Many Black and Brown students are mistrustful of police because of negative interactions with police in their own neighborhoods. Students and their families have experienced deep trauma resulting from this negative interaction with police. The way to help students with these traumas is not more police in our school buildings. Our students are not criminals and when you employ police officers in schools you are treating them as such. You have the power to show Black and Brown students in this city that you are listening and that you care. You have the power to help transform our schools. Your vote is important and affects the lives of thousands of students. Please listen to what our Black and Brown students are telling you, and vote to terminate the agreement between Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

██████████

Chicago Public School Teacher

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CPS Cut Ties From CPD

Members of the Board,

My name is ██████████, a Chicago resident and CPS staff member. I am writing to say that I stand with many who feel that CPS should discontinue its relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

As a member of CPS staff, I care about the well-being of students and feel that police presence on campus does no favors for student safety. Police presence on school campuses only criminalizes students. I urge you to make the right choice for the student body and cut ties with CPD. This is an important step in reforming modern policing and putting community and education as the top priorities for Chicago as a whole.

Thank you for your time.

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NO MORE CPD IN CPS

I am a concerned resident who wishes that alternative solutions be found in our public schools rather than the police. Please allocate those funds typically used to contract CPD within our schools to more social workers and children being fed, art, music class and extra curricular activities.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Chicago resident and artist.

I am writing to you today to regarding the important vote coming up tomorrow, June 24th. I ask you to please consider advocating for the following policies:

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
2. Redirect the \$33 million CPD contract to guidance counselors and social works in schools that do not have them.

Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC students disproportionately to white students. This cannot continue.

Thank you for your time and attention and your commitment to education for ALL students, free of police brutality.

Warmly,  
[REDACTED]

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Motion 20-0624-MO1

Hello Miguel del Valle and Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to voice my support of motion 20-0624-MO1 to remove Chicago Police District officers from Chicago Public Schools.

I have been a public health practitioner for over ten years, most recently with the Chicago Department of Public Health. Our vision is simple, that every resident of Chicago (including our

children) have the opportunity for optimal health and wellbeing. The school-to-prison pipeline contradicts this vision.

Children who interact with police officers in school are overwhelmingly children of color and most often have underlying concerns that could be better addressed by a social worker, mental health practitioner or mentor. Students and advocates alike have asked for police officers to be removed from schools and be replaced with programs and leaders that support their wellbeing. It is time we listened to them. \$33 million can fund immensely impactful prevention programs.

Our children need to be supported and nurtured. This is a matter of public health. I urge you to do the right thing and vote to remove CPD officers from Chicago Public Schools.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from our schools; reallocate those funds

Dear Mr. del Valle and members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I appreciate that you are bringing the issue of CPD presence in our city schools to a vote. My daughter [REDACTED], and my son [REDACTED] will attend as soon as he's old enough.

I would like to see CPS end their \$33 million contract with CPD and spend that money on literally anything else. For example, Blaine was just denied a Diverse Learning teacher, despite the fact that our ILP needs require one. And that's on the north side, where we are fortunate to have access to good funding.

I also strongly object to CPD in CPS due to the disproportionate harm they cause to Black students. The Department of Justice investigated CPD and found that they consistently used unconstitutional force against Black residents in Chicago in general, and in schools they found that more than four in five youths subject to force were Black children.

This is completely unacceptable, and to be PAYING MILLIONS to invite CPD to abuse children moves this to the realm of the absurd. **I urge you to vote to remove CPD from our schools and to reallocate those funds to resources that provide value to our students and teachers.**

Best,

[REDACTED]

Please vote CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education:

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- no more CPD in CPS! Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

I am writing to you to urge you to vote to remove CPS from CPS. I am a CPS high school teacher and the parent of two elementary school CPS students. As a parent and a teacher, I know that police do not belong in schools. We need to divert the resources we spend on police to greater needs such as social workers and restorative justice supports.

**I cannot stop thinking: what lessons are we teaching our children when there is money for police but no money for librarians? Do we see our children as criminals or do we see them as scholars?**

This is the moment to act in a new and bold way. Please, demonstrate leadership. Do what other school districts in cities like Milwaukee, Denver, and Minneapolis have done in order to begin to right the wrongs of so many years of racial injustice. Please be on the right side of history. Ultimately, a policy of police in schools hurts our youth, especially our Brown and Black youth. Please do the right thing and vote to remove police from schools.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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To the Chicago Board of Education

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a resident of Logan Square. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained

outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Vote to Removed CPD from Chicago Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Chicago, Illinois. I understand that tomorrow The Chicago Board of Education will vote on whether to remove CPD from our public schools. I want to voice my support for removing CPD from schools. Due to the overwhelming amount of violence from the CPD against Chicago citizens at recent peaceful protests, it is of the utmost importance that CPD be removed from schools. This violence has NO place in schools.

Chicago Public Schools also spends ~\$30 million on a contract with CPD. This contract should be terminated and the funds should be reinvested in:

- At- home learning, a necessity due to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - o Receive tools for at-home enrichment learning like art supplies, sports equipment, learning aids
- Food services, especially for students whose communities have been uprooted by COVID-19

Thank you PLEASE vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

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CPD in public schools

I believe it is time to take the Police out of schools. They aren't qualified for guidance counseling, teaching, curriculum development, or most school-related things. They should be called only on an emergency and then only after a principal or social worker has determined a real threat.

1. Give a raise to teachers
2. Provide counseling service to all "at risk" populations.

CPS/CPD Contract Vote to Terminate

Dear CPS Board Members:  
President of the Board of Education, Miguel del Valle  
Board Member, Sendhil Revuluri  
Board Member, Amy Rome  
Board Member, Dwayne Truss  
Board Member, Elizabeth Todd-Breland  
Board Member, Luisiana Melendez  
Board Member, Lucino Sotelo  
Chief of Staff to the Board of Education, Katie Ellis

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Teacher's Assistant with CPS.

I am writing to you today to ask you to vote to **terminate Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department**. The time is now to take action so that our students - regardless of race or orientation or their family's economic income - have schools and systems in place that benefit their education, not terrorize or abuse them into any obedience.

I demand that the \$33 Million be reallocated to our schools for the following to be hired, including but not limited to:

- 1) Social Workers
- 2) Counselors
- 3) Restorative Justice Officers
- 4) Mental Health Professionals

Replacing School Resource Officers with the above mentioned will break the school to prison pipeline. Breaking the school to prison pipeline will improve the lives of students and increase their opportunities in life. Our students, regardless of school, family or community conditions, will need these mental health supports if they are going to become productive members and adults in society. Every student deserves that chance, and that chance needs to come more than once. Making mistakes is a part of the learning process.

Thank you in advance for being brave and courageous and taking a stand for (and with) our students.

Thank you for listening to the communities and, most importantly, our students who are affected by this - not just while they are a CPS student, but as they venture out into society as a CPS Graduate.

All my best,  
[REDACTED]

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Ordinance #2020-3331

Dear Chicago Board of Education members,

I would like to voice my opposition for continued funding for CPD officers in Chicago Public Schools and urge you to support Ordinance #2020-3331 at tomorrow's meeting.

Research shows that police in schools do not keep students safe. School Resource Officers were first placed in school to foster a positive relationship between the local police department and youth, but now SROs are uniformed officers who primarily enforce disciplinary policies on school campuses in a biased manner. SROs are simply not trained to recognize and respond to the needs of a diverse student population, especially our students of color and those dealing with trauma.

How can students in underserved neighborhoods feel safe with police in schools when police don't keep them safe in their own neighborhoods and homes? Often, students of color are not safe from the police themselves. Recent events have highlighted, yet again, the depth of our ongoing national crisis with racialized police brutality. Until (assuming it ever happens) police departments prove that officers can serve and protect without harming innocent citizens, we cannot trust them around our children.

This ordinance is student-and educator-supported. Having worked inside multiple CPS and MPS (Milwaukee) schools with majority non-white student populations, I've seen SROs miss the mark regularly, failing to properly address situations that clearly stemmed from trauma, and, intentionally or unintentionally, escalating routine behavioral issues and disciplinary actions. Students deserve properly trained, culturally responsive support staff who create an environment of safety and understanding.

We need to re-allocate the money spend on CPD in CPS and put it towards funding counselors, nurses, libraries, restorative justice training, implementing de-escalation practices, and a host of other staff positions, services and resources that could positively impact the health and wellbeing of students across our city.

Other cities are doing this. This is a reasonable action to take to maintain the wellbeing safety of Chicago's youth in schools. Again, I urge you to support Ordinance #2020-3331. We can't afford to wait on this. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

  
Chicago Resident

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End Contract With CPD

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED], and I've been a resident of Chicago in Rogers Park since 2009.

I'm writing you to add my voice to the masses of Chicagoans who are asking that you end the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. That money could be used to fund positive wellness programs at the school, providing better support for school supplies, necessary upgrades to school facilities and supporting teachers better all around. By directing the money to programs to uplift students, we will have so much better outcomes than by spending on police, who have a history of abuse and have a net negative impact on the psyche of our children.

Please cancel the contract with Chicago Police Department. \$33 million is a tremendous amount of money in our schools that are already underfunded.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
Rogers Park, Chicago 60626

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### CPS Deserves Police-Free Schools

To President Miguel del Valle of CPS Board of Education and Members,

I am emailing to urge you all to vote to end the CPS contract with CPD tomorrow. I have been informed that Chicago Public Schools spends \$33 million on their contract with the Chicago Police Department. This is an outrageous amount of money to spend on policing, which only serves to brutalize and instill fear in many CPS students. Instead you should use that money to ensure that every Chicago student:

- Receive a device to connect to at-home learning
- Receive food services, especially for communities whose grocery stores have closed down from recent uprisings
- Has access to mental health services during this moment of crisis
- Receive tools for at-home enrichment learning like art supplies, sports equipment, learning aids

As a community member, I support all of the demands made in [this report](#) by the #CopsOutofCPS movement. There is ample proof that police in Chicago Public Schools disproportionately target Black and brown students, and often enact more harm and violence in schools. The money that goes toward police could be used to get to the root of many issues in CPS, by supporting its students with sufficient resources and making ALL students feel safer at school. Make the right choice and create police free schools: vote to end CPS's contract with CPD tomorrow!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago Public Schools. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you.

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PLEASE REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hello,

I am emailing to strongly urge CPS to make the decision to remove police from their educational settings. Many students of color, particularly Black students, may feel unsafe and unfairly targeted with police involved in their schools. Our county has woken up to the fact that police are dangerous and many time inherently racist and corrupt. How we can allow this to be welcome in schools? Every child deserves an educational environment to feel safe in, to feel apt for growth in, to thrive in. This can only be possible if CPD is removed from CPS. Schools and our children is where lasting, effective systemic change can start. I hope Chicago can make and lead this change.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please Take Police Out of Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

There are so many ways we could use the millions of dollars appropriated for police in our schools. There are so many schools without counselors and nurses or understaffed in those areas. My niece has an IEP and doesn't always get the resources she, by law, is due. I write today to urge you to listen to the voices of youth coalitions, advocacy groups, and family members of students when we say police in schools is not what we need. Give us the resources to address the root issues of inequality in education. Heck, we could use the money for anti-racism training for teachers and administration and more social workers to teach staff de-escalation techniques. Even that would benefit our BIPOC and immigrant students more than police.

There is enough in this world to fear. School shouldn't be something children avoid because of their fear of police officers. I want my niece and nephew to feel safe there. I want them to know that their friends are safe too.

To Professor Todd-Breland and Ms. Rome, many thanks for standing with students, parents, and community members by bringing these motions to the board. I hope everyone has looked at the data and votes alongside those that like the data and the consequences too.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS - Vote Tomorrow

Good Afternoon,

I live in Chicago's West Loop and practice clinical pharmacy at community outreach clinics around the city, from Uptown to West Englewood. Much like you, I interact with a diverse group of Chicagoans each day, most of which experience social injustice at every turn. This includes our children experiencing injustice at the hands of the CPD in the very schools where they are trying to learn and grow. In the schools where they should feel safe and supported. The CPD does not help protect our children. Please vote tomorrow to remove CPD from Chicago's public schools. Please replace the CPD with social workers and nurses and others who can actually protect Chicago's children. With professionals that can help them thrive. We must take this opportunity to create a different path for our children and our city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,



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Police in Chicago Public Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Youth Worker for Chicago Youth Centers and an advocate for public schools in Chicago. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student

confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **has the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

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No CPD in CPS

Hello:

My name is [REDACTED] and I’m a resident of Chicago (East Garfield Park). I am writing to urge the Board to vote CPD out of public schools to protect the safety of our students and

communities and prevent the school to prison pipeline that's disproportionately effected Black students in this city (and throughout the country). Thank you.

- [REDACTED]

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Please support 20-0624-MO1  
Good Afternoon

I am writing to ask you to please support motion 20-0624-MO1. As a student, I was involved in behavioral incidents with police officers and regular school staff (Counselors, Principals, etc...). The experiences with police were far more traumatic and were not in any way more effective at modifying my behavior. Please do not let my children be subject to these experiences in the future.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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BOE Meeting Tomorrow

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the 47th Ward of Chicago. I am emailing in favor of removing the CPD from every school system throughout Chicago and Cook County. I come from a family of teachers and was once a teaching artist myself. I can tell you that the Police Department has no business patrolling and militarizing our school systems. It doesn't help education, instead it hinders it. The money used for CPD to patrol our schools should be used to invest in the education system. All of that money could fund the renovation of school buildings, after school programs, bigger classrooms, teacher salary, better school lunches etc. Stop investing in the police and starting investing in your students and your community. This is truly a no brainer.

I look forward to you all doing the right thing tomorrow and voting NO on having CPD in our public schools.

Sincerely,

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CPD out of CPS Now!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] and I have lived in Chicago all my life. I went to CPS schools for the vast majority of my education and am a recent graduate of Senn High School. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

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I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Remove the CPD from CPS!

Hello,

My name is ██████████, and I am a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, in addition to being a concerned and informed member of the Chicago community.

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Children should be free to learn in an environment free from the traumatizing presence of armed police. The presence of police in schools only exacerbates the school to prison pipeline that is decimating communities. This especially affects Black and Brown students and communities, for as we have seen in recent weeks, the police overwhelmingly see Black and Brown people and children, as more threatening, and react with excessive force. The 33 million dollars spent on this contract with the CPD could be spent on hiring counselors, teachers, improving infrastructure etc. that would improve results for all students within the CPS system. Please do the right thing and sever this damaging, discriminatory contract with the CPD and help put our community on the road to a more just

future.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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I know you are voting tomorrow

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] and I am deeply concerned for the kids of this city.

While I can acknowledge the intent behind having officers in schools - you have to see the evidence that it is no longer working. It is common for the Police in schools to harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

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I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

Hi,

I'm writing today to urge you all to vote to end the contract with CPD. As you know, this is a critical decision and I hope you all will stand on the right side of history with this. This is a moment for change in the world, and I hope you take it. We all know police in schools disproportionately affect and are harmful for black and brown youth. Young people are IMPORTANT and they are the future. And it all starts with education. Please, please use your votes and your voice to make CHANGE and remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you for making the right choice,



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CPD Out of CPS

Good Afternoon,

I write you today on the eve of one of your most important moments. Tomorrow you have the opportunity to stand on the side of justice, righteousness, and educational efficacy by voting to remove CPD from CPS. It is truly a tragedy that we have failed our students here in Chicago so deeply that we have decided that the cure for a misbehaving student is to send them to prison. End the insanity. Take back the 33 million dollars. Vote CPD out!

Best,

[REDACTED]

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TAKE CPD OUT OF CPS

Hello,

I am writing as a resident of the Chicagoland area, specifically Evanston currently, to urge you to vote to remove CPD presence from CPS. The presence of police officers in schools can only produce more situations in which police and student interactions become violent or harmful, with a disproportionate amount of that violence being enacting on BIPOC students.

Please think about the function of police in school and the ways in which they actively harm the communities they are sworn to protect, and vote accordingly.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS schools

Hello,

Please listen to the demands of your teachers, students, and community. If Lori Lightfoot will not stick up for our children, I am hoping that you will. There is absolutely no need for armed police to be in CPS schools. A police officer has not once stopped a mass shooting from taking place in schools. What they DO accomplish is inciting fear and anxiety in black and brown students and providing them a quick avenue to jail. If any student is to act out, they are not provided the resources they need to heal and succeed. Why aren't there social workers in every school? Why aren't there nurses? Librarians? Why are teachers paying out of pocket for supplies? CPS teachers were on strike for 11! days this school year, the longest in decades, and STILL do not have the resources they need. You're telling me it takes 3 years to place a nurse in every school? But somehow we have the funds to put guns, handcuffs, pepper spray, and tasers in CPS hallways? What an embarrassment for CPS that it has taken a nationwide reckoning to even discuss reallocating \$33 million in funds directly to schools and not to the police. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Make the right choice tomorrow, use this funding to better prepare for

the upcoming school year and handling of COVID, and do not only protect your students but provide them with everything they need for success.

[REDACTED]

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CPD in our schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident of Chicago for 10 years. I am also a student working on my degree to become an educator and hope to someday teach in this city.

Police do not belong in schools. Every single child in Chicago deserves the same education: a good education. They deserve to learn in a safe environment. The money that goes to keeping police officers in schools could be used to pay individuals such as social workers, people can actually help children. As you have seen over the last few weeks, many Chicagoans hold this same belief.

However our Mayor, Lori Lightfoot, does not stand with the vast amount of Chicagoans speaking out. She is not representing the people of Chicago and therefore she is not representing the future of our children.

It is up to you, the Chicago Board of Education, to stand with the city that you represent, and remove CPD from our schools.

I hope that when you vote on this decision that you will consider what so many of us are asking you to do. Now is the time to create the world that our future generations deserve and it starts with you, right now, this moment. Nothing is more important.

Thank you for your time.

Be safe,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward and a future parent of public school students. I implore you to vote to remove CPD from our public schools.

Students deserve support and do not deserve to be treated as criminals. The Board has shown that they believe police are integral members of school staff, while counselors, social workers, nurses, and TEACHERS go by the wayside.

Remove CPD from CPS and prioritize funds to areas that actually support our students. Our students deserve our support and not the threat of a prison pipeline that funnels a disproportionate number of BIPOC students into cages.

Again, let me add to the swell of voices, remove CPD from CPS.

Thanks for listening, hoping to see you act, stay healthy out there.

██████████

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Take police out of schools  
To whom it may concern,

My name is ██████████ and I am a social work student who lives in Edgewater. I used to work at Foreman College and Career Academy before deciding to go back to school to become a social worker.

I have seen the destruction that having police in schools can create. Teaching children from a young age that they need to be policed, have people with weapons walking around to keep them in line, instills in them a belief that something is wrong with them and that they deserved this treatment.

Schools with police are far more likely to refer to those children to law enforcement, beginning the school to prison pipeline. Police power comes from their ability to use violence at their own discretion. Take the 6 year old who was put in handcuffs in Florida, or an 11 year old girl being shoved against a wall.

My students at Foreman were all Black and Brown, and were not raised that police were people they could go to if they need help. They were raised that law enforcement was not meant for them, and ways to act to ensure they survived encounters with the police. And now those same police walked the halls of the school that they were supposed to trust.

Tomorrow, I urge you to cut funding to CPD, and reinvest that money in care for the community.

Please remember that “the presence of Chicago police inside of schools creates dangerous conditions for students that have led to the criminalization, mass incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force against Brown and predominantly Black students.”

Thank you for your time,  
██████████

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Your important vote tomorrow

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] - I am a resident of the Lincoln Square neighborhood and I am writing to you today about your vote on Police in Schools tomorrow. I did just send a form email full of resources and research but I wanted to send a personal one as well.

I implore you to listen to the students and parents. I know that many teachers and principals claim that police makes schools safer - but the evidence doesn't support that. I know active shooters are a big argument - but that is so incredibly rare and it has been seen that the police do not have any effect and further - often the SRO has failed to respond appropriately. I think you know that too.

Chicago's students have been telling us that they want police out of schools for a long time. The SRO's are not being used effectively - they cannot be used effectively. With the toxic state of the police today, there is no way to have a healthy relationship.

I know that the contract money doesn't go back to the schools automatically if SRO's are removed. But maybe it should. The demands of the Teachers from the Teacher's strike could be met with those funds! How can anyone argue that a police officer in a school is more important than a nurse or a therapist? TAKE CARE OF OUR KIDS - DO NOT PERSECUTE THEM!

Do what is right. Do it now.

This is not politics. This is about the kids of this city. They need support - not policing.

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[REDACTED]

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On CPD in our schools

Hi Board of Education for Chicago Public Schools,

I'm a resident of Chicago living in the Avondale neighborhood, Ward 35. I'm writing to express my support for removing Chicago police from our schools. Although they have been contracted to protect students, teachers, and staff--I believe they have long overstepped their roles and cause more harm than good for the people supposedly under their care.

I don't doubt you have watched the events of the past month with concern and interest. Police both in our city and nation have exercised little restraint in perpetuating violence against protesters, activists, and journalists as we push for racial equality. I myself only recently learned about the historical roots of police in slave catchers in the South and protectors of the white merchant class in the North. Their unions are also among the most powerful in the nation today, making it difficult to prosecute and discipline wrongdoing--look at how many have died or been injured by police during the past month.

They have no role in our schools, in the education system. The money paid out in this contract can be used to hire social workers, counselors, nurses and more teachers who will help to address the roots of problems experienced by our youth--the police cannot, they will only cause more trauma. I urge you to terminate the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department--our children's futures depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration,  
[REDACTED]

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### Criminalizing Kids

Hello,

I'm a resident of Rogers Park writing to encourage you to phase out CPD presence in CPS. While I recognize that our school communities face complex challenges, continuing to support the school-to-prison pipeline is a grievous mistake. These kids need resources like adequate access to counseling, social workers, and food, not armed police there to criminalize their behavior.

Thank you for your work, and for reading,  
[REDACTED]

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### Cancel the contract CPS has with CPD

Dear Board Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen, and as an alumni of CPS. Tomorrow you will vote on the contract that CPS has with CPD, and I implore you to cancel the contract.

I read the the Inspector General's report for Chicago Police in CPS and was appalled by the disorganization of the program, as well as the failure for CPD to heed and implement meaningful change regarding the suggestions that they had made. The lack of the lack of accountability and transparency for officer selection and training is unbelievable.

Police officers simply do not belong in our schools. It is unconscionable that we are able to afford the policing of students when schools don't have the resources to meet their basic needs that schools are responsible for providing. We are failing our kids.

The millions of dollars spent on policing the schools should instead be invested to limit class size, pay teachers a living wage, offer consistent access to nurses and counselors, healthier food options, and after school programs. This should be done particularly in BIPOC neighborhoods on the south and west sides of the city that suffering from our deliberate lack of investment.

It is your responsibility as members of the board to create a nurturing school culture and supportive learning environments for *all* of our Chicago students to succeed. By voting against CPD in CPS you will be actively choosing to make our schooling system better, and can use the money we pay CPD to provide the resources necessary to level the playing field for BIPOC students. You will be taking a stand against the systemic racism that is prevalent in the way we selectively fund and care for our students in CPS. By voting for CPD to remain, you will be actively choosing to prop up the broken system that is harming the futures of the students you are supposed to protect and advocate for.

Growing up in CPS there were countless stories from friends about the unnecessary force that was used by police officers. Taking punitive measures, most often against BIPOC, leads to lasting consequences that have been proven to negatively impact the rest of their lives. In psychology it is well understood that punishment does not effectively motivate students to change their behaviors. You have the opportunity to redesign school environments in a way that will promote their mental and physical health, as well as the safety of our students. They are our future, and they deserve better.

Thank you,

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. The need to dismantle oppressive policing in Chicago and throughout the nation is imminent, and you have the power to be a part of that necessary change.

Thank you for doing what's right.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Board of Education,

As a graduate of Chicago Public Schools, I find it extremely necessary to remove CPD from our schools, and I urge you to vote to remove CPD from all CPS schools.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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HEART framework

Good afternoon My name is [REDACTED] and I am youth leader with VOYCE. I emailing you to be reconsider giving the \$66 million dollars towards social works and not towards Resource officers in our schools. Having police inside a CPS school shows a bad reputation towards CPS. Our students really need support from social workers and not from School Resource Officers. I so I'm asking to please put that money towards something in use instead of making students feel like they are being worried and afraid

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Urgent: Remove CPD from CPS

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a Chicago resident and CPS student of 8 years. I demand that the Chicago Police Department be removed from Chicago Public Schools. Funding a partnership with CPD favors an actively racist system at the expense of student learning and growth. Crime is often a result of unmet needs (i.e. food, housing, relationships, etc.). When this racist system deems children criminals and takes punitive measures, this exacerbates these unmet needs. You must reallocate the budget for policing in schools to these unmet needs.

The criminal justice system in Chicago and the United States is irreparably detrimental to Black Americans. This is an inexcusable injustice and it is imperative that you address this by removing CPD from our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Cpd out of cps

Board of Education,

I am begging you to take the cpd out of cps. They cause so much more harm than good. Cps students deserve so much better and you know that. Why are you choosing to continue to cause harm on students you are supposed to care about?

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a concerned citizen. Police in schools would harass students over minor

infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29). Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to end contract with School Resource Officers

Dear Board of Education,

I am a Chicago Public Schools teacher and parent of two CPS children. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove School Resource Officers from all of our schools. Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx children for behaviors and concerns that are better handled by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

Additionally, as a special education teacher, I am very concerned at the high rates of interaction between School Resource Officers and students with disabilities, which can lead to students to be physically harmed, disciplined, punished, and even criminally charged for challenges related to their disability.

You have the chance to listen to the voices of Black and Latinx youth and invest in their futures. Please make the right choice and end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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RE: Motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2

I am writing to urge you to pass motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2 this Wednesday to terminate the CPS contract with the CPD, and research alternative programs to create safe and healthy school environments.

The presence of police in our schools is extremely harmful. To start, over **300 students ages 6-10 have been involved in police incidents in the last three years.** How can you possibly justify police officers interacting with these students? Consider the trauma and other negative impacts that would come as a result interacting with a police officer as a six-year old. What's the excuse for this punitive behavior?

**More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color. In particular, out Black students - who make up about 36% of students - are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools, being targeted at 4 times the rate of white students.** This disproportionate application of punitive policing on students of color is a clear manifestation of systemic racism that continually disenfranchises young Black, Brown, and

Indigenous people. Additionally, **school resource officers and school liaison supervisors in CPS have a combined 2,354 misconduct complaint records** on file against them. Again, what is the justification for the continued abuse of power to police and punish our students?

Our schools do not need police officers. They need social workers, librarians, nurses, mental health counselors -- and students, parents, and educators have been saying this. Enough is enough. Listen to them. Police officers do not address the root causes of the problems we see. Only real investment in our schools, communities, and youth can address these issues. If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allocated to SROs could fund positions for 314 school psychologists, 322 nurses, or 317 social workers (CPS currently has one social worker for every 865 students. The National Association of Social Workers recommends one social worker for every 250 students or one social worker for every 50 students for schools with high levels of trauma).

You have the opportunity to invest in real safety for Chicago youth, and the first step is breaking the school district's ties with the CPD. Invest in the future of Chicago; our youth deserves it.

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Best Regards,

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Terminate the contract with CPD

Members of the Board -

My name is [REDACTED], and I recently graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, in the West Loop neighborhood. I am writing today to encourage you to vote in favor of terminating the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department, and instead allocate those funds to under-supported schools on the South and West sides.

All CPS students - indulging those of us who are not marginalized - understand that police officers in our schools frequently victimize Brown and Black students. Instead of contributing to the safety of our schools, CPD officers detract from the security and comfort we should feel in CPS buildings. Instead of posting armed officers, many of whom have prior misconduct complaints against them, into hallways with children, I urge you to focus on non-violent and non-punitive support for the students of CPS. Reinstating nurses, counselors, and social workers is a perfect first step; increasing access to technology and other necessary resources is a second step to take.

I would like to leave CPS a better institution than it was when I entered. Hopefully, police officers who perpetuate violence against children of color will be removed from our places of learning.

I urge you to do what's right for our communities, and hope my message - and the message sent by the thousands of protesters who have marched in support of protections for Black lives recently - will inspire you to vote in favor of terminating the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Respectfully and consciously,

[REDACTED]

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Support for Removal of CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago. **I am contacting you to express support for the removal of CPD from CPS.** There is an extensive amount of evidence-based research that indicates that police presence does not contribute to a positive and safe school environment, especially for students of color, Black students in particular.

As a person in the public health policy field, who has worked on policy research regarding SRO and LEO policies at work in public school systems across the country, I strongly urge you to remove CPD from CPS. You have a responsibility to keep CPS students and teachers safe, but the presence of law enforcement does not accomplish this important goal. Police give the appearance of protection and safety but in practice, they endanger students and fuel the school to prison pipeline.

I am thankful that Alderman Matt Martin is representing my ward and speaking in support of removing CPD. I urge you to follow evidence-based practices and replace CPD with qualified experts in the fields of therapists, nurses, social workers, counselors, and more. CPD does not make CPS safer, it causes our students, specifically Black students, significant harm.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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No Police In Schools

Good evening, members of the Chicago Board of Education!

I am glad to see that you are meeting to discuss the potential removal of police in our public schools tomorrow, and would like to encourage you to remove officers from schools and instead invest in social workers, guidance counselors, mental health specialists, and other resources better suited to **help** students, rather than criminalize them. These are children; they need the support of their communities, not to be labelled as criminals and thrown into the criminal punishment system.

Thank you for truly putting the safety and well being of our students first by choosing to remove police from their schools!

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Take CPD out of CPS

Dear Board Members,

I am emailing you as a CPS parent and a CPS alumna to ask you to please take School Resource Officers out of Chicago Public Schools. Seeing the police in school, which should be a safe haven, causes black and brown students (over 82% of the combined CPS student body) undue stress and anxiety given historical police/community relations.

CPD cannot keep our community safe from excessive violence and blatant murder, how will will CPS keep students safe from CPD officers? The truth of the matter is that they cannot, and the long list of complaints and lawsuits against police stationed in schools is proof.

Our students need an investment in the form of school counselors, culturally relevant curriculum, community presence, restorative justice, after-school activities, updated school buildings and playgrounds, books, enough teachers to keep classroom size low, etc. The list of ways we can choose to invest in our children is endless.

I am here to tell you that the cost of relieving and causing trauma to children by having police in their school is too high!!! There are other ways to keep them safe that does not criminalize our children and parents. Vote to end the CPD/CPS MOU tomorrow 6/24/20. Take CPD out of CPS!!!

All my best,

██████████

CPS Parent and Alumna

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re: Cops in CPS schools

Hello Board of Ed,

As a resident of Chicago, who works with an organization, Young Chicago Authors, that supports the work of our city's young people and has partnerships with various CPS schools, I want to strongly urge you to remove CPD from our public schools.

No one, especially not young people, especially not Black and Brown young people, are able to learn and grow with the threat of police violence hanging over their heads. Many of our young minds already live in over-policed communities where they live with the threat of police violence daily. School should be a respite, a space to nurture and play, to bloom into adults that are healthy and accountable to their communities.

Cops out of schools is the smartest, most compassionate decision that you can make today, and one that will help nurture the well-being of the entire city of Chicago.

Thank you.



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Please Vote to Keep Police Out of Chicago Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education Member,

I'm writing to you today as a longtime resident of Chicago to ask you to please use your vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools.

Removing CPD from our schools is a crucial step towards ending the school to prison pipeline, which unfairly targets black students and students of color of all ages. Although there are no studies with evidence that black students misbehave at higher rates, black students are three times more likely to be suspended or expelled than whites students; this is outrageous and needs to be corrected.

If CPD were to terminate the \$33M CPD contract, those massive funds could then be redirected towards funding for more school guidance counselors and social workers; many schools have very few or none.

All students should have the right to feel and be safe at school, regardless of their skin color; our system is currently failing to give them this right. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS in order to protect all students from this inequality.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



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In Support of Removing CPS from CPS

To the Board of Education members,

As a Chicago resident, I am writing to support the removal of CPD from Chicago Public Schools, as SRO presence disproportionately affects Black and brown students in a negative way.

Black students are more likely to be arrested at school (<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/01/25/black-students-more-likely-to-be-arrested.html>), and in a racially diverse school, police are more likely to view students as primary threats (<https://www.the74million.org/the-students-were-the-danger-in-racially-diverse-schools-police-were-more-likely-to-view-students-as-threats-study-shows/>). This is in addition to the number of troubling ways that SROs have interacted with students over the years, with violence and inciting fear in an educational environment.

I hope that the funds would instead be utilized for more student resources to help diffuse situations and help students before turning to the police. Thank you for your time!

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Wednesday Board vote.

Virtual Action: The Chicago Board of Education is voting on Wednesday to remove CPD from CPS. Please email every single address on this list.

Big points:

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
  2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.
  3. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.
- 

police free schools!

Dear BOE,

I am a mother of 2 CPS students at New Field Elementary writing to ask you to cut the contract with the Chicago Police Department. Police have no place in our schools. The safest schools do not have the most police but the most resources. Please reinvest the \$33 million contracts with CPD into hiring more Black educators, smaller class sizes, a library and nurse in every school!

Thank you,



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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I am vehemently in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools, and believe this is a long overdue proposal. In addition to the brutality that Chicago Police officers enact on the streets, the amount of trauma that is done to students by having armed and dangerous officers roaming their halls is unthinkable. I worked for a long time in schools with students who needed extra support, and I can tell you without question that teachers, aids, counselors, therapists, nurses, and leaders trained in restorative justice are 100 times more effective at diffusing any heightened situation should one arise. We have dealt these CPS students a terrible hand by not only taking away the funding for their resources, support systems, and even schools at large, but instead using that money to create a dangerous environment for students, one that often leads them directly into the school-to-prison-pipeline.

Please vote yes to remove CPD from CPS tomorrow, and let's work towards an education system that actually gives students a chance to succeed.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

P.S. The head of the Chicago Police Union, John Catanzara, met his current girlfriend while he was the hired security at her high school.

She was a student.

GET. THEM. OUT. OF. THERE.

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS Tomorrow.

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

The safety and well-being of CPS students is of the utmost priority, and the presence of the CPD severely compromises this. What we need are counselors, nurses, and mental health professionals - not armed, under-trained, intimidating, and discriminatory officers.

This is what is right. Do what is right. Vote for what is right.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

## CPD Removal from Schools

I am in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from Chicago public schools. The police use unjust harsh punishment against many children especially those of color and those that are disabled. I think it would benefit the Chicago schools to invest in other forms of protection for children such as social workers and counselors.

Thank you.

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## CPD removal from CPS schools

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. **Please do what is best for the students.**

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Who are the police protecting in CPS?

To the members of the Chicago Board of Education,

In the end, the students are the point.

I wanted to lead with that because there are constant trade-offs to be made in school administration between students, teachers, and budgets. But students are the point.

Schools aren't open so that teachers have jobs. Schools aren't open so that you can create an effective budget for something. Schools exist to teach students and help them grow as people, and in order to do that, they need to feel safe.

The police are not in schools for the safety of the students. The police go into schools to control students, especially students of color, ESPECIALLY Black students. Investigations have consistently found that CPD officers are antagonistic to students and undermine their ability to learn.

If you believe in the value of education, and want CPS to be a school system and not a juvenile discipline center, you must remove police.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Terminate the CPS Contract with CPD

To the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education:

My name is [REDACTED]. I live in Chicago, and I care deeply about the city and all of its community members. I understand that tomorrow, you are voting on terminating the \$33 million contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department, and I am writing to urge you to **pass the motion to terminate the contract**.

The money currently spent on policing in schools should be spent on nurses, counselors, and restorative justice programs that actually help students. Black and Brown youth deserve to feel *safe* at school. Police presence in schools results in profiling and harassment, and exposes children to the school to prison pipeline. Youth should not be criminalized at their place of education. This system of policing views children as a threat, not as students, and disrupts their learning environments. Schools are supposed to be a place of nurture, not criminalization.

According to [this report](#), the police target Black students at **four times the rate** of white students in CPS. To unfairly subject *children* to this kind of profiling and criminalization is unconscionable. Policing in schools increases the risk of arrest for students for even minor infractions and disciplinary violations, and due to racial profiling, this disproportionately affects students of color.

The problem does not lie with the individual officers assigned to CPS schools. The problem lies with policing as an institution. Take this, for example, from the aforementioned report: the School Resource Officers and School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS for the 2019-2020 school year have a total of **2354 misconduct complaint records** on file between them. [This Chalkbeat analysis](#) of police officers at Chicago schools for the same school year found that 96% of the officers had misconduct allegations against them. For this many officers to have this many misconduct complaints and to still be allowed to work, let alone to interact with vulnerable Black

and Brown children, proves that there is a major accountability problem with policing as an institution. Police should *not* be in schools.

Imagine what the \$33 million allotted to the police in CPS could do. Instead, this money could be used for social workers, counselors, and nurses. This money could be used for restorative justice programs and trauma-informed practitioners. This money could be used for resources to help, nurture, and educate Black and Brown students. We are not merely calling for policing in schools to be terminated, but also for this money to be re-invested in the kind of care that these students actually need and deserve. Work with your community to reimagine what school safety looks like. It should not rely on policing.

Students should not be interacting with police, metal detectors, handcuffs, and drug sniffing dogs when they go to *school*, their place of education. We do not merely need reform—we need police out of schools. Black and Brown youth deserve more from you. Please follow in the footsteps of other school boards like Minneapolis, Denver, and Milwaukee, and vote to **terminate CPS's contract with CPD**. Chicagoans are counting on you to do the right thing here.

Thank you, and I hope to see you vote in favor of the motion to terminate this contract tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

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#### CPD Must Be Removed From CPS - From a Teaching Artist in Many CPS Schools

Dear Person Who Serves the City of Chicago and it's Wonderful Youth,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a theatre Teaching Artist in many CPS Schools across Chicago. I believe in the youth that I work with more than anything. I believe in their agency, their power, their intelligence, and their capacity to make mistakes and learn from them and grow.

Police in schools DO NOT create an environment in which students can learn from their mistakes and grow. They create an environment where mistakes turn into a school to prison pipeline. They take resources away from programs that could actually serve the growth of our young people (guidance counselors, social workers, arts programs). These programs have the potential to be transformative. Policing and criminalizing young people, especially BIPOC young people, does not transform them. It harms them permanently and continues the cycle of violence.

Also, POLICE DO NOT STOP SCHOOL SHOOTINGS. But they do disproportionately arrest BIPOC students at rates much higher than white students. Is the false "peace of mind" that an SRO officer provides to a teacher worth the life/criminal record of a student?

Please look at your priorities.  
Please make the right decision for our youth.  
They are counting on you.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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Please spend the \$33 million on the resources our students need

Dear members of the Board of Education:

I appreciate this opportunity to send you this message. I am asking that you initiate the termination of the contract between the Chicago Police Department and CPS. I know that many schools are themselves implementing a framework of restorative justice in their communities. The presence of police officers and the punitive measurements they often employ themselves and represent generally undermine this effort. There are many ways that the \$33 million dollars spent on police officers might be used otherwise, including to pay for more social workers in our schools and to hire more teachers and teacher aides for the fall, when it will be necessary to socially distance amongst students and staff. Frankly, the possibilities for finding useful ways to allocate that extra money (need I say, our tax dollars) would be a godsend for our district. In any case, I appreciate your time. Please have a wonderful day.

[REDACTED]

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Support of Motion to Terminate Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Chicago

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to you to let you know that as a resident of Chicago, I support the move to terminate the agreement with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department that puts officers in schools. I would propose that the \$33 million that currently goes to funding police go to fully funding Special Ed departments and making sure that all schools have the social workers that their students need! If the school can support the students there will not be a need to have the police there to punish them.

Sincerely,

--  
[REDACTED]



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statement to replace police officers in schools using a positive approach

To the Chicago Board of Education:

I am a retired school social worker who has come back to Chicago Public Schools on a part time basis. I was at a number of schools both elementary and high schools and in a number of neighborhoods. I also spent time as a wraparound facilitator and worked as an External PBIS Coach when that program was utilized in the district. I have had positive experiences working with the Chicago Police when I had to have students taken to psychiatric hospitals when the parent was not available. The important part of what I just mentioned is that I initiated contact after there was a number of interventions tried. Most of the schools I worked at did not have police officers working as security officers but Chicago Board employees. I would work with them and in some cases they were trained to be the contact person for Safety Plans I would design with a student. When I would design plans, the student would let me know who they would want as their 'go to' person when feeling stressed and ready to explode. This is just one approach that has been proven successful.

I would hope that schools and their LSCs would be able to tailor make their approach to suit their unique circumstances. The fact they could only have their portion of the \$33 million to be used for Chicago Police officers as security resource officers.

Chris Graves, Principal at LaSalle Language Academy wrote very succinct alternatives that I wish to reiterate with one addition. If funds that are currently allocated to the officers currently deployed to Chicago Schools were diverted instead for flexible staffing and/or training, then schools could do things such as the following:

- Hire a full time or itinerant Restorative Practices coach to build the capacity of school staff to address safety concerns that would have previously been addressed by an on-duty police officer
- Hire a board-employed security officer who can bolster the staffing of building supervision, specifically someone who is trained and able to implement "non-violent crisis intervention" or "momentary physical intervention" training
- Hire mental health practitioners, to help reduce the need for police intervention, by providing students with the mental health support they need to reduce the likelihood of unsafe situations from arising, including drug and alcohol intervention services.
- Provide training for more staff to be proficient in Safety Care Training (momentary physical intervention), behavioral health team structures, positive behavior programming, and alternatives to suspension.

- For schools interested in keeping the police officers they have, redefine the position to be one where the officer is present off-duty, and is trained to be a mental health first responder, but is not presented as a police officer at any point. Thus, the stigma is eliminated. I present this as an option, because many officers I know also serve as mentors and role models, both in and out of the uniform, thus they can continue this role albeit without a uniform, badge, gun, or handcuffs. The stigma is removed.
- I was recently informed about the Health Equity Action Response Teams (HEART) Framework as presented by several community organizations, and I believe that their initiative and proposals will help achieve a mission where school leaders, staff, and students are supported without the need for daily police presence. One simple structural change: Approve the ability for principals to have the ability to allocate the exact funds previously allocated for police officers to use for other specific purposes (such as the bullet points listed above).
- Chicago Public Schools had external PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) coaches some time ago and they would go to schools and develop Behavioral Teams. The team would look at school data and create an approach that was tailored made for that school. There are training available to schools to help establish these behavioral team and assessment tools to help the school develop a positive environment. There are two websites that you should look at that would help your understanding of this approach: <https://www.pbis.org/> and <http://www.midwestpbis.org/>

I am willing to discuss this further and especially elaborate how PBIS can be strengthened in schools.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

All the best,



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School Board of Education Vote - Police in Schools

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident and would like to express my desire for the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education to end the contract with the police department keeping cops in our schools. \$33 million can be spent in so many better ways that will benefit our children and our community at large. It is time to dismantle the school to prison pipelines and one of the big steps to do that is to remove police offers from our institutions of learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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## CPS Police Funding

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a former teacher in the South Side of Chicago. I witnessed police in schools, harassing students over minor infractions while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. One student who I was working with was expelled after an interaction with a Chicago Police officer. I am sure that if the police officer had handled the situation differently, that student would have remained in school and would've begun to thrive. However, because of this single, unnecessary interaction with a police officer on school grounds, that student no longer has the opportunities he would've had. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. I have personally de-escalated several situations in which the police officers were unable to de-escalate due to a lack of training and students sensing danger from the police.

In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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In Opposition of CPS Funding Towards CPD

Hello,

I am contacting you to express my indignation and my opposition to the renewal of the contract between CPS and CPD. I oppose any and all police intervention for many reasons, but within this context, I believe police lack the skills to de-escalate a potentially violent situation, to empathize with civilians and to consider the driving forces under which people (students) act out. In short - police serve as overseers that employ violence as a means to end both non-violent and violent conflicts. The police's inability to create dialogue or to provide support to either victim or "perpetrator" will not create resolution, rather they can only create obedience through fear. An officer's presence within a learning environment can only promote, at best, feelings of surveillance and/or triggers of fear and anxiety; at worst, it can cause an unjust arrest, or - as we continue to see - murder. Feelings of fear and anxiety are especially to be expected when officers are employed within schools in black and brown communities. In order for students to feel safe and to create an environment that is conducive to learning, I demand the CPS board

votes against the contract renewal with CPD. There are many other staff members that can more effectively de-escalate conflicts. Use your imagination!

Best,

██████████

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Please Vote to Remove CPD from CPS  
To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am an alum of Whitney M. Young Magnet Highschool and former player on DMFS. Police in schools that have less resources than WYHS harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "**[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for our students.

Thank you,

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Regarding the CPS and CPD

Good Day,

I am writing as one concerned, taxpaying, and voting citizen of Chicago that I might implore the Chicago School Board to disinvest, entirely and without hesitation, their financial and administrative relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

The CPD is as much a danger as an asset to the children of our fellow Chicagoans, all of whom deserve to be raised as good citizens with an intimate understanding of upright citizenry, not a learned fear, or loathing, for militarized figures of authority. Being a comprehensive, concerned citizen of our city, our state, and our republic cannot be mistaken for compliance and fear of retaliation by authority figures with state-sanctioned mandates to harm, maim, abuse, or even kill in the name of law and order.

In the shortest practical timeframe, I urge that CPS engage with communities to recruit parent volunteers, reliable private contractors, and the legal council accordingly to rid our educators of their relationship with the police, and that they go even further and invest the budget which would otherwise be procured for the police in, but not necessarily limited to, restorative justice practices, school nurses and mental health counselors, and partnering with social workers, with whatever additional funds to be procured and infrastructure as needed built with the support and help of the Chicago community at large.

I thank you for your time and reiterate that this is an issue not of the moment, not of the fashionable passions of today, but one that concerns the whole of the next generation of citizens of Our Great City, the State of Illinois, and the Republic itself.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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more resources, less police!

Dear BOE,

With several family members part of the CPS community, I am writing to ask the you discontinue your contract with CPD in CPS locations. The safest schools are known to have the most resources, not the most police. We must be active in caring for our youth and be willing to reroute when shown a system does not work. Police presence in schools is only traumatizing young individuals. Please reinvest the \$33 million in hiring more Black educators, providing nurses, and resources to schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police from CPS

Please remove the Chicago police department from Chicago Public Schools and it's affiliates—we do not need police in the schools!

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End CPD Contract NOW

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a CPS educator in the 17th ward. First, I would like to commend you for considering to cancel the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. Throughout my career as an educator, I have seen the school to prison pipeline enabled by this partnership, and I am proud that our Board of Education is taking it upon themselves to end it.

Students and teachers do NOT feel safer with the presence of police officers. We may call them “school resource officers,” but that is simply a euphemism - they are fully armed, operational police officers inflicting trauma on our students EVERY DAY.

Did you know that on a given day, police carry 21,600 bullets, 360 firearms, 180 tasers, 180 cans of pepper spray, 180 expandable batons, and 180 pairs of handcuffs into CPS school hallways? This is no way to keep a community of young people safe.

In “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes,” researchers state, “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29). In Chicago, Black students are

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH, which police officers do not receive in their mere 21-weeks of training. These officers are fundamentally unprepared to serve our young people, and it is an injustice to continue to fund their presence in schools.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. With the \$33 million allotted to 180 CPS-assigned police officers, CPS could equip schools with 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, and 322 nurses. This is especially critical for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Concerns with CPD in CPS

Hello,

I am writing you as a teacher in a Chicago Public School, and urging you to vote for the removal of CPD officers from our schools. The presence of these officers continues the criminalization of Black students, creates an environment in which students feel unsafe and policed, and is incredibly harmful to the work educators are doing.

If you are in this position because you care about students, which I have to imagine you are, I am asking you to use your influence to make schools a safer place for our students. Police do not equal safety, as we have seen time and time again across this nation and in our city. Black individuals do not have the luxury of being protected by police officers, and for CPS, with a largely Black student population, to continue to have police in our schools further harms those very students we claim to be serving.

Please vote to remove CPD officers from our schools tomorrow. Please be on the right side of history.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please get the police out of our schools

Good Day,

I am [REDACTED], I live in Uptown, Chicago. A group of mother's in my neighborhood have told me that you will be voting tomorrow on whether to keep the contract with CPD.

Please end the contract CPD! Our schools could really use that money for Nurses, Librarians, or Social Workers... especially with a pandemic (and no restrictions for Fall classes as of yet)... a Nurse at every school might come in handy (and keep us off the news).

I have seen no good that has come from having police officers in schools. I have seen on the news, multiple times, when they have dragged children out of school (By the hair...). Why can we simply not just call the police when needed (and appropriate)? They should not be disciplining children in schools... that just leads to a higher incarceration rate... or children who enter the system early. Children have enough anxiety! I don't want my kids to go to school with an armed person!

Please vote to end the contract with CPD!

[REDACTED]

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End Your Contract with CPD

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a registered CPS volunteer who teaches health education. I am writing regarding the Board's vote tomorrow on the contract between CPS and CPD. I am demanding the Board votes to end the \$33 million contract and reinvest those funds in resources for students.

Police presence in schools perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harms students of color, the vast majority of students in CPS schools. All students have the right to feel safe in their schools, and police presence makes this impossible.

Instead, I encourage you all to use this \$33 million to improve ELL instruction, purchase new books, hire social workers, improve health services, and hire additional mental health counselors, among other initiatives.

There has never been a place for police officers in schools. Vote to end the contract with CPD.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to take a second to let you know as a resident of the city of Chicago, I do not want my tax money going towards putting police officers in schools. So many studies have shown how detrimental this is to children and teenagers mental health, and how cops in schools contribute to the school to prison pipeline. They have not made our children safe, so we should explore other options. We must get SROs and CPD out of CPS . You have the power to do something about this now, do not shift this off and keep kicking the can down the line, do right by our city.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Note to BoE Member Melendez from Sp.Ed Families

Good afternoon Board Member Melendez,

A few special education families got together to write a letter to you this morning about why they support #PoliceFreeSchools. I hope you have time to take a read through it.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[ 1 Attachment]

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Vote to end the contract between CPD and CPS

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I write today to urge you to vote to end the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

As a former CPS teacher and administrator, and a current CPS parent, I am in full support of removing police officers from Chicago Public Schools and ending the contract with the Chicago Police Department. Many CPS students, along with many members of the Chicago Teachers Union, have spoken loudly and clearly advocating for police-free schools. I support these students and educators wholeheartedly. Ending this contract is a powerful statement of your commitment to more just and equitable schools in the city of Chicago.

As you are aware, the mere presence of police often escalates situations and leads to the arrest of juveniles when circumstances do not call for such a response. Rarely are there incidents in schools which require the involvement of police officers, and their presence in schools throughout the city contributes directly to the school-to-prison-pipeline that disproportionately propels our Black and Brown students into the justice system. The presence of police officers in our schools demonstrates our presumption, rooted in longstanding racial prejudices, that our students will engage in criminal behavior. Why proactively employ police officers, but not additional counselors and social workers? Why not invest in restorative justice and de-escalation training on a broad scale for all educators, and professional development that results in more culturally responsive classrooms with fewer behavior incidents to begin with?

It makes an important statement to honor the voices of the young people CPS serves, as well as those fighting for justice on a daily basis, to formally end the contract between CPS and CPS. While I can understand the intention behind letting school leaders and individual LSCs decide whether or not to have school resource officers, it is a crucial action step toward racial equity for the School Board to end this contract definitively.

I urge you to listen to students, the parents, the teachers, and the community members that you serve as a member of the Board of Education, and vote to end the contract between CPS and CPD. I hope that you will use your power as a member of the Board to redirect that money to proactive social services and the employment of more counselors, social workers, and mental health workers in our city's schools.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Tomorrow's BOE Vote

To the Chicago Public School Board of Education:

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Chicago and constituent of the 47th ward. I am contacting you today to urge you all to vote in favor of terminating Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department. Children are at school to learn, not be policed. An officer in a school hallway sends a strong message to children, especially black and brown children, and that message is hostile. The immediate removal of officers from Chicago schools

will help to foster a more trusting environment between educators, students, and their parents. After these last few weeks of highly publicized police brutality, it has become apparent to me and so many others that our most vulnerable children are not safe while the police are around. Our city's future depends on your decision tomorrow. Please do the right thing and take the police out of our schools.

#BLACKLIVES MATTER

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Remove Police From CPS

Hello!

**I'm writing to urge you to vote to remove police/CPD presence from CPS and replace them with beneficial and much needed forces - like school nurses, pediatric psychologists, and social workers.**

**\$33 million.** That's what CPS spends to keep cops in their schools.

How are students expected to learn, **ESPECIALLY BIPOC STUDENTS**, who are disproportionately (almost **DOUBLE**) killed by police. Black and Latinx students represent 90% of school arrests, where they make up only 65% of the student body.

Not graduating high school makes a person more likely to commit a violent crime (Lochner). One report estimates that, nationally, our country might save \$18.8 billion dollars in crime damage if just 5% more of our students graduated high school (Crime Rates Linked To Educational Attainment). The presence of cops in schools makes it more difficult for BIPOC students to graduate - for they are more likely to be arrested, or have anxiety around police presence - thus setting them up to be more likely to commit future crime. **This is the school to prison pipeline at work.**

Before students can learn, they need to not only feel safe but feel comfortable. However, in its worst facilities, CPS schools can and often have suffered from: no working bathrooms, no heat in the dead of Chicago winter, physical damage to its structure. Sometimes classes need to share a room with another class, cramming 50 or 60 students into a space (Kozol). **\$33 million.**

The same schools with high dropout rates and absenteeism also struggle the most with mental health. Providing students with trained social workers and therapy from an early age, a luxury few low-income families have access to, ensures early intervention. In the same way that students are unable to learn if the physical space is not adequate, they are unable to learn if their mental space is unwell. And, again, its students in these disproportionately low-income neighborhoods that experience the most homelessness, abuse, outright violent crime, that makes them more likely to experience mental illness or discomfort - especially around police.

The neighborhoods with the highest mental health issues, the highest poverty, the highest rates of violent crime, have by and large the lowest spending per student and lowest educational

attainment. Thus, they are a point of access, to fix the most these problems, for the most number of people, through hiring BIPOC nurses, psychologists, and social workers. By investing real resources, NOT COPS, in these neighborhoods and in their children, we're investing in a better future. It's a long-lasting change for a better Chicago.

On Wednesday, vote to remove police from CPS. *Protect* your BIPOC students for a change.

Thank you!

██████████

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## CPS COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- no more CPD in CPS! Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely,

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## CPS contract with CPD - some thoughts

Dear Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am currently about to be a junior at Wesleyan in Connecticut. I graduated from Parker in Lincoln Park before going to college, so I cannot speak from experience when I talk about my views of CPS's contract with the police. However, I would like to share my thoughts with you, as I am still a Chicago resident.

Bringing police into schools can seem like a good idea. No one wants violence at school. School should be an orderly place. However, students don't want to go to school where they cannot learn from their mistakes, or where a bout of disorder leads to lifetime consequences. A mistake at a school filled with police officers is an arrest and a possible ticket into a juvenile detention center, while a mistake at a school without police presence is an opportunity for growth. Why should children and adolescents be penalized because they are growing up in (likely) a less well-resourced area? Why can't they make mistakes?

I believe it would be very beneficial to students and even full communities if police presence was replaced with social workers. Social workers that are from the community they serve, or a similar community, that is. Students who go to school with police are experiencing plenty of other trauma. They need adults in their lives who are stable but also relatable. A Black or brown role model is so important for students. The major problem with *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark case that allowed schools to be integrated, was that Black teachers were not kept in the school system, leading to decreased support for Black students. When a Black male student has one Black teacher, just one, he is 40% less likely to drop out of school. 40%. Imagine how a Black student would feel if they could talk to a Black social worker or mental health professional from their community instead of the armed police.

I went to a social worker when I was a younger student and I now see a therapist. But I've only had access to these services because I am from a white part of town and can afford help on my own. I would say that asking that other students from less-fortunate backgrounds have the same access as I do is not crazy. I am sickened by the school-to-prison pipeline. You have the power to start to end it.

Give those students mental health services from professionals who are also Black and brown, and have dealt with similar struggles. Eliminate the jarring police presence in schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Best,



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HELL NO on cops in schools  
I demand #edequityorelse.

Every kid deserves an excellent school with caring professionals to help them navigate the challenges of childhood and adolescence effectively. They do not deserve to be put into a school to prison pipeline. Get the cops out and give the money to investing in making their classrooms excellent places to nurture their curiosity and build a Chicago that finally ends white supremacy.

THANKS



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## Policing in Schools, from a Principal

Hello Board of Education,

As a principal in our district, I am passionate about the success of all of our students. So, when I heard that the board would be speaking about the presence of police in schools, I wanted to speak up. Having been an 

 I've worked with police officers both on and off duty. While my experiences with officers have generally been positive, I have also listened empathetically to countless students who have expressed fear and anxiety at police presence in schools, and it is to them that I think most heavily as to the regretful impact of police presence. Much of my training, research, and passion lies in providing a well-structured learning environment for students, so I speak here based on all that I have learned. I combine this with the voices of students that I've heard from directly over the years.

By the time that I left  in spring of 2018, we had only had 7 situations in which students were arrested throughout the entire school year. This was a drastic decline from years prior, due to the systems and structures put in place, plus the dedicated work of staff to build relationships with students. In each of these situations, staff were able to de-escalate the situation until an officer were to arrive. It was not necessary that they be in the building with a presence throughout the day. Any situation in which an officer would be needed (ex. take a report, or community building), they could be called or scheduled.

While I understand that Local School Councils can currently vote whether or not they would like on duty police in their buildings, there are a few complications to this. For one, if the position is removed, currently, there is nothing in place for it to be presented with. Thus, principals now would lose a staff member. Additionally, the ways in which this officer may respond to a situation is something that another staff member may already be able to do.

If funds that are currently allocated to the officers currently deployed to Chicago Schools were diverted instead for flexible staffing and/or training, then schools could do things such as the following:

- Hire a full time or itinerant Restorative Practices coach to build the capacity of school staff to address safety concerns that would have previously been addressed by an on-duty police officer
- Hire a board-employed security officer who can bolster the staffing of building supervision, specifically someone who is trained and able to implement "non-violent crisis intervention" or "momentary physical intervention" training
- Hire mental health practitioners, to help reduce the need for police intervention, by providing students with the mental health support they need to reduce the likelihood of unsafe situations from arising, including drug and alcohol intervention services.

- Provide training for more staff to be proficient in Safety Care Training (momentary physical intervention), behavioral health team structures, positive behavior programming, and alternatives to suspension.
- For schools interested in keeping the police officers they have, redefine the position to be one where the officer is present off-duty, and is trained to be a mental health first responder, but is not presented as a police officer at any point. Thus, the stigma is eliminated. I present this as an option, because many officers I know also serve as mentors and role models, both in and out of the uniform, thus they can continue this role albeit without a uniform, badge, gun, or handcuffs. The stigma is removed.

I was recently informed about the Health Equity Action Response Teams (HEART) Framework as presented by several community organizations, and I believe that their initiative and proposals will help achieve a mission where school leaders, staff, and students are supported without the need for daily police presence. **One simple structural change: Approve the ability for principals to have the ability to allocate the exact funds previously allocated for police officers to use for other specific purposes** (such as the bullet points listed above).

I have great respect for those who wear the badge and uphold the ideals of the police force, and also great respect for the school staff who can be trained to address situations in which police would have typically responded. The most vulnerable population in this entire conversation is our students. They are young, developing, and do not hold the ability to make the decisions that we do as policy writers and implementers of the policies. We have the ability to decide whether or not we want to continue to subject them to daily triggers that are avoidable, while providing extra support in place of this.

--

[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL  
[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Mr De Valle,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Vote to cancel CPD contract

Hi,

I would like to urge you to cancel your contract with the CPD. While I am by no means an expert in child care and child psychology and protection, I personally went to a school with no police connection. Kids would benefit from counseling services and support, not having CPD around all the time.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Tomorrow's vote -remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am a former Chicago Public Schools teacher/librarian and a resident of Logan Square. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove School Resource Officers from all of our schools. Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx children for behaviors and concerns that are better handled by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

Additionally, I am very concerned at the high rates of interaction between School Resource Officers and students with disabilities, which can lead to students to be physically harmed, disciplined, punished, and even criminally charged for challenges related to their disability.

You have the chance to listen to the voices of Black and Latinx youth and invest in their futures. Please make the right choice and end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Mr Revuluri,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

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Remove Police from CPD

Dear Board,

I'm writing to ask you to end the contract between CPS and CPD and remove Police/School Resource Officers from schools. Their presence doesn't make students safer; it increases anxiety and leads to more arrests. It also disproportionately affects Black and Brown students. I ask that you instead invest in Health Equity Action Response Teams (HEARTs), which will provide desperately-needed social-emotional resources for students.

Best,

██████████, Logan Square

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Written Submission

On behalf of two parents

[ 2 attachement]

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Please vote to remove cops from schools!

Hello. My name is ██████████, and I'm a resident of Andersonville. I know that tomorrow is the vote about whether or not to remove CPD officers from Chicago Public Schools, and I am writing to implore you to vote to remove. Study after study has shown that the presence of an armed police officer does not stop school shootings or other crimes, but they do arrest BIPOC students vastly disproportionately to white students, perpetuating a cycle of racism and contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline. I urge you to vote to redirect the \$33 million CPD contract, and put that funding towards guidance counselors, social workers, increased teacher pay, or other badly needed resources.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Removing CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a CPS alumni (Walter Payton College Prep class of 2015) and current Chicago resident. I am emailing to provide my full support for removing CPD (including off-duty police officers and security guards) from schools, and instead redirecting those resources to nurses, social workers, and educational resources to help students succeed.

Multiple school districts, including Minneapolis and Portland public schools, have cut their ties with police and CPD should be next. According to the Justice Policy Institute, despite increases in resources towards policing in schools, school safety has not increased. This requires a closer examination of what role police officers actually play in the school system and what could be a more effective method of keeping students safe. De-escalation training and a focus on psychology and health may mitigate school violence concerns more effectively than cops in schools.

I strongly urge you to cut ties with CPD and redirect funding from school security officers towards health and educational resources for students. Please keep in mind the students' best interests and how we can build a better future for them.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Ms Rome,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Wednesday's CPD Vote

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you in regards to the Board of Education vote that's happening tomorrow. I am asking you to vote to remove the CPD from CPS. We are all familiar with the resources that Chicago's public schools are lacking: nurses, social workers, psychologists, etc. It is absolutely absurd that we have cops in schools that don't even have a nurse! We need to be investing in our children's futures, not punishing, traumatizing, and stunting them before they even begin. There are too many examples of SRO's using violent force against or arresting children. This is not

how we nurture and invest in our communities. These are children. Please do right by them and vote to remove police from CPS.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS!

To the Chicago Board of Education-

I am an educator in Chicago and I strongly oppose the CPS contract with Chicago police. I'm sure you share my feeling that the achievement gap and the school to prison pipelines are serious problems that should be the top priority for the school board to address. When police handle disciplinary issues, children are more likely to be funneled into the criminal justice system. Can't the money spent on school officers, whose presence often results in gross overuse of force, be spent on counselors and restorative justice programs? Or even ensuring that schools are ready for a potentially catastrophic opening during a global pandemic?

I saw on Twitter today that an officer at Michelle Clark HS, who is paid a 93k salary, has 58 complaints against him. CPS expects teachers to be highly trained, highly capable, unbiased, and most of all, to care about children's well-being. Cops... are trained to punish and use force, and unfortunately get away with crossing the line all too often. Their place in our schools is completely inappropriate. Please do the right thing and terminate the contract with CPD.

Thank you so much for your time and stay safe.

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Mr Truss,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove SROs from Chicago Public Schools

To members of the Chicago Board of Education:

Tomorrow you are called to make a decision to uplift the educational experiences and safety of countless students in the Chicago Public School system. You have the opportunity to cancel the CPS contract with CPD and remove SROs, or School Resource Officers, from our public schools.

Hi, I'm Anna, and I'm also an educator. I teach at DePaul.

Data shows that SROs do not materially make schools safer. Instead, all they do is harass students in their place of learning, and in some cases assault and arrest them. Furthermore, the students targeted by SROs are overwhelmingly Black students and students of color. SROs have been proven to accelerate the school-to-prison pipeline. They do not create an environment where our children feel safe and empowered to learn.

Furthermore, SROs in the CPS system have next to no training, and frequently have records of misconduct from their time as CPD officers. It is outright dangerous to expose children to officers who are deemed to be a problem by their own force.

I hope that on Wednesday, you will put the needs of students before all else, and vote to protect them by removing SROs from their places of learning.

Thank you.



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Please cancel your CPS contract with CPD.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a partner in CPS schools through my nonprofit work and as a human being who deeply cares for the welfare of our kids and teachers, I beg you to please cancel the CPS contract with the CPD.

Traumatizing students who struggle with impulse control or behavior management by handing them over to police standing by in their schools is negligent at best. The mere presence of police officers can be traumatizing for students and asking them to perform their best while this constant reminder of their potential worst is harmful.

Please invest in high quality supports for students like counseling, restorative justice, and scaffolded one on one help, as well as professional development for teachers and staff to better prepare them to address the underlying issues students face, instead of putting band aid on the symptoms they see expressed.

I would be happy to talk more with folks on the board to share my personal experiences in CPS schools. Please feel free to reach out to me any time.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Ms Todd-Breland,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

██████████

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Vote Against Policing in Chicago Public Schools Schools!

Hello,

I'm writing to share my support for the termination of the \$33 million contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. **I hope that you will vote to end this contract tomorrow.**

We need models of safety in schools that do not rely on inciting fear and criminalizing young people every single day. Students have an immediate need for better resources, access to technology, support for their basic needs, counselors, and nurses. They do not need to be policed. The Chicago Board of Education should follow the lead of school districts in Minneapolis, Portland, and Denver in cutting ties with law enforcement and commit to reallocating the \$33 million to supporting students in new, non-punitive ways.

Sincerely,

██████████

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CPS Contract with CPD

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to demand that you end CPS' contract with CPD. Police do not belong in schools, and it is your job as members of the Board of Education to create a safe environment that meets students' needs and enables them to learn. Children who "act out" are often communicating unmet needs, and rather than hiring police to punish and harm students, you must instead direct funds to programs and services that meet their physical and emotional needs. Please end the contract with CPD and work to create a more supportive and less hostile learning environment for all CPS students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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### Shutting Down the School to Prison Pipeline

Hello all,

I am writing to you today to urge you to support the overwhelming calls from myself and my fellow citizens of Chicago to remove CPD officers from Chicago schools. These officers are having a profound negative impact on the students in Chicago's schools. Not only do they create an atmosphere of surveillance and anxiety for students, which is not at all conducive to learning, but they are frequently known to harass students and are ultimately not a benefit to the students in any way. These SROs disproportionately target Black students and placing them in schools criminalizes students at a young age and forces them into the criminal justice system when we could be instead offering them the help and guidance they need to succeed. If we truly want to help our students, we need to remove CPD offices from schools and replace them with faculty that might actually help such as social workers, nurses and counselors. I firmly believe that removing these officers from schools will help to shut down the school-to-prison pipeline that has done so much harm to so many young people. As members of the board of education, it is your duty and responsibility to make sure our schools are an environment with helps and educates students, not one that harms and incarcerates them, and the only way to do that is by voting to remove cops from CPD

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

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### Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Ms Melendez,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Please Take CPD Out Of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a lifelong Chicago resident. First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29). Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon Mr Sotelo,

I am a resident of the 47th ward in Chicago, and I understand that there is to be a vote on removing police from Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote to do so. A police presence in our schools is an unnecessary allocation of funds, as well as threat to and a trigger for much of the student population. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Concern For Tomorrow

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that a vote will be held tomorrow to determine if CPD presence should be removed from public schools.

I have resided in the 40th ward of Chicago for the past 5 years, directly across the street from Amundsen High School. I grew up in a small northern Michigan rural town where even our 1200-student school had a state trooper on premises, presumably to protect the student population.

Police presence in schools has never prevented a school shooting. It has not, by and large, decreased truancy or increased safety. Its biggest effect on the student population has always

been to perpetuate the heavy arm of the law which disproportionately affects the marginalized and focuses on petty crime to draw more labor into the prison industrial complex.

It is the top of the funnel for modern-day slavery, it promotes inequity, perpetuates racism, and should not have any role in our schools.

Additionally, I implore you all to seriously invest resources in teachers' wages, social and mental health programs, on-premise mental health experts who are trained to de-escalate dangerous situations, and to cut all ties with the police.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Take Cops Out of CPS Schools.

To whom it may concern:

I would first like to thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure.

We do NOT need CPD in our schools. We are funnelling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

We have \$33 Million dollars for police who are not trained to work with kids. At the same time, our teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and Nurses, all positions trained to keep our children safe and healthy. How is this right? How is this acceptable?

We need to do better for our children. End the School to Prison Pipeline. It starts with you.

Please vote accordingly.

Respectfully

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Keep CPD out of CPS

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I live in Rogers Park. I want cops of out of Chicago schools.

Many thanks!

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For Your Consideration

Hello,

I am writing to you today to encourage you to vote CPD out of CPS.

### **Reasons?**

I could list out all the statistics to you, I'm sure many have. The numbers that mathematically support CPD presence does more harm than good for the POC, black students in particular, that make up much of CPS. All of those saddening studies — they can and should be shared. It is a valid focus of the logical element to this fight for racial equality and educational equity. But today I would like to add to the logos of it all, and also bring forth the ethos as well.

### **Why?**

Because this is a fight for our city's, our country's, and our world's humanity. It is bigger than any one person, and yet it is the way we can bring about change. It is by each individual choosing to step up and show up more than we ever have before.

I may not know you personally, but as a person who works in the education field myself, I believe that individuals who choose this career path feel in their core, the positive power of our youth. The potential, the work, the struggle, the learning, the changing, the growing they do in their time of k-12 is something wildly humbling, hard to process at times, and yet instills hope. It inspires me to work on myself and the community around me to create the best environment for them to grow up and get educated in.

Where are we today? It seems we are at a pivotal moment. A moment that culminates the past, and foreshadows a possibly better future. However, It will take our hard work first. For centuries, a system was built to work against so many students that CPS aims to serve. And yet we see so many students throughout time that still survive, and even thrive! They achieve so many great things. Imagine what even more students can do if the system was NOT built to work against them? When you take a macro lens to the education system that has been built across the US, it can be daunting, and the police presence in our schools is just one of many flaws. I can empathize with the feeling that it is too much. But I assure you it is not.

Some of my favorite teachers and mentors growing up use to tell me “one day at a time Amber,” for I was an anxious student who sometimes spiraled about the future and let it keep me from focusing and enjoying the present. I offer that same valuable advice here to you today. Let's take this one day at a time. Within 24 hours you and your fellow board members will be voting on CPD presence in CPS. Vote to remove CPD out of CPS. Take that one step and then the next. Plenty of students are marching, demonstrating, and pleading for you and the board to make this decision. It is time you listen and reply with action.

In modern times, the word “Power” is often associated with a negative connotation. Often it is attached to the elite, typically white, males, politicians or the 1%. However, we all have power, **every single human**. Power is not inherently bad. It is about how we use it. I encourage you to tap into the power you possess as a community leader, and use it for good. Cast your vote

for the students you serve, not for the pressure of the status quo that is desperately trying to hold onto the past. It's time for change and you can be part of this historic change.

Respectfully,

. Chicago resident and Youth Advocate.

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Remove CPD from our Public Schools

To The BOE members

Please remove CPD from our schools with your vote.

Thank you,  

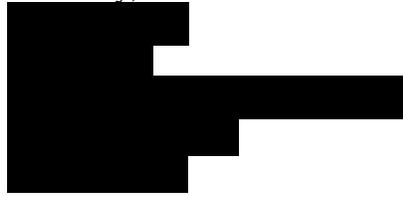

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cancel SRO contract; invest in students

Dear Chicago Board of Education members,

I am a parent of a CPS high school student who is incredibly distressed by the negative impact School Resource Officers are having on Chicago's students, especially Black and Latinx students. I am writing to urge the Chicago Board of Education to listen to CPS students and remove police from our schools. We are asking that Chicago Public Schools end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million allocated for School Resource Officers should instead be used on alternatives to policing: invest in counselors, restorative justice coordinators, social workers, librarians, and nurses instead of police in our schools. Our students have varied educational, social, and emotional needs that are not being met, in part, because we invest more in policing students than we do in supporting their development.

Students are telling us what they need. It is time for us to listen. Support the motion to terminate the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Chicago authorized by board report number 19-0828-EX4 and the motion to require that the CEO and district leaders, in consultation with school communities identify and recommend alternatives to the School Resource Officer program to ensure safe and supportive school environments.

Sincerely,  


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REMOVE CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

I am writing to urge that when the vote comes up tomorrow on whether to remove police officers from Chicago Public Schools, you cast your votes in favor of the motion. The experiment has failed. The presence of police officers in schools, instead of creating a sense of safety and order, creates a sense of fear and distrust. Students attending school under the watchful eye of the police will not learn reading, writing, and arithmetic, and they certainly won't learn that the police are there to help them; they will learn (and are learning) that they are presumed criminals and the police is ready to pounce on them. Is this the environment our children deserve? Let's put the money we currently waste on the CPD contract where it belongs: in restorative, supportive services that will put our schools and our students on the track to success.

Sincerely,



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Vote YES to NO CPD

Good afternoon,

My name is  and I am a proud alum of Lane Tech College Prep. As a former CPS student, Chicagoan, and ally for BIPOC, I am begging you to vote CPD out of our schools. Your decision will impact the lives of children who depend on you entirely-- doesn't everyone deserve to feel safe and accepted in their place of education? This is a civil rights issue and I urge you to make the decision which will leave you on the right side of history.

Sincerely,



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Vote to Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago resident and I am asking you to vote tomorrow to **remove** CPD from our public schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of **child and young adult psychology and health**. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and

complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists and developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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### CPD In Public Schools

To Whom it May Concern:

As a constituent in Lakeview, I am deeply concerned about the role of Chicago Police Department in Chicago Public Schools. Students deserve better and there isn't any real proof of safety with police's presence.

As you can see from the protests on our streets, this is an exciting time to envision what safety and health in schools may look like. There are so many cost-effective alternatives. I am writing to encourage you to support the proposal to remove CPD from public schools.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

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### SRO Vote

Please reassess the role of police officers in our schools and to reconsider the necessity of police presence in CPS and vote to end the SRO presence in CPS schools.

The literature on SRO programs does not definitively demonstrate whether the presence of law enforcement actually makes schools safer. Research on the impact of deploying SROs in schools is limited, and what exists has mixed results. At the same time, research and data in Chicago and across the country show disproportionate impacts of school policing on students of color, particularly Black students, and students with disabilities. Research has also shown that presence of school resource officers in schools is associated with a statistically significant increase in the use of exclusionary school discipline. Reports have indicated that the presence of police officers in schools is associated with an increase in ticketing or juvenile court referrals for minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct or classroom disruption.

Barbara Raymond, Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Assigning Police Officers to Schools 7 (April 2010; updated July 2013).

Nathan James & Gail McCallion, Congressional Research Service, School Resource Officers: Law Enforcement Officers in Schools 9 (June 26, 2013); Congressional Research Service, School Resource Officers: Issues for Congress (July 5, 2018).

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, 2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection, School Climate and Safety (April 2018 – rev. May 2019), at 3.

Congressional Research Service, School Resource Officers: Issues for Congress (July 5, 2018) (citing Benjamin W. Fisher and Emily Hennessy, “School Resource Officers and Exclusionary Discipline in U.S. High Schools: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” Adolescent Research Review, vol. 1 (September 2016), pp. 217-233).

Emily Morgan et al. (July 2014), The Council of State Governments Justice Center, The School Discipline Reform Consensus Project: Strategies from the Field to Keep Students Engaged in School and Out of the Juvenile Justice System 191-

92, <https://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/projects/school-discipline-consensus-project/>.

I obtained this research from the Education Law and Policy Institute at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.



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CPD out of CPS Now

Dear Board of Education,

I am urging you to vote tomorrow in support of the motion to terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

Studies show time and again that Police in schools disproportionately target Black and Latinx students, just as they do BIPOC communities outside of our educational systems.

In Illinois, Black girls are 5x more likely to be arrested in school than White girls.

School Resource Officers assigned to CPS sites have a combined more than 2,000 misconduct complaints against them.

Police bring harm to schools, not safety.

Cops out of CPS now.

Redirect that \$33 million contract to the hiring of counselors, social workers, and nurses.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Break CPS contract with CPD tomorrow!

Hello,

I am writing you to demand you vote to terminate the CPS contract with CPD at tomorrow's CPS Board meeting. Why do Chicago public schools all have a cop but not all have a social worker? Police presence in school is not only traumatizing for black and brown students (the black boys, of which can expect 1 in 1,000 of them will grow up to be murdered by police) but is also counterproductive. Cops in schools ruin these kids' lives by charging them with petty crimes and do not stop any violence. If anything, literature tells us that more police = more violence.

Put the politics aside and do the right thing by our black and brown Chicago students. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a Chicago native and educator. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  


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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am emailing you to urge you to vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. CPS needs more nurses, counselors, and case managers to assist their students, not police officers who create a dangerous environment for students, particularly black and brown students.

Please do the right thing and vote to cut ties with the CPD. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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No more cops in schools!

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a social work student who lives in Edgewater. I used to work at Foreman College and Career Academy before deciding to go back to school to become a social worker.

I have seen the destruction that having police in schools can create. Teaching children from a young age that they need to be policed, have people with weapons walking around to keep them in line, instills in them a belief that something is wrong with them and that they deserved this treatment.

Schools with police are far more likely to refer to those children to law enforcement, beginning the school to prison pipeline. Police power comes from their ability to use violence at their own discretion. Take the 6 year old who was put in handcuffs in Florida, or an 11 year old girl being shoved against a wall.

My students at Foreman were all Black and Brown, and were not raised that police were people they could go to if they need help. They were raised that law enforcement was not meant for them, and ways to act to ensure they survived encounters with the police. And now those same police walked the halls of the school that they were supposed to trust.

Tomorrow, I urge you to cut funding to CPD, and reinvest that money in care for the community.

Please remember that "the presence of Chicago police inside of schools creates dangerous conditions for students that have led to the criminalization, mass incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force against Brown and predominantly Black students."

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Social workers not cops!

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a social work student who lives in Edgewater. I used to work at Foreman College and Career Academy before deciding to go back to school to become a social worker.

I have seen the destruction that having police in schools can create. Teaching children from a young age that they need to be policed, have people with weapons walking around to keep them in line, instills in them a belief that something is wrong with them and that they deserved this treatment.

Schools with police are far more likely to refer to those children to law enforcement, beginning the school to prison pipeline. Police power comes from their ability to use violence at their own discretion. Take the 6 year old who was put in handcuffs in Florida, or an 11 year old girl being shoved against a wall.

My students at Foreman were all Black and Brown, and were not raised that police were people they could go to if they need help. They were raised that law enforcement was not meant for them, and ways to act to ensure they survived encounters with the police. And now those same police walked the halls of the school that they were supposed to trust.

Tomorrow, I urge you to cut funding to CPD, and reinvest that money in care for the community, specifically more social workers and mental health staff in schools!

Please remember that "the presence of Chicago police inside of schools creates dangerous conditions for students that have led to the criminalization, mass incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force against Brown and predominantly Black students."

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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Vote on CPD out of CPS tomorrow

I am writing in support of ending the contract with CPD. I teach in a high school with a SRO. Our students need access to counselors and social workers, not arrest. During this closure, all of the families I have been tasked with calling have needed access to food resources, 70% have needed tech resources, over half have been laid off or even even lost jobs. These are families facing trauma. Sending police officers to 20 hours of PD does not give them the expertise our students need. They are trained to arrest people and they are armed. That is a criminalizing presence.

I am also on the LSC at my school. We were not presented alternatives for that \$33 million. In fact we were told CPS wouldn't be paying for the SRO. So some people felt like it was better to

keep a "free" resource. But only 3 were unconditionally in support regardless. When LSCs are reported as favoring SROs it's not in response to "would you rather have an SRO or a counselor/social worker/nurse." It's being posed as take this SRO or nothing. Finally, as you know, students have only one vote on an LSC. So despite the fact they are making themselves heard loud and clear in the streets, their impact on the LSC is negligible. And once again we are not prioritizing the students. I don't know how many schools are like mine. We have an ALSC. ALSCs have 2 advocates in addition to the 2 community reps, 2 teachers, 6 parents, principal, and student. Last August there were 3 parent vacancies and we were not able to get hold of the student rep. We were directed to poll members who weren't present for discussion, a violation of LSC protocol that is not normally acceptable. Our school is 85% Black and LatinX yet only 4 of 10 people voting on the LSC were Black or LatinX. In addition, the principal appoints the 2 community reps and the 2 advocates. So it's pretty questionable whether our LSC actually represents the school. Please don't use that false notion that LSCs are the voice of the school as your excuse. Do what is right for the students and end the contract.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS schools - vote to terminate CPD contract!

Hello Members of the Board,

I am a concerned resident of Chicago and a CPS employee. I am writing to encourage the Chicago School Board to take definitive action tomorrow in support of students by voting to terminate the CPS contract with CPD.

This \$33 million contract serves to strengthen the school to prison pipeline that causes disproportionate harm to Black and Brown students. This money could be redirected to programs and staff that will better serve students and can address root causes of the safety concerns both within schools and in our communities that CPD is allegedly in the school to protect against.

Students' lives are not improved by armed officers patrolling their schools, and these officers' presence can lead to experiences of harm and reminders of trauma. Additionally Black students are disproportionately targeted for punishment and arrested by police in schools. CPS upholds equity as a core value and the continued presence of police in schools is counter to this value.

Please listen to the students demanding change in their schools. Listen to the community demanding change in schools. Help keep students truly safe and vote to terminate the CPD contract tomorrow.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPS Contact with CPD

Hello, Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am currently a CPS registered volunteer and Northwestern student, studying education policy. The presence of officers in schools are symbols of violence for my Black and brown students that I mentor. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD. The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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I Support Police-Free Schools

Dear BOE,

I am a Chicago resident and workforce development professional, asking you to please cut the contract between the Chicago Public Schools System and the Chicago Police Department. The safest schools are not those with the most police, but rather those with the most supportive resources. Please reinvest the \$33 million police contract into smaller class sizes, hiring and supporting Black educators, and funding libraries and nurses in each and every CPS school! The Chicago community will support you taking bold and decisive action to rupture the school to prison pipeline and put care before criminalization.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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End CPD Contract

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

It's time to end Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Police do not belong in schools. We have many studies, articles, and books that have been written on this subject. Police in schools do more harm to children than they help, are a major contributor to the school-to-prison pipeline, often afflict trauma onto students, and criminalize common childhood behaviors. Children shouldn't be policed.

In addition, we have officers doing too many things that should be done by teachers, counselors, and social workers. We need a school system that supports students and helps them, not traumatizes and criminalizes them.

Lastly, the CPD has a long history of corruption and is simply not trusted by the citizens of Chicago. There is no good reason to have this corrupt force around our children.

Terminate their contract.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

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CPD out of CPS!

It's time to take the CPD OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS! That money should be spent on social workers, outreach, and other resources PROVEN to help the students. As a parent of a CPS student, it horrifies me to think she could be subject to the CPD's bigotry and violence. NO MORE POLICE IN OUR SCHOOLS!

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

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Get CPD out of CPS

Good afternoon,

I am a resident of the City of Chicago and I work every day with youth who attend CPS, youth who are also in the foster care and juvenile justice system. I am extremely invested in this issue. I wrote a blog post last week and sent this to the mayor and my alderperson, and I will share it with you now.

<https://medium.com/@jenbirch10/get-cpd-out-of-cps-5af460df9c31>

"In a press conference last week, Mayor Lightfoot said that she isn't considering pulling CPD out of Chicago Public Schools. "We're not gonna do that," Lightfoot said. "Unfortunately, we need security in our schools." I listened to the Mayor's press conference, eagerly anticipating meaningful changes promised in her campaign. Waiting for the Mayor to provide evidence that \$33 million of police have improved educational experiences for students. It never came, as I knew it wouldn't because study upon study shows that School Resource Officers (SROs) are utilized for situations they have no business attending to, and consequently, children are criminalized and traumatized.

There are a host of unintended consequences associated with Policing in schools. Due to the lack of funding for support personnel in schools, Police officers are called in for situations that they are not equipped for. This is why schools with police officers have more suspensions, expulsions, and arrests for small infractions like bullying, class disruptions, and general school violations. In addition, police often violate students' rights. The majority of schools allow officers to interview students without an adult present, and without hindrance from school personnel. Not surprisingly, most of these consequences are felt by Black and Brown students, and students with disabilities.

Reform is not an option. CPD has shown that they do not care about community voices, and they don't care about our children's rights. We know this because in 2019, before the CPS School Board voted 5-1 to approve a \$33 million contract for CPD in our schools, CPD held several "Community Input" meetings that were *closed to the general public*. Students and parents expressed overwhelming opposition to SRO's, but CPD shut them out, and the School Board chose not to hear them. Schools have the option to not have an officer, however, they forfeit the funding associated with that officer if they choose not to.

Imagine what CPS could do with that \$33 million. CTU has done this work for us already. CPS could invest that money in smaller class sizes by hiring more teachers, or in more support personnel so that Social Workers aren't stretched across multiple schools with caseloads in the hundreds. We could invest in training on Restorative Justice practices, which has plenty of research showing its efficacy for handling a range of negative behaviors. They could expand the number of Community Schools, which offer holistic supports and afterschool programs. Each of

these suggestions has shown positive results for academic performance as well as student wellbeing. When has a police officer ever contributed positively to academic performance or wellbeing?

The way forward is clear. Disinvest from CPD in our schools and invest in evidence-backed, student and faculty supported programs.

#DefundCPD #BlackLivesMatter"

I will be tuning in to the board meeting tomorrow. Thank you for your time.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Defund CPD in CPS

I strongly urge you to defund the police crime culture created within our schools and take those funds and put them where they are needed—social work, counseling and behavioral health programs.

Please stop criminalizing our youth!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Parent, volunteer and concerned citizen of CPS

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Regarding the vote tomorrow with Chicago Public Schools' relationship to the Chicago Police Department

Dear President and Board Members,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- no more CPD in CPS! Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely,

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Listen to Students: CPD out of CPS

To Chicago Public Schools Board of Education Members,

I was very relieved when I saw the news that you would be reviewing the contract between CPS and CPD at tomorrow's Board meeting. Despite both Dr. Jackson and Mayor Lightfoot expressing support for LSC's determination of SRO's, I am glad to see you take the time to weigh in yourselves.

As many of you know, students have been pushing for years; asking for CPS to make their schools a place of learning, not a prison. There is well-documented abuse and racism by CPD officers, in addition to the risks to students well being stemming from the criminalization of children in a place of learning. Mistakes made in school should be moments to learn - not moments that lead to harmful, carceral responses that last a lifetime.

I urge you to follow the lead of Minneapolis, Oakland, Denver, Louisville and other large cities who have already agreed to side with students and end collaboration with police.

As the third largest school district in the country, other school districts and city councils are looking to CPS to be an example.

Provide students with resources, not police.

Thank you  


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Please Vote to Remove CPD from Public Schools

Hello,

I am a resident of Chicago's 47th Ward, and I am writing to ask that you vote to remove CPD from public schools so that these funds can be directed to services that actually increase public safety and student well being, such as school psychologists, nurses, guidance counselors, and social workers.

Thanks you,  
[REDACTED]

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No police in CPS

To whom It Make Concern:

As the Education Director at a Chicago nonprofit, I work with many of our schools very closely. The overwhelming desire from staff and students is to remove the CPD from our schools.

The CPD and it's racist history does not keep our students safe. The CPD is not equipped to meet the many, many needs of our students. This money could be spent in so many powerful and restorative ways.

Please do NOT renew the contract with CPD.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

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Less cops more counselors in CPS

I've done a lot of after school programs around the Humboldt Park area. My experience is that cops in schools are not able to respond much quicker then officers patrolling the area and are not trained or qualified to de-escalate situations.

Move funding to staff and resources that can help with the healthy development of young people.

[REDACTED]

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CPD should not be in Schools

Hi, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago, IL.

The students of Chicago Public Schools do not need police officers. Obviously, schools can function without armed officers because schools already function without them in neighborhoods on the North side as well as in suburbs. CPS students deserve appropriate funding for counselors, nurses, and education that actually meets their needs. Or meeting their food insecurities, housing or community needs. The students deserve the arts and extracurricular activities. I demand that you remove CPD from schools and reallocate funding to meet their actual needs.

Sincerely,

██████████

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CPD out of CPS

Hello my name is ██████████ and I am a resident of Chicago. I am emailing you regarding the motion to end CPS's contract with CPD. CPS should terminate that contract, and I believe that the \$33 million spent on police should be going to school counselors, social workers, librarians, nurses, etc. I believe there should be less focus on criminalizing students and more focus on providing resources and opportunities for students to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

██████████

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Please Remove CPD from Our Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████, and I live in Ward 26. I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teenagers and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, as well as students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods.

For those concerned with in-school violence, a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with *qualified* therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. This is especially true for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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CPD out of CPS

Dear Board Members,

As a resident of Chicago, **I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department.** Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black and Brown students, as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I strongly urge the Board to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely,



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Please vote yes to end CPS-CPD contract

Members of the Board of Education,

My name is  and I am a high school teacher living in on Kenmore Avenue.

I am writing to urge you to end the CPD contract with CPS and remove officers from schools. Officers do not keep children any safer. Moreover, the \$33 million in funds could be diverted to much needed resources such as nurses and counselors, especially in black and brown communities, which would do much more to alleviate violence than cops.

I teach in a well-funded school in Evanston and my sister works in a school in Morgan Park that has far fewer resources. The disparity is astounding. As CPS prepares to reopen, now is the time to apply equity across the city.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Terminate the CPS Contract with the CPD

Hi, my name is █████. I live in Chicago, and I care deeply about the city and all of its community members. I understand that tomorrow, you are voting on terminating the \$33 million contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department, and I am writing to urge you to **pass the motion to terminate the contract**.

The money currently spent on policing in schools should be spent on nurses, counselors, and restorative justice programs that actually help students. Black and Brown youth deserve to feel *safe* at school. Police presence in schools results in profiling and harassment, and exposes children to the school to prison pipeline. Youth should not be criminalized at their place of education. This system of policing views children as a threat, not as students, and disrupts their learning environments. Schools are supposed to be a place of nurture, not criminalization.

According to [this report](#), the police target Black students at **four times the rate** of white students in CPS. To unfairly subject *children* to this kind of profiling and criminalization is unconscionable. Policing in schools increases the risk of arrest for students for even minor infractions and disciplinary violations, and due to racial profiling, this disproportionately affects students of color.

The problem does not lie with the individual officers assigned to CPS schools. The problem lies with policing as an institution. Take this, for example, from the aforementioned report: the School Resource Officers and School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS for the 2019-2020 school year have a total of **2354 misconduct complaint records** on file between them. [This Chalkbeat analysis](#) of police officers at Chicago schools for the same school year found that 96% of the officers had misconduct allegations against them. For this many officers to have this many misconduct complaints and to still be allowed to work, let alone to interact with vulnerable Black and Brown children, proves that there is a major accountability problem with policing as an institution. Police should *not* be in schools.

Imagine what the \$33 million allotted to the police in CPS could do. Instead, this money could be used for social workers, counselors, and nurses. This money could be used for restorative justice programs and trauma-informed practitioners. This money could be used for resources to help, nurture, and educate Black and Brown students. We are not merely calling for policing in schools to be terminated, but also for this money to be re-invested in the kind of care that these

students actually need and deserve. Work with your community to reimagine what school safety looks like. It should not rely on policing.

Students should not be interacting with police, metal detectors, handcuffs, and drug sniffing dogs when they go to *school*, their place of education. We do not merely need reform—we need police out of schools. Black and Brown youth deserve more from you. Please follow in the footsteps of other school boards like Minneapolis, Denver, and Milwaukee, and vote to **terminate CPS's contract with CPD**. Chicagoans are counting on you to do the right thing here.

Thank you, and I hope to see you vote in favor of the motion to terminate this contract tomorrow.

All the best,

██████████

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REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I am a recent Northwestern University graduate. I'm writing to demand that you vote to **remove** CPD from Chicago Public Schools. The school-to-prison pipeline destroys the futures of children who are full of brilliance and potential that could be properly nurtured and honed if they had access to better resources and non-violent forms of aid and intervention at school. Having had the privilege to receive a Northwestern education, I am advocating for the right of other bright, young minds to live to do the same.

Thank you,

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good Afternoon,

My name is ██████████. In high school, I was a member of the ISBE Student Advisory Council. I saw how the IL State Board of Education prioritized students' voices, and I hope you will do the same when listening to me today. I am currently a student at Northwestern University. I was born and raised in Illinois and I consider myself a concerned and informed member of the Chicago community, I'm writing today to ask you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. The police do not protect students, they interfere with the education of BIPOC students and create an unsafe environment for many. I encourage you to be a part of the fight for justice against police brutality. Use your platform as a member of the Chicago School Board to cancel the CPS contract with CPD.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

Hello,

Thank you for the important work you do on Chicago's School Board.

I am an alum of CPS and hope that you will use your position in a way that will benefit all of Chicago by voting to cancel the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I believe firmly in reallocating the 33million dollars towards social services that will help students thrive such as more social workers, counselors, and nurses. Please help put an end to the school to prison pipeline.

Thank you for all you do and I sincerely hope that you will vote to end the presence of police in our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Hello! From a Concerned Chicagoan

Hello there, Member of the Chicago Board of Education,

I hope you've had some sunshine through your windows, during this Chicago summer rain. As with the masses that have emailed you as a part of a reenergized Chicago, I reach out to you as a concerned Chicagoan. 2020 has been a year of change and I ask of you to be a voice confident in the change.

The eyes of Chicago, about 2.706 million people, are on the Board's vote tomorrow on the Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department to have officers in schools. We are aware that 2020 is a year with a focus on safety of Americans in the face of crises. It is undeniable that the public health crisis and racially charged violence are only a few things that CPS students face when school reopens this Fall.

There is a difference you can make tomorrow, to vote to end the contract. Officers often escalate situations dangerously, rather than deescalating them. Ultimately, officers in school criminalize black and latinx students. There are numbers and statistics that have the truth plain and simple, but what can help you see to see the humanity is that one story you saw in the news in the back of your mind. I don't know what this story is, but it is a part of your story. It is the story that gives you resilience as a board member of an educational institution. It is of a student who was

affected by schools- whether positively or negatively, whether as a product of a predominantly white school or the target of systemic racism that makes a kid grow up far too fast.

You have weighed the options. But what story do you want to foster for the future of Chicago? A story of safer schools, with funding to after school programs and required arts programs that help the future of our city? Or to let cycles be cycles.

Sincerely,  
A Concerned Chicagoan

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Our children deserve better, terminate the CPD contract

Dear CBOE,

I am a Chicago resident, living in the 49th ward and I am writing to urge you to terminate CPS's \$33 million contract with CPD and redistribute those funds to desperately needed social services such as school nurses, social workers, librarians.

I understand that both Mayor Lightfoot and CEO Janice Jackson have said that we should leave the decision about cops in schools to each individual LSC. I believe strongly that this is not an acceptable alternative. We must act unilaterally for the safety of *all* children, and especially Black and Latinx students most likely to experience violence from police.

In addition, Lightfoot and Jackson's deflection fails to address our core request as Chicago residents. We don't just want cops out of schools. We want to replace them with caregivers and other resources that foster safety and wellbeing for students. If we leave this decision to the LSCs, the \$33 million contract will still stand. LSC's do not have the choice to use that money for a nurse or social worker rather than an SRO. The officer is police officer or nothing.

Please invest in the wellbeing of our students and distribute that \$33 million dollars into our children's care.

Thank you,  


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Please remove CPD from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Please vote to remove police officers from Chicago's schools. Please consider replacing the roles police officers play in schools with qualified therapists or psychologists. Please do what is best for the students.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

As a citizen of Chicago and an advocate for CPS, I encourage you all to vote to end the contract with CPD and reallocate those funds to school counselors, social workers, librarians, nurses, and resources for BIPOC.

The teacher strike last fall highlighted the lack of the above due to sustained budget cuts over the previous years. Now is the time to take a stand and give the students and this community what it rightfully deserves. \$33 million will go a long way towards providing students with better resources they've not been able to have and will remove CPD from schools that provide nothing more than negligent security.

Please vote to end the contract and reallocate those funds to desperately needed resources in our schools.

[REDACTED]

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we want and deserve police free schools

Dear BOE,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am the mother of one biological child at a CPS school, Moos Elementary School, and godmother to many other students' children throughout the CPS system. Our children deserve to feel safe from racialized policing and unnecessary surveillance in a space that is meant to be for learning and growing. I am writing to ask you to cut the contract with the Chicago Police Department. The safest schools in our city and across our country do not have police in their schools, but have an abundance of resources. Please reinvest the \$33 million contracts with CPD into hiring more Black and brown educators, school counselors, librarians, into supporting smaller class sizes and having a nurse in every school!

Thank you,

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Dear Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED]. In my job, I work closely with children who attend CPS (not as a teacher, or in CPS).

We've seen time after time that police presence does not equate safety. The safest communities, by far, have the most resources. The children I've met at CPS are all amazing youth. They overcome barriers to challenges they face everyday.

I am writing to you from a suburban, public education background. We had one officer in charge of our 1,500+ students. That one officer targeted the few Black students at my school constantly. The officer routinely criminalized them and saw every action they took, to be "aggressive".

Yet, their nonBlack counterparts enacted violent behaviors and received a pat on the back.

This speaks volumes of what it means to be Black and trying to survive in an education system built to marginalize Black youth.

We need to do better in supporting youth in CPS. With an allocation of resources focused on social workers, nurses, we can provide pathways for youth to truly succeed in a world built to tear them apart.

The ask might seem "radical" or "too much", but this request is everything but that. This request is asking you to see the humanity in the young people you educate.

Please, for the future lives of so many youth, end your contract with CPD.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

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## CPD in CPS

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Chicago resident in the 48th ward, own my condo and pay taxes to the City of Chicago. I also work in college admission, and so I have a unique perspective of CPD presence in CPS schools, as I interact with SROs when I visit high schools.

I can't speak to my employer's stance on SROs, but I hope you vote to **remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools**. Studies have shown that POC make up the majority of arrests that are a result of SRCs in schools. Additionally, it does not make students feel comfortable with police or comfortable with themselves in high school settings due to potential previous traumas.

I lived in the suburbs, and it took a couple years of recruiting in CPS high schools to find out that the social worker and high school counselor ratio is low, and many of these schools do not have nurses at the school on a daily basis; a far cry from my suburban public school experience. **I'd**

**rather see the funds that are used to fund the CPD contract to hire more school counselors, psychologists, and social workers as that will better serve your students.**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

Hello all,

I am writing to let you know I strongly believe that CPS should NOT have any CPD presence in their schools, whatsoever. Police do not provide safety and care, but rather a disruptive environment that instills fear and distraction.

Cut ALL ties with the CPD. In fact, you, as a school system, should support defunding the police. CPS has been underfunded for *decades*. Imagine what CPS could look like if it was given the budget of the police department! Teachers wouldn't have to strike to make sure their students are properly equipped. Multiple counselors and nurses could be in ALL schools, buildings could be repaired, more textbooks could be ordered, technology could be upgraded in the classroom. Above all else, children within the public school system could thrive. Wouldn't THAT be the kind of community you want to cultivate?

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from schools

Board of Education,

As a longtime resident of Chicago who attended CPS schools Blaine Elementary School and Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, I am aware of the ongoing issues associated with police presence. While the schools I attended rarely, if ever, experienced police involvement or monitoring, I grew up in Rogers Park and frequently witnessed the realities at both Senn and Sullivan High Schools. Many of my friends attended non-selective enrollment schools and have told me of their experiences with police involvement/intervention as well. The stark difference between my experience and the experiences I have observed at other schools is disturbing.

I have witnessed CPD harassing students, patting them down in front of schools, and preventing them from entering the classroom. The psychological impacts on students who are already attending schools funded substantially less than selective enrollment, magnet, "Tier 1" neighborhood schools are already enough to discourage high achievement. To be told everyday,

by way of police presence, that these students are an active threat is messaging that leads to decreased graduation rates, participation, self esteem, and overall long term life success.

Further, it is deeply disturbing to me that minors are being threatened with violence and are being pulled out of classrooms by police officers. How does this type of threat foster a productive learning environment?

I urge you to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

Best,

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[REDACTED]

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We must support CPD out of CPS

To the esteemed Chicago Public School Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am an 11th Ward constituent and lifelong Chicagoan. I am writing today in regards to the vote tomorrow on terminating the CPD's contract with Chicago Public Schools. It is absolutely imperative that you support this measure and get School Resource Officers out of Chicago Public school immediately.

Listen to what the people of Chicago are saying. Tens of thousands of them have been in the streets protesting police brutality and other state violence. We will no longer accept the fallacy that police make us safer -- especially not Black Chicagoans or Chicagoans of color, and especially not in schools. School Resource Officers terrorize and brutalize students -- just look at what they did to Dnigma Howard, the CPS student who was dragged down stairs by two SROs with stun guns. Imagine all the violence SROs inflict on students that is NOT caught on camera.

Further, the \$33 million dollars that would be spent on CPD contracts is needed in our schools in so many other ways. We need in-school therapists, more post-secondary advisors, better after school resources, PPE and clean schools during Covid-19, and safe and affordable housing for students and their families. Let that money go to these initiatives.

Please listen to what Chicagoans are crying out for for our students. Terminate CPD's contract with CPS immediately and get police out of our schools.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Irving Park neighborhood of Chicago. I am writing to express my desire that you vote on June 24 to remove the Chicago Police Department (CPD) from their roles in Chicago Public Schools. Our city's students deserve to be counseled, cared for, and taught in a safe learning environment. Having police officers in schools reinforces the school-to-prison pipeline that primarily targets young Black men. The number of Black students who are the subject of police notifications is negatively proportional to their representation in the schools—Chicago Public Schools are not safe for all students as long as CPD is present.

Further, I ask that you redistribute the millions of dollars spent on the CPD contract to add more social workers and counselors for ALL students, so that every school has access to these vital resources that can help them be successful as students and human beings.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD has NO BUSINESS in our Kids' Schools -- Get Them Out NOW!

Dear Board --

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident of Chicago since 2002. I have worked as an artist-educator in MANY schools, throughout Chicago and the Chicagoland area, and I have witnessed firsthand how racist and overly armed cops cause trauma to the kids of Chicago.

Please, for the love of all things holy and unholy, vote for CPD to get the f\*ck out of Chicago Public Schools. Nobody needs them there. They are mostly racist, armed to the teeth, and in my 41 years on this planet, I have never gotten actual help from a cop when I needed it. And I am a white woman. I can't imagine the trauma of being a Black or Brown child in this city and having a bunch of non-helpful, racist cops who love to commit violence and harm IN THEIR VERY SCHOOLS which are meant to keep them safe.

Vote CPD out of CPS.

Put that money towards the many many MANY mental health, literacy and other programs that our kids actually need.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Ending the CPD contract

Dear members of the Board of Education,

I appreciate the difficult conversations that you, along with parents, students and educators across this city, must be having right now about the future of the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

I write in support of terminating the contract and reinvesting those funds into restorative justice programs, counseling, social work and other services for our students. I currently have two sons in Chicago Public Schools and a third who just recently graduated. I understand that it's easy to over simplify these issues and that school communities have real and deep concerns about safety. I worry about my children everyday and can relate to these fears.

CPS and city leaders have recently taken to highlighting the Local School Councils that did not vote in favor of removing School Resource Officers as justification for inaction by the Board of Education on this matter. Despite my support for ending the CPD contract, it's more than understandable to me why Local School Council members across the city would vote the way they did. It's an impossible choice for parents and educators at already understaffed schools to vote to remove yet another adult from the building without any commitment of resources, no tools to educate their community, and with no alternative programs on offer to address safety, trauma and other needs.

The Board of Education has an opportunity right now to do better. This is an opportunity to stand up and show leadership and the independence of the Chicago Board of Education that has often been announced by our city, but rarely demonstrated. By acting now to end this contract, you can help put tens of millions of dollars toward services benefiting my children and their peers across the city. You can show that adults in our school system are able and willing to listen to and engage with the leadership of young people which has been so clearly demonstrated around this issue. And you can make Chicago Public Schools a district that is leading in the fight against racism and criminalization, in line with the real evidence of what best serves our students.

I urge you to vote to end the CPD contract and thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.

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Terminate contract with CPD

Hello,

I am reaching out as a concerned citizen about the upcoming decision to remove the Chicago Police from CPS. I think it's really important to understand that even though the practice of police in schools seems routine and common sense for so many who have been in school admin work, the police represent violence for so many. And they enact violence and present the threat of violence onto so many. I went to Walter Payton for highschool, what made our high school safe was not a police presence, but resources. During middle school I went to Ogden but the

branch on the west side where I saw the biggest presence of police in any time of my educational trajectory. Kids are being policed at such a young age, black and brown kids mostly. Kids act out, they make mistakes but why should this be met with a looming official who carries a gun? There's usually a reason kids are acting out and we're not getting to the bottom of it, we're criminalizing it and reinforcing a violence that doesn't need to exist. Black kids growing up have to be taught to act certain ways in front of the police, they're exposed to so much violence and harm through media documenting other's abuse by the police. What if we could do a small first step to end this cycle. Kids need resources and money, and free lunches and counselors and CARE, when they're in a state of deprivation and unrest. They don't need a punitive force clashing against them in a space that is supposed to be dedicated for growth and learning. Please please don't look at this as too radical or extreme. The board of education has such an important decision to make, you guys could do something really good for so many kids. Millennials and gen z of Chicago have seen what has been happening to public schools the last two decades, we grew up with it. To us it's common sense that the defunding of schools, the laying off teachers, the closing of schools, the over sized class rooms, the punitive punishments that disproportionately affect black and brown students, these are the things that hurt education and hurt our fellow classmates/ youth. We know the police in schools don't help anything, they sink kids in consequences they live with forever, and for what? No one gets better, no one is improved by an interaction with the police, kids don't feel safer. These are the things that discourage kids, and make it hard for them to learn. We need radical care in our schools, and this decision you guys are about to make isn't even that radical. So please please I am begging you as someone who care about chicago schools, and children everywhere - terminate the contract with CPD and commit to making decisions that align with what anti-racist black and other activists/ scholars/ activists recommend to fight inequality and structural racism in schools.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Comments on Agenda for 6/24/20 Meeting

Dear Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident in the Uptown neighborhood. I am writing to you with comments on the agenda for your upcoming meeting  
- [https://www.cpsboe.org/content/documents/june\\_24\\_2020\\_public\\_agenda\\_to\\_post.pdf](https://www.cpsboe.org/content/documents/june_24_2020_public_agenda_to_post.pdf).

I would like to express my full support for the motion to terminate the agreement with the City of Chicago that authorizes the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department, and the motion to recommend alternatives to the existing School Resource Officer Program. Now is the time to make it clear that our priority as a community is to protect students and provide safe and equitable learning environments.

As noted in your agenda, there is comprehensive data demonstrating the harm caused by police presence in schools, and the effect of this contract on effective decision-making when it comes to student safety. Numerous models are in place for you to explore and take inspiration from as you

search for the best way to support students holistically. Students and their families depend on you to pass this motion, disrupt the school-to-prison system, and reinvest these funds into counseling programs at every school.

I urge you to join the school boards that are leading the country to a safer and more equitable school system, and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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## Cut ties between CPD and CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a neighbor in Evanston, IL. I have a degree in STEM education and am pursuing a PhD to continue on the path of becoming a STEM educator for introductory college courses. I have taught in public schools alongside teachers. A classroom and school should be a place for learning and be equitable for all students. The presence of police on school campuses has been proven to reduce the equity students should receive on public school campuses.

Further, police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Public Schools

Good evening,

I am [REDACTED], a resident of Rogers Park and alumni of Walter Payton College Prep. I believe that it is of the utmost importance that in the upcoming voting the Board of Education should vote to remove the Police Department from schools in order to promote a safer learning environment for black and brown students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a Northwestern student in Evanston, IL. I am writing to urge you to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

The safety of CPS students is of the utmost importance, and that is exactly why I'm concerned about armed CPD in schools and their perpetuation of the school-to-prison pipeline.

Thank you for prioritizing the lives of your students.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED]

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CPS + CPD

Board Members,

As a Chicago resident and social worker, I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Data indicate that school resource officer programs are not effective in promoting school safety, contribute to school disengagement and the school-to-prison-pipeline, and disproportionately impact Black students and students with disabilities. Several complaints against Chicago SROs have been sustained in recent years.

Your \$33 million contract with CPD could be reallocated to resources for roles with demonstrated effectiveness on student success and well being (e.g. teachers, social workers, mental health professionals, and nurses.) I demand you take action to ensure Indigenous, Black, and brown students and students with disabilities are safe in their schooling environment, in part by mitigating the trauma and school disengagement that result from SRO interactions. Please leverage your power and voice within your role at CPS.

Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who unanimously voted to end the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Your actions have the power to mitigate students' trauma, promote their safety and success, and increase their access to supports in order to navigate and heal from challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

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Police in Schools

I demand the Chicago Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)

- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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A Hot Take on Tomorrow's CPD vote - Be Brave Enough to Break the Mold

Hello Chicago Public School Board of Education's general inbox!

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an events coordinator living in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago (Ward 40). I wanted to reach out to voice my support of the Board voting in *favor* of removing Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

As a former public school attendee, I know the stressors that belie young people, and fear or retribution of police actions due to their abundant presence in school, should not be one of them. SRO's often send a message to students (particularly non-White and lower socio-economic students) that they are not to be trusted because they are a danger to themselves, their teachers and their peers.

Students should have a safe learning environment, absolutely! They should not fear gun violence, sexual assault, or ending up in the crossfires of gang or drug related violence. However, there must be a way to create such a space that is conducive to learning that doesn't also pose an increase in anxiety to these students. We are creative people, we can come up with new modes of school safety & security that isn't beholden to a \$33 millions dollar contract with CPD.

That money could go towards the schools that need additional support staff. To more full time social workers & counselors that can help students create sustainable life changes for their emotional & mental well-beings. To more nurses providing safe spaces and healing. To more books, more activities, more resources that provide these city kids with the same bountiful opportunities as their suburban counterparts.

All of these things are possible, with your courage & tenacity. We need you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD. We need you to be brave & willing to step away from what's always been done, to a new world full of possibility.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

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Public Comment - June 24 2020 Meeting

To the Chicago Public Schools board:

I am a resident of Chicago's Uptown. I am writing to urge CPS to terminate its 33 million dollar contract with the Chicago Police Department. That money can go towards other educational services – hiring teachers, nurses, and social workers.

Instead of making students feel safe, police presence in schools creates an atmosphere of fear. There have been many documented cases of police officers overstepping their bounds and disciplining students for non-criminal behavior. For years, black and brown CPS students have been speaking out about this issue, and now it is time to listen.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Cops Out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I'm writing to you as a concerned constituent from Ward 46. First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student**

**attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in-school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, reduced access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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CPD in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

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Thank you,  


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Chicago board of education representatives - please consider removing police from CPS

Chicago Board of Education -

My name is [REDACTED] I'm a homeowner in Edgewater, and have been living in Chicago since 1998. Before it was shut down and turned in to condos, I would volunteer at Graeme Stewart Elementary. My biggest takeaway from that time was how incredibly bright, kind, and enthusiastic the students were.

I'm writing to express my support for the removal of police from CPS. From what I've read, police in schools are more likely to aggressively harass minors over petty infractions (clothes, etc.) than actually prevent any criminal behavior. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities - students who may be acting out due to home and/or mental health issues. Police are not trained to handle these situations - why are we asking them to? Why are we paying them instead of trained social workers? Students who are acting out need help - not punishment from an officer of the law.

Some quotes from studies I've read:

“Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college”.

“I find that expansions in [police] grant funding have the largest effects on disciplinary actions for Black students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are most vulnerable to school discipline sanctions.”

- Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pam.22116>

“There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.””

- Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer?
- <https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/591753884/do-police-officers-in-schools-really-make-them-safer>

Punishment of students through law enforcement is not the way forward, and only exacerbates our long-standing social issues based on racial and financial inequality.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with trained therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students succeed, both while in school and post-graduation. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Breaking the Contract with CPD

Hello,

I am a CPS alum and the daughter of a CPS teacher of 20 years. I have experienced first hand the unease, confusion, and fear CPD presence brings in our schools. Especially when they are often brought in before nurses, social workers, therapists, and many other professionals that schools need more than armed officers. Please listen to this outcry of change. Your students are calling on you to protect them in a REAL way. Police will not protect them, especially those students of color.

We are counting on you to do the right thing in this historic time of divestment in the police.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out CPS

Hello,

I am a CPS alum who graduated from Roosevelt High School on the northwest side of Chicago in 2018 who has personally been criminalized by police in our schools. One day I came in late to school, cut in during 3rd period because I was really sick but I wanted to make it for 4th period because I had an exam. When I walked into the building security didn't have a problem they just gave me a hall pass to class but I was stopped by the SRO who was stationed at our school and she began to verbally harass me and threatened me by writing my name down in her notepad. I was paralyzed by fear and confusion as to why I was being treated that way and couldn't find words to express my deep rage. She wasn't going to let me go until one of my P.E teachers Mr. Wilson (shout out to the real one) told her to leave me alone that I was a GOOD student, and so she did. The truth is we are all good students in terrible circumstances, but unfortunately, that is not how we are seen within the walls of our predominately black and brown schools. Our young people are living in a constant state of trauma due to inequities in our neighborhoods, lack of resources, and general divestment. We are not here to ask that we let violence into our schools or communities, we are asking that we find a better way to support students and community members by forming Health Equity Action Response Teams (HEART) framework. We want the

violence to end, we want you to rethink what it really means to be safe because black and brown youth are waiting for you to make a decision in their best interest for once.

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CPS Concern

Hello there, Member of the Chicago Board of Education,

I hope you've had some sunshine through your windows, during this Chicago summer rain. As with the masses that have emailed you as a part of a reenergized Chicago, I reach out to you as a concerned Chicagoan. 2020 has been a year of change and I ask of you to be a voice confident in the change.

The eyes of Chicago, about 2.706 million people, are on the Board's vote tomorrow on the Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department to have officers in schools. We are aware that 2020 is a year with a focus on safety of Americans in the face of crises. It is undeniable that the public health crisis and racially charged violence are only a few things that CPS students face when school reopens this Fall.

There is a difference you can make tomorrow, to vote to end the contract. Officers often escalate situations dangerously, rather than deescalating them. Ultimately, officers in school criminalize black and latinx students. There are numbers and statistics that have the truth plain and simple, but what can help you see to see the humanity is that one story you saw in the news in the back of your mind. I don't know what this story is, but it is a part of your story. It is the story that gives you resilience as a board member of an educational institution. It is of a student who was affected by schools- whether positively or negatively, whether as a product of a predominantly white school or the target of systemic racism that makes a kid grow up far too fast.

You have weighed the options. But what story do you want to foster for the future of Chicago? A story of safer schools, with funding to after school programs and required arts programs that help the future of our city? Or to let cycles be cycles.

Sincerely,  
A Concerned Chicagoan

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Today

Hello,

I am writing to encourage you to remove the police from the Chicago school system. There are many studies that suggest that police do not make schools safer or students feel safer. Chicago public schools have been subject to budget cuts and closures over the years and money should

not be spent on police presence when money is being taken from other vital services that actually do help students.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students, nurses and other resources. Please do what is best for our students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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End contract between CPS and CPD

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Chicago resident and I attended a CPS school for my high school education. Police in schools are symbols of violence for Black and brown students. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD. The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Before tomorrow's meeting

Dear Chicago Bored of Education,

I implore to please vote to remove CPD from our public schools. We should invest in school counselors and school nurses, not school police.

Thank you,  
North side Resident

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In Support of CPD Out of CPS

Good afternoon,

I am writing to show my support for the ordinance that would remove Chicago Police from CPS. As a Chicagoan, a social worker, and an educator, I am concerned by the amount of funds CPS has allocated to their contract with the CPD. 33 million dollars. For a school district struggling with large class sizes, under-resourced schools, and a lack of social workers, counselors, and librarians, paying 33 million dollars a year to the Chicago Police Department is unthinkable. This 33 million could be allocated to programs supporting student wellness (i.e. more teachers, mental health professionals, social workers, nurses, and librarians).

As board members, I am sure you all embrace the right that all students have to access education in a safe place. There is no significant research suggesting school resource officers increase safety for students and staff. In fact, school resource officers have been shown to increase disengagement in school, and disproportionately target Black and disabled students. Keeping CPD in CPS will continue to support the school-to-prison pipeline in Chicago.

Please, stand on the right side of history and follow your counterparts in Minneapolis. I urge you to vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD for the health and safety of the students you represent.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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No police in schools

Hi,

I am [REDACTED] organizer with Communities United on behalf of students on the west side of Chicago. I am writing to inform the board we will not want to see police in schools. An alternative approach of the Health Equity Response team (HEART) will be much more adequate for students.

Please, let me know if you have any questions !

Warm Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Fund your students!

As a member of the Chicago community, I ask that you please stop funding the police in our schools. Instead redirect those funds to our students.

Thank you

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Plea for Police Free Schools from a Community Worker

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering the removal of police from Chicago school systems. As someone who works as a community partner with CPS, I know that police in schools hinders a safe learning experience.

Enough time has passed with no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools. Just because it's normalized, doesn't mean it's the right action. We should have the courage to move forward and learn from our actions.

In a police officer's mind, every situation is dangerous. That's what they've been trained for. They lack the sensitivity particularly for situations involving children, deescalation, and mental health. Training doesn't help when their life experience and cohort says otherwise.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for our students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No CPD in CPS

As a parent and concerned member of the Chicago community, I ask that you please end the funding of police in our schools. Instead, redirect those funds to our students and teachers.

Thank you!

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Letter: Please Vote to End the CPS-CPD Contract

To the Chicago Board of Education,

As graduates of Chicago Public Schools, we urge you to **terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in advance of August 31, 2020 — the CPS/CPD policy renewal deadline**. In the district, almost 89% of the students are people of color, and around 36% of students are Black, who are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. This should be reallocated to fund resources — social workers, librarians, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors in schools — that support marginalized students by addressing root causes of readily visible problems, instead of continually relying upon punitive enforcement structures that disproportionately criminalize Black and brown students.

On the national scale, Black students are 2.2 times more likely to be referred to law enforcement or to be arrested at school than white students, even though evidence shows that students of color do not engage in more disruptive behavior than white students. Chicago's numbers are worse. According to federal data, Black students in Chicago were five times more likely to be referred to police than their white peers from 2013-2014.

Mayor Lightfoot ran to lead this city on a promise of dismantling structures that perpetuate racial violence in this city. In your "Plan to Transform Chicago Public Schools," this transformation is listed as your first priority. The presence of CPD officers in schools is one of the most prominent examples of a structure that perpetuates racial violence. Her plan states, "Heartfelt statements are not, in and of themselves, sufficient; we need actions to make them a reality." You have broken our trust by defaulting to ineffective reforms and refusing to advocate for the removal of school resource officers from CPS.

We demand that you support our call for CPS to terminate its contract with CPD — a critical and material step to ensure that Black, brown, and Indigenous students are safe in their schools. While local school councils and principals have power to add and remove officers, we call on all CPS representatives and city officials to advocate for the complete and unequivocal end to the presence of police in our city's schools. Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and CPD.

We have witnessed many police both profile and intimidate our Black, brown, and Indigenous friends at our high schools through interrogation, unfounded accusations, and targeted searches. These encounters with police in schools are not isolated events in a student's life. Instead, these disproportionately-administered disciplinary actions in CPS constitute one step in the school-to-prison pipeline for Black, brown, and Indigenous students, as those labeled as "disruptive" are often arrested by in-school law enforcement and are then directed into the juvenile justice system. Research shows that incarceration in adolescence and early adulthood is associated with worse physical and mental health outcomes over time, as well as negative impacts on educational attainment and increased probability of future incarceration.

The disproportionate application of punitive policing measures on students of color is a clear manifestation of systemic racism that continually disenfranchises young Black and brown people.

In this moment of national collective action against racist police violence, we must ask ourselves: What is the purpose of police officers within educational spaces? Law enforcement within our schools is not safety; it is not justice. **The funding of police in schools, at the expense of critical school resources, does not ensure the children of Chicago the bright future they deserve.** Instead, the presence of police in schools defers and denies the necessary guarantees of public education: a pathway to prosperity and health.

Ending the presence of police in our city's schools is not a symbolic act. The presence of law enforcement within our learning institutions both increases the susceptibility of marginalized students to unchecked police violence and systematically funnels students into the criminal justice system. **School resource officers do not provide low-income students of color with resources — they do not make us safer.**

For every highly-visible example of police violence that occurs in schools, there are many others that are unreported. Last year, CPD officers tased and dragged a 16-year-old student down the stairs. Across the country, we have seen the impact of policing in schools: students body-slammed, thrown across classrooms, and beaten.

Chicago Public Schools' current investment in police presence in educational settings reflects a broader national pattern of investing in the carceral solutions, instead of schools and students. CPS should follow the lead of its counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who have voted unanimously to terminate the district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. On Sunday, we learned that the Minneapolis City Council committed to disbanding the Minneapolis Police Department, voting in a veto-proof majority. Last Thursday, Portland Public Schools also ended its practice of using school resource officers.

As of 2018, there are 220 CPD officers with school-related postings. The city's investment in policing Chicago's youth comes at the expense of students' fundamental needs. The National Association of Social Workers recommends one social worker for every 250 students and, in schools with high levels of trauma, one social worker for every 50 students. Across CPS, there is one social worker for every 865 students.

You have a choice: to either cement the unfounded belief in the status quo that police officers within schools are neutral arbiters of student safety; or, to reinvest and rebuild the classrooms of Chicago students across the city. We believe the removal of police officers in Chicago Public Schools is a step toward ensuring the health and safety of our city's youth.

We can no longer idly stand by while students in our city's schools are subjugated to an unjust, racist system of policing which automatically deems them guilty. **Show the youth of this city that they are not a problem to be managed by the criminal justice system. Remove the 220 police officers from Chicago Public Schools and terminate the city's contract with CPD.**

Show these students that they are brilliant and worthy of care, quality education, real safety and joy. Invest in the future of Chicago, because these youth deserve it.

Signed,  
CPS Alumni for Abolition

SIGNATURE COUNT TOTAL: 2,967.

Read our 32 pages and counting of alumni testimonials about their experiences with police in schools. They recount instances of sexual harassment, racial profiling, and unchecked uses of force by officers.

Find our most updated signature count and alumni testimonials at [cpsalumni4abolition.org](http://cpsalumni4abolition.org).

[Redacted signature]

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No CPD in CPS

To Whom it May Concern,

As an educational partner, I have personally witnessed countless times of Black and Brown children being treated like criminals in Chicago Public Schools.

I have also seen countless times of young people not having enough social workers when they are experiencing heartbreaking rates of trauma. I have seen Black and Brown youth not having a nurse present when they have been injured. This is alarming and an atrocity.

We should not have the Chicago Police Department in our Chicago Public schools. The resources for CPD in CPS should be allocated to supporting youth, not criminalizing them!

There has been public outcry about this and the Chicago community needs to be heard. Your actions on your decision tomorrow will be remembered. I hope you consider that when you are making those decisions.

No Cops in CPS,

[REDACTED]

Voting Resident and Educational Partner in Chicago

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Removal of CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a resident of Uptown and an alumni of DePaul University. As a resident of Chicago, it concerns me that our leaders believe that having CPD in our schools is the answer. I want you to imagine with me a better world. Why should it be accepted that we have to have armed men and women in our schools? Why should this be an answer when CPS is currently cutting SECA positions? How can we give our students support when the support they have is from a police officer with a gun. You should be ashamed for allowing cops in our schools where they bully black and brown students. I'm sure you have been sent emails with evidence on why police in schools are not a part of a positive school experience. I hope you take that seriously.

We cannot live in a better world when we are refusing to change the one we are in. We have to acknowledge our faults and listen to the public experience and wishes if we want to move forward. I believe in a caring community. This starts with taking CPD out of schools and investing in social services that CARE for students. There are so many students who come from broken families, low-income families, busy families, no families who need support. We need to show them we care about them and will do everything in our power to help them achieve success in school. Please tell me about all the cops in your schools who are spending the day asking kids what they can do to help them. What cops are trying to figure out if a kid is being abused and handling the situation delicately? What cops are there to protect the students? Who are they protecting them from? Who is at the school to help the kids besides their teacher?

Please remove CPD from CPS. Do it before you think it's time. Say something before it's comfortable. Do something before it becomes a larger issue. Do something that the community is asking of you. Remove CPD now.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cops MUST be out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I have heard from many people that police assigned to Chicago Public Schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained

outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students. Please show that you care about the youth of this city.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Get Cops Out of Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. The death of Bobby Russ, an unarmed black student shot in 1999, shows that racism perpetuated by police and fostered by police culture is a deadly threat within Chicago, within our nation, and even within my own privileged enclave. Cops have no place in our schools. Thank you for doing what is right.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Resolutions to terminate police presence in CPS and identify alternatives

Board members —

I write to you as a Chicago social worker who has spent every day of the last 20 years working with young people and a professor at Northeastern Illinois University. You have an opportunity tomorrow to right some incredible wrongs that have been done to our students and I urge you in this moment, to please, for the sake of our kids, take it. Removing law enforcement from our schools is not a rash or hasty decision birthed of this moment as it was stated in Dr. Jackson’s press conference on Monday, but rather it is one that is long overdue. Researchers have been studying the impact of police presence in schools for decades. Similarly, advocates and students grounded in the findings of that research, and their own experiences of racist criminalization and

harm, have been calling for the removal of officers for just as long. We can not wait any longer to finally hear them.

Dr. Jackson and Mayor Lightfoot repeatedly indicated that on this issue they will follow the facts and make informed decisions, and I sincerely hope they meant that and that each of you will as well. Because here are the facts: the research is abundantly clear— police in our schools not only do not make them safer, they unequivocally make them less safe, both in the immediate and when it comes to longer-term outcomes for students. We all seek the same result- safe schools where our kids feel supported and can learn and grow. We know through an abundance of sound research that law enforcement does not produce this outcome. We also know through an abundance of sound research, what does bring us safety in schools -- well resourced classrooms and teachers, trauma-informed cultures, comprehensive mental health services, and robust commitment to restorative practices. You have an opportunity tomorrow to truly show who we are as a City. That we are grounded in science and in what is just simply morally right. I hope you will each have the courage tomorrow to stand up for what will bring real safety to our schools and that you will vote to terminate the contract with CPD and to utilize those funds for holistic, qualified and proven strategies to support our students.



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Statement in Support of Terminating the Agreement between CPD & CPS  
Good afternoon Board Members,

The first report documenting the devastation caused by school policing in Chicago was released in 2005. It showed that thousands of CPS students were arrested every year, almost all of whom were students of color. It also showed that for most, if not all, of the incidents that resulted in the arrest of children and youth, there were less harmful and more effective interventions available. That was 15 years ago. Since that time, Chicago youth, parents, and other community members have consistently highlighted the severe harm caused by Chicago's school-to-prison pipeline to students, their families, their schools, and the entire community. Year after year, they have pointed out that school policing was detracting from students' health, safety, and learning, and even inflicting trauma and toxic stress on students. Yet even after all that, CPS still spends \$33 million annually to have 214 police officers in schools. Plus, the most recent data reported by the U.S. Department of Education showed that more students were arrested in CPS than in any other school district in the country, with 97% of those arrested being students of color. And, again, the data has consistently shown that most if not all of the incidents could have been handled without involving the criminal justice system. In other words, CPS's unwillingness to address this issue has led to tens of thousands of Black and Brown youth being needlessly criminalized over the past 15 years.

Enough is enough. All of the following should be obvious by now:  
The harm caused by having a consistent police presence in schools vastly exceeds the benefits from it.

The functions performed by school resource officers can be done as effectively or more effectively by non-school-based police officers and school personnel.

As evidenced by school districts across the country, there are multiple pathways available for ensuring school safety without relying on school resource officers.

The perpetuation of the school-to-prison pipeline is incompatible with the goal of creating safe, healthy, and equitable schools for all CPS students.

While CPS has invested heavily in police officers and the criminalization of students, CPS schools have a severe lack of resources to address students' social/emotional, mental health, and behavioral health needs.

It is thus time for CPS to follow the many districts around the country—including those in Minneapolis, Denver, Portland, and Milwaukee—that are moving beyond their misguided reliance on school police. Instead, CPS should reinvest that \$33 million in Health Equity Action Response Teams (HEARTs), a prevention-focused approach that will enhance student learning, safety, and well-being through the following evidence-informed strategies: restorative justice programs; increased use of school psychologists, social workers, and other mental and behavioral health professionals; drug and alcohol treatment services; wraparound services for students; and training for school staff on restorative practices, social/emotional learning, conflict resolution, crisis response, de-escalation, toxic stress, and trauma-informed approaches to meeting students' developmental needs. Thus, CPS can finally put an end to the cycle of needless harm that school policing has consistently inflicted on its Black and Brown students and, instead, launch a new era that is characterized by prioritizing student health, learning, and well-being above all else.

Sincerely,

Voices Of Youth In Chicago Education (VOYCE)

[REDACTED]

[2 attachments]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

I am a resident of the 49th ward, and I request that you vote to end the police contract with CPS as it over-polices minorities and facilitates the school to prison pipeline.

It does not serve or protect our students; but rather criminalizes normal childrens' altercations and behaviors.

I am a licensed mental health therapist specializing in relational and developmental/attachment trauma, and know that behaviors deemed as "acting out" or "problematic" all too often stem from the impact of individual and systemic trauma on our youth.

We need more student and family support services, including mental health supports, in place of policing which further traumatizes our youth.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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## Proposal to Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a constituent of Chicago's 42nd Ward. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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Tomorrow's Vote to Cancel CPS's Contract with the CPD

Hello,

My name is ██████████, and I am a student just finishing my junior year at Northwestern University. As Chicago's neighbor and likely a future resident after I graduate, I want to urge you to vote in favor of canceling CPS's contract with the CPD.

I hope that instead you move to allocate that funding to programs that support students and prioritize their psychological safety and overall well being without criminalizing black students and students with disabilities in their own schools. While it is easy to look at anecdotes of positive interactions between police officers and students, it is just as easy to look at anecdotes of negative interactions; you can find anecdotal evidence to support just about any claim. Instead, please examine the statistics, which clearly indicate that black students and students with disabilities receive school-related arrests and referrals to law enforcement more often than their peers.

Please fund programs that will meet students' needs with compassion, understanding, and counseling, not force.

With Respect,

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Please terminate CPS contract with CPD to protect Black and brown children

Dear Board of Education,

This is [REDACTED] a recent graduate of Northwestern University and new member of the Chicago community. I am writing to ask that at your meeting tomorrow, you defend the students of CPS by voting to terminate its contract with CPD.

The cops in CPS schools teach Black and brown children that they are unworthy of hope and care. Rather than providing safety and welfare through social workers or resources like after-school programs and college counselors, CPS invests 33 millions dollars per year in cops that manipulate and brutalize marginalized kids. The prison-industrial complex begins its indoctrination on Chicago kids before they even receive their GED.

Our public education system ought to lead the charge of needed defunding of police, especially if it intends to protect and serve its students.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to the Chicago Board of Education to ask you to vote to end the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. As a social worker, and as someone who has worked in schools and with youth, I've seen the needs that are not addressed in schools. Our city should be putting more money into hiring social workers, counselors, nurses, using restorative practices, offering more programs, more recreational programs. More investment into our youth and communities. Research has shown time and time again, the detrimental impacts of having police officers in schools, the perpetuation of the school to prison pipeline, the constant criminalization of youth, the policing of student bodies. This has to end. We must do better for our students. I urge you to vote on taking the Chicago Police Department out of Chicago Public Schools. For our city, for our students, for our future.

Sincerely,  
A concerned citizen

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Remove the police from our schools

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to ask that you terminate the \$33 million police contract and get police out of our schools. NOW is the time to change the way we handle conflict in schools and NOW is the time we revise how we direct funding for our schools. Work with the communities (NOT THE POLICE) to solve problems. Paying police officers to intervene in the educational process does not work. Send the message to the mayor that the school system does not NEED the police to educate children. Police interfere with their safety and their humanity. By continuing to work with the police, you are making the very clear statement that you do not value the lives of black and brown children. This is shameful. Do better. The entire city is watching.

Sincerely



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In support of removing CPD from CPS

Board of Education,

With so many CPD officers with claims against them (over 90% according to one multiple research studies) it is clear that this isn't a small issue. CPD officers in CPS schools are not a success story. In the wake of the current movement and Mayor Lightfoot's denial of Chicago resident's loud requests to defund CPD, you have have the opportunity to right so much wrong done to our city's youth, and to do something amazing for all students, but especially black and brown students in CPS. You have an opportunity to be on the right side of history, and I hope you'll do the right thing and vote to remove CPD from CPS, setting Chicago as an example to all other large cities. By voting to remove CPD from CPS, Chicago would become an example for progress in these revolutionary times.



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Voting for Cops out of CPS

Hi,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- no more CPD in CPS! Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers

and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them. Considering that we just had a contentious Teacher's Union Strike a few months ago that revolved around the lack of available resources to support our students, it seems as if this money being spent on the CPD could be much better spent in our schools. We could be creating an environment that fosters learning and growth instead of fear and cutting off much-needed resources that keep our students from thriving regardless from what neighborhood that they happen to be from.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Constituent Opinion!!!

Hello,

I'm a constituent and concerned citizen. Please VOTE TO REMOVE CPD from CPS.

Cops should not be in CPS schools. Placing a higher priority on policing than on social work, guidance counselors, and making schools a safe place for all kids is not a fair, safe, or appropriate way for our city to live. Please dissolve the relationship that keeps police in schools and move that funding to: social workers, arts education, libraries, meal programs, and healthy activities for kids to supplement their learning.

[REDACTED]

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Board Vote Tomorrow

Good afternoon Board,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ravenswood. I am writing to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

I think it is incredibly important to remove school resource officers from schools in order to eliminate the negative effects that they have on an already quite fragile learning environment. SROs contribute to over-surveillance and criminalization of young people, harassment of young women, and encourage a faux message that students who attend public schools are dangerous and need to be controlled.

As a person who went through a public school system with SROs, it never made me feel safer, in fact I often felt uncomfortable the moment I noticed an officer in the same room as me. It's at the very least a huge distraction from the reason we're in school to begin with.

There are certainly better ways to spend \$33 million rather than on SROs, including but not limited to support staff in classrooms, technology, and other infrastructure updates. Educators and board members alike should send the message that they care about students and their learning environments. A safe school is equipped with counselors, librarians, social workers, nurses, and qualified educators rather than police officers.

We need to show city kids that their education matters just as much as their suburban counterparts. For that, I urge you to vote to terminate Chicago Public Schools' contract with CPD, for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your time,



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Chicago Board of Education meeting tomorrow

Hello,

I am writing to you today to demand the removal of the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools.

As you know, CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. I am urging you to reallocate and use those funds for resources that will better our communities and our schools (community intervention workers, librarians, social workers, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors in schools, just to name a few) that support marginalized students by addressing root causes, rather than relying on structures of intimidation and trauma. Police presence in schools reflects an American problem of investing in the criminal and juvenile justice system instead of schools and students. In the last two years, the city's Inspector General's Office has released two reports that are quite critical of the SRO program, especially regarding the lack of consistent adequate training and supervision. These failures, unfortunately, have resulted in numerous problematic incidents in which the health and wellbeing of specific students, as well as the ability of SROs to help foster a more nurturing learning environment, have been negatively impacted. You can read a bit more about these reports and why I am asking for this defunding [here](#).

This is a moment in history when we all as individuals and institutions have to make a choice. And I am calling on you to make the right one by choosing to follow the lead of your

counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who have ended the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens these past few weeks, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope I will not be disappointed by tomorrow's vote - our city and our students deserve safe spaces to learn, and supportive structures to grow. If you are truly concerned about the violence in the city and the well being of our students, you will take actions that address systemic issues at the root, rather than continuing this ineffective method of punishment and incarceration.

If not now, when? If not you -- then who?

Best,

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Removing CPD from CPS

Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you so much for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is ██████████ and while I didn't go to school at a CPS school I know that police in schools have harassed students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. Additionally, they bully and put down students from Black and Brown communities who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience.

In NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study goes on to say “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

Regarding school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Teachers are often called in to handle situations because the police are unwilling to help de-escalate. When talking about school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, reducing access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students. Thank you.

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Best,



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End CPS Contract w/ CPD

Hello,

I am a Chicago Public Schools teacher and parent of a former CPS student. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove School Resource Officers from all of our schools. Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx children for behaviors and concerns that are better handled by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

Additionally, as a general education teacher that teaches diverse learners, I am very concerned at the high rates of interaction between School Resource Officers and students with disabilities, which can lead to students to be physically harmed, disciplined, punished, and even criminally charged for challenges related to their disability.

You have the chance to listen to the voices of Black and Latinx youth and invest in their futures. Please make the right choice and end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Please vote to remove CPD from CPS schools

Good afternoon,

I'm a Hyde Park/5th ward resident who is reaching out to urge you to vote tomorrow to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Please, listen to the activists who have been urging for this step; consider the other major cities that have already taken this step; and think of tragedies like what happened to a 16-year-old girl, Dnigma Howard, who was dragged down a flight of stairs, kicked, and Tased by police officers at Marshall High School last year, all on video. This is not an issue that can be solved with reform. Armed police do not belong in public places of learning.

This is your chance to take a historic step for the safety and dignity of Black students across the city. Please vote to sever the contract between CPD and CPS.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please stop wasting money on unnecessary police in the schools

Dear Board Members,

I am a founding member of the Friends of Roosevelt organization, and I am writing to you to say that based on my experiences with Roosevelt students, CPS should cancel the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department and use that money for social workers, counselors, or any other purpose. Another option would be to pay down the enormous debt accrued by previous Boards.

Roosevelt High School has had few problems with gangs or other criminal issues for over a decade, but students are still treated as suspects and regularly questioned. Several students have testified before the Illinois General Assembly that they were physically assaulted and taken out of class for baseless questioning. Students have also spoken at the Loyola School of Law and Northwestern University about issues with School Resource Officers.

Roosevelt had greater success with a Conflict Resolution program for freshmen led by Communities United, but that program was cut due to budget cuts during 2016 and 2017. Returning that program to the school would do wonders for Roosevelt and the greater Albany Park community.

Additionally, School Resource Officers make schools look like unsafe spaces. After all, if the school is safe, why would an officer be needed? This creates a negative view of the school in the community, and many families choose to send their children elsewhere, either to Catholic school or to schools without SROs located in wealthy areas.

I am truly pleading with you, Chicago Police Department officers in our schools has not reduced the crime rate among Chicago teenagers, and has created an atmosphere of fear that negatively impacts learning and social-emotional development.

Please cancel this contract, and re-allocate the money elsewhere as you see fit. This is not about capitulating to outsider demands, this is about providing the best learning environment. Board critics will fail elsewhere, but even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

Thank you, with a special thank you to Board members Rome and Todd-Breland for introducing this proposal.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Schools

Hello,

I am writing to you today to encourage you to vote in favor of removing CPD from public schools. Voting to remove CPD from schools is one key step in disrupting the school to prison pipeline. This is because policing students is one of the many ways in which students are criminalized. Students of color are disproportionately arrested and harassed by police in schools (<https://www.edweek.org/ew/projects/2017/policing-americas-schools/student-arrests.html#/overview>). Furthermore, there is no evidence that police have actually made schools "safer" (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0013124507302396>). Police officers in schools is just another manifestation of the state acting against Black students with the goal of institutionalization. Please end this racist policy.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

Good Evening,

I am a resident of Chicago who has worked with youth throughout my career. I feel we simply cannot afford to continue to allow CPS and CPD to maintain their contract. Police do not keep our students safe - rather they disproportionately target students of colors and create an unsafe learning environment. Furthermore, CPS desperately needs that \$33 million dollars to better support students and staff, to create a more safe, just, equitable learning environment. Chicago's children deserve safety and they deserve better from their schools. I urge you to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reallocate those much needed funds.

Thank you so much for your time,

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Police Free Schools

Dear BOE,

I am the parent of 2 CPS students at New Field Elementary School writing to ask you to cut the contract with the Chicago Police Department. Police have no place in our schools: The safest schools do not have the most police but the most resources. Please reinvest the \$33 million contracts with CPD into hiring more Black educators, smaller class sizes, a library and nurse in every school!

All the best,

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Police Free School

Hello,

As a former CPS student from K-12 (Lincoln Elementary and Walter Payton College Prep), I am writing to urge you to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. I was privileged to attend schools that benefited from having a largely wealthy and white student body and therefore were not heavily affected by having a police presence; in fact, Walter Payton hires its own security, separate from the police, but this is not the case in many CPS schools, particularly in schools with low-income, predominantly BIPOC student bodies. Black and Brown students are being unjustly policed from young ages while white students and students who are wealthy enough to attend private schools are prevented from falling into the school-to-prison pipeline. Following national outcry against police brutality in the wake of murdered Black people like George Floyd, it is imperative that CPS takes a look at how its use of CPD in schools is dangerous to the Black students it is trying to uplift and support. Schools should be sanctuaries of education, growth, and encouragement, and by putting police in schools, CPS is creating environments that foster fear, mistrust, and violence. While many people may argue that a police

presence is the only way to prevent mass shootings in schools, this is frankly ridiculous. Armed security guards at Stoneman Douglas High School failed to intervene is one of the worst school shootings in recent history, and nothing will prevent violence in schools when gun laws remain dangerously lax. Police are not the solution. Police do not belong in schools, full stop. As a former CPS student and concerned citizen, I demand that you refuse to allow CPS to continue to have police presence in schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cops out of CPS!

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Lincoln Park joining the voices of my neighbors to demand that CPD's contract with CPS be ended immediately. This will help **end the school to prison pipeline**. With newly available funds, **you can redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them**, because at the end of the day, students need social workers and guidance counselors more than some guy with a gun. **Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.**

We look forward to your divestment tomorrow.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPS educator wants police out of schools!

Dear BOE,

Best tweet of the day that sums up how I feel. "The same systems responsible for our oppression cannot be responsible for our justice." I've taught in CPS on the Southwest side for 10 years. Let's be bold and reimagine. Let's love and heal instead of discipline and punish. My former student, Orlando Perez, murdered a trans womxn. What I can't stop thinking about is how our society failed him. He was reading below grade level for years & his parents left for Mexico when he was in 6th or 7th grade.

Our kids need support, not cops.

Love,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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End CPD in CPS

Hello Board Members,

I am writing as a concerned constituent regarding tomorrow's vote to potentially terminate the Chicago Police Department's \$33 million with Chicago Public Schools.

I am strongly in favor of the termination of this contract. Police presence in schools has consistently led to the over-policing of our Black and brown children in the city of Chicago.

I do not understand how children are expected to feel safe and learn in an environment where they appear to be guarded and treated like criminals.

The over-policing of the South and West sides of Chicago will not immediately be remedied by CPS terminating this contract, but I do believe it is a step in the right direction to creating a stronger, healthier city, where Black and brown lives are not put on trial by their mere existence.

Please vote to terminate this contract to protect our students and help take a step in investing in their safety.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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No police in our schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], a proud citizen of Chicago. I'm writing because I feel strongly that we must take police OUT of our schools.

With the money we'd save, we could actually invest in meaningful contributions to our children's learning, development, and safety. Why can't we focus on improving their education and support systems rather than setting them up to be scrutinized and punished? It creates an environment of fear and one that lacks trust, empathy and ultimately, positive outcomes.

I don't see how having a heavy police presence is conducive to a joyful and productive school experience. Especially when people of color are so disproportionately affected by police escalation and brutality.

It seems very obvious to me that this is a waste of money. How can we not afford school supplies, textbooks and technology and yet employ policemen? Surely you understand that this makes no sense.

Thank you for reading.

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Police in our schools

Dear Board members,

I am a Chicago resident, a product of Chicago public schools, and a former 8th classroom teacher at a Title I school in Philadelphia. I had the unique experience in Philadelphia of teaching at a public school with a 98% Black and Puerto Rican student body from the lowest income neighborhoods in the city, *with zero police or security presence of any kind*.

What we did have was a student body of about 550 for grades 7-12, full time, on site social worker, a full time, on site psychologist, and every adult in the building—including engineering and maintenance— were trained in trauma informed work, and restorative justice.

There were fights. There were no weapons. There was conflict. Children weren't being sent to jail. There were drugs. There was treatment. My kids were humanized, and treated with respect, rather than constantly sent the message that if they aren't criminals now, it's only a matter of time.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx children for behaviors and concerns that are better handled by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators, and I am here to tell you the studies are right.

Over 100 people were shot in Chicago last weekend. How much more evidence do we need that MORE policing is making it worse?

Sincerely,

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Take Police out of Public Schools

Hello,

During tomorrow's vote, I strongly encourage the Board of Education to vote in favor of removing police from our public schools. You have the power to make a long overdue positive change in our community.

I'm a lifelong Chicago citizen, and I have witnessed firsthand how harmful the presence of police officers is in an educational setting. While I acknowledge that putting police officers in schools was done with good intentions- namely, protecting students and creating a safe environment- the actual impact has been destructive and oppressive, unfairly targeting black and brown students. Much like the national debate for defunding police, increasing funding towards these programs has not led to a respectful, safe environment; it has led to a gross abuse of power, an increased criminalization of young POC, and an encouragement of the school-to-prison pipeline. This must end now.

The fact that our city spends \$33 million on funding police in our schools while our social support systems (teachers, social workers, nurses) are falling apart is a huge oversight, and must be remedied immediately.

Thank you for your time, and please make the right decision.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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My Students Have Told Me: No Cops In Schools. Terminate the CPS/CPD Contract

Hello Board Members,

I am a teaching artist with Playmakers Laboratory Theatre, an arts education company serving primarily black and brown student populations here in Chicago. We, the teachers and the students, NEED you to terminate CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. Students in our schools need food resources, nurses, counselors, resources IN the classroom. **They do NOT need to be policed in schools where they should be able to focus on receiving an education.** The 33 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT would be MUCH more useful if reallocated to services the students need, rather than policing.

Here is a link to a persuasive argument about stopping Cop violence, written by one of our students:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CA6LAHnITCG/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CA6LAHnITCG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

The student's work is also attached below. I look forward to watching your vote tomorrow, knowing you will vote with the students interests in your heart, to terminate the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD Contracts

Hello,

Please consider ending your contract with the Chicago Police Department, and reallocating the funds to counselors, social workers and restorative justice counselors.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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### Police Out of Our Schools

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], resident of the 1st Ward.

I am strongly against the continued use of police officers in our public schools. Their presence contributes to the continual criminalization of Black & Latinx students in behavioral situations. Those student would be bettered served by reallocating resources/funds spent on police to social workers, counselors, & restorative justice coordinators.

Having the police handle situations that they are not equipped or trained for is an incredible disservice to our students and, frankly, harmful to their well-being.

Vote to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove these officers from all of our schools.

[REDACTED]

Resident of the 1st Ward

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### CPD In CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Imagine if the dollars going toward CPD in our public schools could go toward the actual education of our students. What is *actually* protecting these students? Police who send them on a pipeline to prisons? Or educators, counselors, etc. who guide them through their formidable years. Please do what is right for the students and our communities.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Tomorrow you have the opportunity to vote to remove CPD from CPS. I demand you vote in favor of creating an anti-racist environment for all students enrolled in Chicago Public Schools. This means voting to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools.

Do what is right.

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## Removing Police from Schools

Hello Board of Education,

Thank you so much for considering the removal of police from Chicago Public Schools. I am an artist, activist, and adjunct professor at DePaul. I've been a Chicago resident for over 15 years and am the product of the St. Paul Public Schools. I grew up with a single immigrant mom, and much of my family also work in education. This issue is very dear to my heart.

There are several studies and empirical evidence that show police have a negative effect on the school environment (NPR, American Sociological Review, the Justice Policy Institute). Especially with low-income Black and Latinx students who are more vulnerable to being over-policed in the classroom and receive more intense disciplinary actions in schools. Police in schools inherently escalate the school environment, adding to increased stress levels, difficulty focusing, and short fuses, especially for the many students already suffering from PTSD.

I urge you to remove the police and replace them with social workers, therapists, nurses, restorative justice, and developmental experts. We aren't even giving kids a fair shake without those. The world is rapidly becoming increasingly more violent. Let our schools be a safe haven where students can truly learn, heal, and grow.

Thank you very much for your time!

~ ██████████

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## Please vote to remove SROs from CPS Schools

I know that these are difficult times and I appreciate the work you do and your efforts for our students.

My name is ██████████ and I have been a teacher at Roosevelt High School for about 17 years.

I am asking you to vote to remove the SROs from our schools. I am also asking you take all possible actions within your capacity to see that the funds from SRO program are put back into the schools in the form of additional clinicians and mental health services for students.

I live a few minutes away from Roosevelt. During my time at Roosevelt I have seen a lot of developments in the community around the school and its struggles with violence and crime. Roosevelt continues to serve as a beacon to the community, a community that has so much need. During my time at Roosevelt there has never been an incident in the school where the SRO or other police officers had to draw their gun. What I saw over and over again was (including a student of mine this year, pinned to the ground by officers) SROs called to handle students acting out due to substance abuse or mental health issues. We don't need people with guns responding to situations that require training in mental health and substance abuse counseling. The money can be better spent. If there are dangers in handling students, CPS has teachers, and security teams in the school that continually update their training on how to handle students with trauma and mental health issues without the need for lethal force.

I have spoken with my students about the issue and one thing I have learned is the affect SROs in their schools have on their attitude toward their school and their future. When the students walk in the school each day one of the first things they are greeted with is a metal detector and an armed police officer. They understand that the officers are there for their safety. Unfortunately, seeing those officers (no matter how well intentioned) is a clear and constant reminder to them of the expectations for them and their school. The message to them is, "Your school is violent. Your world is violent. You live under threat. You go to a school where you need to be protected by people with guns. That's your place." It affects them.

Please, consider the perspective of the students in which these SROs serve. They don't need psychologists with guns they need more teachers and staff that are trained to deal with the variety of challenges that come with dealing with young hearts and minds.

Thank You!



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Vote NO on CPD in CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education members,

In case you missed the personal note I've sent all of you here it is:

As a K-12 CPS alumnus I am writing with a simple demand (and this is a DEMAND, not a request): vote to end the CPD contract with CPS and remove police officers from our schools. This is the first necessary step in defunding police in Chicago and reappropriating resources in a way that benefits individuals and their communities.

The \$33 million contract should be ended effective immediately and used to ensure that every CPS school has at least one school nurse, one school social worker, and one school therapist or mental health professional. If money from this \$33 million is left over after all schools have the above, and enough to serve all students fairly, remaining funds should be used to help ensure

every school also has access to a librarian and/or library; art, music, and performance classes or after school programs; and after school sports programs.

We must end the systems of oppression in our city and invest in communities. That means investing in our schools and communities and disinvesting in police. When people have hope, opportunity, and social resources there is no need for police.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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## GET COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS

I'm a former CPS student and the CPD officer at my school did absolutely nothing to help the student body. Ditch the contract with CPD! Listen to the public.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS, Please

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to implore you to vote to remove CPD from our Chicago Public Schools.

We have an obligation to provide comprehensive education in a safe environment for our students, and the presence of the CPD in schools only makes students feel like criminals. Please re-distribute the \$33 million you give towards having police in public schools and instead fund:

- School nurses and medical supplies
- School supplies for all classrooms
- School counselors and child psychologists
- After school programs to encourage children to stay "out of the streets"
- Music and arts programs
- **Paying your teachers more**

Or honestly, anything other than the police. Please consider catering to the growth of students versus the intimidation of students.

I know, in your hearts, you know what is right. As a Chicago resident, who does not even have children to enroll in CPS, I am taking time out of my day to write to you because I know how important this is. Our community safety is OUR responsibility, not JUST the police departments'. It's time we take full responsibility back and remove CPD from our schools.

Thank you for your public service and your time today,

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good Evening Chicago Board of Education Members,

I am a Chicago resident that is interested in having Chicago Public Schools dissolve the current relationship you have with the Chicago Police Department.

Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities (data from CPS website), all of whom are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into schools. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be allocated into resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them. We demand you all take the steps to ensure indigenous, black, and brown students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and CPD- the power to add and remove officers lies with the principals and LSCs and we call on you to act accordingly and remove the police presence.

Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who are working towards ending the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens this weekend, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS schools

Dear Board of Education members,

I have lived, worked, and paid taxes in Chicago for two decades. My nonprofit career has given me the opportunity to visit many, many Chicago Public Schools across the city. As I know you do, too, I care deeply about our schools, students, and families. Students of color - and the schools that serve them, particularly in neighborhoods that have been systematically under-resourced in other ways - need our best. Surely spending \$33M to place Chicago Police Department officers in schools as SROs is not our best.

**I write to urge you to vote in favor of the proposal to remove CPD from CPS schools. Research and other examples support the wisdom of removing SROs from schools.** Instead, invest those funds in services that support school-level services and leadership (such as counselors, social service specialists, and the like) that will contribute to safe, healthy environments for all Chicago students to learn.

The "way we've always done it" (having SROs in schools) isn't working. It's time to try something new. Our young people deserve it, and the future of our city depends on it.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Please Remove CPD from our Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Northcenter in Chicago's 47th Ward. I know the safety of Chicago's Public School students is likely your top priority, so I know you won't consider the ramifications of tomorrow's vote lightly.

With that said, I urge you to consider that the presence of CPD in our school system does less to protect our communities' schoolchildren and more to instill an atmosphere of fear and prejudice, especially in BIPOC schoolchildren whose communities are disproportionately targeted and abused by CPD. The money that is spent on retaining CPD officers in our public schools would be better spent on employing more counselors, better school lunches, improvements to our aging school buildings, and any of the other myriad problems that I'm sure you are intimately aware of. Please think deeply about this issue and take the first step toward raising our children out of the school to prison pipeline that has destroyed the futures of countless BIPOC children over the years.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from education.

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools

would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. **Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions**" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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## Remove CPD from CPS

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a resident of Ravenswood. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) and behave aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.""

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29). Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH.

Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help

minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from our schools

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Board of Education to vote to remove police from CPS. A vote to remove cops from our schools is a vote for the health and safety of Chicago students. Our students deserve learning institutions designed to set them up for success, where they can grow and thrive, and where their development is supported by a staff that includes adequate counselors, social workers, and nurses. Placing police in our schools perpetuates the systemic racism that plagues our city, reinforces the school to prison pipeline, and sends a clear message that CPS cares more about funding police than the welfare of its students. The safest communities don't have the most police, they have the most resources. Our students deserve that safety, the Chicago Teachers Union agrees, and it's time for the BOE to step up and take historic action for our kids. Thank you for your time.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

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Police and CPS

Hi board members,

I am writing to you as a resident of Rogers Park demanding that you remove the police from CPS schools.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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## Remove Police from Schools

Hello - I'm writing to encourage the board to remove CPD officers from our public schools. Please be open to conversations on alternative methods to keep our students and teachers safe.

Thank you.

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## Remove Police from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a senior at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and an informed member of the Chicagoland community. I write today to urge you to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

Keeping police in places of learning is completely counterintuitive -- it fosters an environment based on fear, rather than education. Removal of police from schools is a necessary action for the future of our community.

Thank you for doing what is right.

Sincerely,

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## An actual teacher with a demand worth fighting for

Please listen to the demands of your teachers, students, and community. If Lori Lightfoot will not stick up for our children, I am hoping that you will. There is absolutely no need for armed police to be in CPS schools. A police officer has not once stopped a mass shooting from taking place in schools. What they DO accomplish is inciting fear and anxiety in black and brown students and providing them a quick avenue to jail. If any student is to act out, they are not provided the resources they need to heal and succeed. Why aren't there social workers in every school? Why aren't there nurses? Librarians? Why are teachers paying out of pocket for supplies? CPS teachers were on strike for 11! days this school year, the longest in decades, and STILL do not have the resources they need. You're telling me it takes 3 years to place a nurse in every school? But somehow we have the funds to put guns, handcuffs, pepper spray, and tasers in CPS hallways? What an embarrassment for CPS that it has taken a nationwide reckoning to even discuss reallocating \$33 million in funds directly to schools and not to the police. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Make the right choice tomorrow, use this funding to better prepare for the upcoming school year and handling of COVID, and do not only protect your students but provide them with everything they need for success.

Remove CPD from CPS!

Dear Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED], and I live in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. I am writing to you to request that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove and cut ties with the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. It is clear to our community and so many other communities across the country that police do not belong in schools. This is a life-or-death matter for so many Black people, and that is not an exaggeration. Police are killing Black people on a regular basis. The violence needs to end and must be prevented from taking place in our public schools where our children are.

Please do not ignore the pleas of the people. Listen to our voices. Listen to the communities whom you serve.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED], a CPS alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. **Please do what is best for the students.**

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS schools

To whom it may concern,

I have spent 7 years as a nanny in Chicago and have seen firsthand the racism within CPS. I have also seen how the children and teenagers in my care FEAR and DISTRUST the officers in their schools. Specifically I am speaking to experiences at the Disney School, Bateman elementary, and Lakeview Highschool.

Think back to your own education. Who was most impactful in your development and growth? I'm guessing you will recall librarians and nurses, tutors and teaching assistants, guidance counsellors and teachers... not cops.

Please end your contract with CPD so that funding might go to better role models within CPS. Every school deserves to have a nurse, librarian, and mental health professional. This is within your power. Listen to feedback from the city, teachers, and parents and get cops out of our schools.

Sincerely,



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Police in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I have been a resident of the city of Chicago for over five years, living in Hyde Park and soon to move to Logan Square. I thank you for hearing your constituents and considering the removal of Chicago Police Department officers from CPS. Despite the vast amount of funding that has been required to instate and maintain a police presence in the city's public schools, there is little evidence that it keeps children safe. In fact, police officers in schools disproportionately target minorities, including children of color and disabled children. It is time to acknowledge that the police do not have the training to do this kind of work and that their presence only escalates situations and contributes to the thriving school-to-prison pipeline. I ask that you move to get police officers out of schools and replace them with psychiatrists, social workers, and other individuals trained to deal with the behavior of minors. Please do the right thing for the children of your city.

Thank you,



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Vote to Terminate Contract w/ CPD

Hello Board Members,

I am a teaching artist with Playmakers Laboratory Theatre, an arts education company serving primarily black and brown student populations here in Chicago. We, the teachers and the students, NEED you to terminate CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department. Students in our schools need food resources, nurses, counselors, resources IN the classroom. **They do NOT need to be policed in schools where they should be able to focus on receiving an education.** The 33 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT would be MUCH more useful if reallocated to services the students need, rather than policing.

Here is a link to a persuasive argument about stopping Cop violence, written by one of our students:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CA6LAHnlTCG/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CA6LAHnlTCG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

The student's work is also attached below. I look forward to watching your vote tomorrow, knowing you will vote with the students interests in your heart, to terminate the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon,

My name is ██████████ and I am a Chicago resident in the 48th ward.

- I am writing to ask you to vote tomorrow to remove CPD from CPS.

You have the authority to cancel the contract between CPS and the Chicago Police Department, and should take this necessary action.

The Local School Councils do not have the ability to allocate funds for school resource officers to other important needs such as social workers or counselors, so it is your responsibility to cancel the contract and reallocate the funding.

While you are not an elected board, you are confirmed by elected officials, and therefore represent Chicago voters.

How will you respond tomorrow to the constituents across the city who are asking for real change in our schools by replacing CPD resources with programs that emphasize restorative justice, trauma supports, and DEI initiatives?

Thank you for your consideration,

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████████████████████

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Tomorrow's Decision

Hi I am one of I'm sure many people contacting this board pleading with you to end the 33 million dollar contract with CPS.

CPS is suffering and that money can be used for meals, nurses, new supplies, and paying teachers more fairly.

So please make the right decision tomorrow.



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No CPD in CPS!

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote to terminate the CPD contract with CPS. This money could be vitally spent on counselors, nurses, food resources, smaller class sizes and more for the children and young people of Chicago. I do not need to tell you that we are living in an extraordinary moment; we have the power to create a more just and equitable society. We know that having police in schools does very little to protect our students from violence but rather causes them more harm and trauma. We must do right by this younger generation and stop the cycle. You have the power to change things and your constituents are relying on you.

Sincerely,



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Policing at CPS

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

Good afternoon. I'm writing to express my support for removing the police presence from Chicago Public Schools. This policy disproportionately impacts black and brown students and exploits ingrained societal trauma. The police presence can easily be replaced with a number of trained professionals that help students cope with complex, generational trauma in a way that is

productive. Using educationally appropriate best practices will enhance the school environment and provide lasting tools that'll be beneficial for the rest of students' lives.

The country has unequivocally shown that it is time for a change. The city has shown a complete lack of leadership from our mayor and history will remember. Voters will remember. Please use this opportunity to do the right thing for children and the community at large.

Sincerely,

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████. I am a Chicago resident. I am urging you to end the contract between CPD and Chicago Public Schools. Please stand up for black and brown students. Having the police in the school system doesn't protect the children. It scares them. It has resulted in numerous incidents of profiling and harassment for black and brown children that is harmful to their wellbeing and learning environment. All children should feel safe in school and have a healthy learning environment. Please end your contract now.

Thank you,

██████████

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. ██████████, a CPS alumni. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. **Please do what is best for the students.**

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60618

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Hi,

I'm writing as a concerned cook county tax payer, foster parent and former child protection government employee. The CPD should be removed from CPS and the budget should be reallocated to fund appropriate services that meet the needs of our children.

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The \$33 million contract with the CPD

Dear members of Chicago Board of Education:

I am a parent with two children in Chicago Public Schools. The Chicago Police, like police throughout this country, lack the training and empathy to recognize intellectual or social-emotional disabilities and handle children with the requisite care. I imagine you are as horrified as I am when you watch all too frequent videos of police officers tormenting and inappropriately disciplining children with autism or other special needs who may not understand nor have ability to control what are perceived as disruptive behaviors. Police officers have NO place in schools.

You know that nearly 90% of CPS students are non-white and are aware that currently and historically these communities are affected by unfair policing and justice practices. Schools are meant as places of learning and should be a refuge from the inequities of society. Police in schools threaten students and thus interfere with their education, inhibit restorative justice, and feed the school to prison pipeline.

There is NO evidence that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." SROs inside schools result in increased suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system.

I have read many accounts by CPS high school students who are told that SROs are at their schools to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. Furthermore, many of the officers stationed at schools not only lack training but have numerous misconduct complaints and use of force allegations. This is unconscionable.

Imagine the developmental progress children would make if instead of funneling \$33M to the police department it were spent on social workers, psychologists, and arts programs. Please

follow other urban school districts in this country and vote to remove police from our schools. I urge you to vote as if you were elected by the people of Chicago to protect the children you are entrusted to serve.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

██████████

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URGENT: Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I am a recent graduate of the Chicago Public School system. I am reaching out to demand that the Board of Education cut ties with the Chicago Police Department immediately. CPD has no place within the CPS system and perpetuates unjust violence majorly against Black and Brown students. By cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department, we can divert the money spent on funding the anti-black system that is CPD to actual resources and needs of the community, like social workers, librarians, and college counselors.

I demand the dissolution of CPS' contract so fb CPD immediately.

██████████

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Get Police out of Chicago Schools PLEASE!!

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to you to please ask that you remove police from CPS. There are much better places to put that money into educators who can actually **help** students in the way they need and police are not equipped to really help kids in schools and don't go through the training a guidance counselor or other professional trained to work and help kids could. Police in schools cause extra harm to students of color and namely Black and brown students. Many people have made this argument, likely better than I have, and so I hope that you have seen this. As a student of Northwestern, I have many friends who have come from CPS and who work and volunteer there in different roles and this connection has made me care immensely about the resources kids have access to at these schools as I hear about their experiences. Police are not a presence needed in schools and the removal can be phased out while searching for better options that actually help students and so **please** vote to *cancel* the contract with CPD.

Best,

██████████

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Funding

Good evening,

My name is [REDACTED] and I graduated from Lane Tech in 2019. With the upcoming board meeting regarding funding I implore you all to truly think about the children's well-being. All that money should be put towards counselors, social workers and nurses, something all cps schools lack. Paying armed police officers to roam our halls is not only a waste of money but it provides no real benefit to anyone except the prison industrial system and the CPD. Do better for the kids.

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident in the 48th ward.

- I am writing to ask you to vote tomorrow to remove CPD from CPS.

You have the authority to cancel the contract between CPS and the Chicago Police Department, and should take this necessary action.

The Local School Councils do not have the ability to allocate funds for school resource officers to other important needs such as social workers or counselors, so it is your responsibility to cancel the contract and reallocate the funding.

While you are not an elected board, you are confirmed by elected officials, and therefore represent Chicago voters.

How will you respond tomorrow to the constituents across the city who are asking for real change in our schools by replacing CPD resources with programs that emphasize restorative justice, trauma supports, and DEI initiatives?

Thank you for your consideration,

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Please Terminate CPD's contract in Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I'm a resident of the 47th ward writing with regards to your vote tomorrow. Please vote to protect the children of CPS by removing the police in their schools. Racist policing has a history of promoting the school-to-prison pipeline, not to mention traumatizing Black and Brown students. The vital resources CPS currently uses on CPD's contract could be better used in promoting learning, and providing in school counselors and nurses. The students themselves have said that they do not feel safer in a school with police officers patrolling.

I care very much about Chicago's kids, and I know you do too. Please protect them by voting to end CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department tomorrow.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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#### CPD Contracts

Please consider ending your contract with the Chicago Police Department, and reallocating the funds to counselors, social workers and restorative justice counselors.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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#### Terminate the CPS Contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a recent graduate of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to terminate CPS's \$33 million contract with CPD. I am a product of CPS, and have been a CPS student for all 13 years of my education. I have been fortunate to attend schools that promoted student well-being and mental health and were, a majority of the time, provided the resources to do so. These schools also had very limited police and security presence.

While I have had this experience as a student, I fully understand that not all CPS schools are treated equally. CPS funding for social workers and other mental-health related faculty is low, and the CPS budget, as it currently stands, is directed towards resources that actively counteract efforts to better students' mental health. Furthermore, schools that serve students with more mental health, physical health, and learning needs receive the same amount of money as schools that are located in wealthier areas of the city and are home to wealthier students.

The money put towards the CPD contract with CPS must be reallocated towards support staff, social workers, aides, and school nurses. Police in schools jeopardizes the well-being of so many members of the CPS community, especially BIPOC students, in numerous ways. Firstly, police presence disregards the safety of black and brown students, as police officers are part of an inherently racist and violent system. Secondly, the money that is put towards hiring police to be staffed in schools takes money away from support that is integral to the mental health and well-being of students. CPS *must* do better. BIPOC students must be heard and supported, and have the right to feel safe in their schools. Terminating the contract with the CPD would be a clear sign that CPS cares for and is listening to its BIPOC students. For this reason, there should be no question as to whether or not ending the contract is the right thing to do.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED] and I'm an alumni of CPS. In my experience, Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. **There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. **Please do what is best for the students.**

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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Do the right thing

Good evening,

My nephew is a CPS student and I am concerned with his safety as CPS prepares to reopen in the fall.

If student safety is truly important to CPS, I cannot understand why we turn a blind eye to all of the years of research on the threat posed by CPD being in schools. We need to get CPD out of schools, and to take that \$33M and reinvest in supportive services.

If student safety is truly important, how can we reopen schools without the guarantee of smaller class sizes to prevent the spread of COVID? We need smaller class sizes and guaranteed safety measures such as cleaning, PPE, and more health professionals in schools, and investment in Sustainable Community Schools.

If student safety is important, we need to stop pretending that with all of the urban planning degrees populating city hall and CPS, that we don't understand the effects of lack of affordable housing and economic development on CPS students and their families. We need to invest in our children.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

The CPD should not have a \$33,000,000 contract a year with CPS when that money could go to our education and our special education system.

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CPD in CPS

Chicago's police officers are not trained to be in a school. It's unnecessary and makes many students fearful. Thirty Three Million dollars. This money is being used so inappropriately, they are still CPS schools without proper funding, nurses, social workers or care. Money is very valuable and should be used correctly. Police are NOT needed in schools. It's absurd.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS!

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote tomorrow to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- **no more CPD in CPS!**

Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous

financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Dear CPS Board Member,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Northcenter in Chicago's 47th Ward. I know as a CPS Board Member the safety of Chicago's Public School students is likely your top priority, so I know you won't consider the ramifications of tomorrow's vote lightly.

With that said, I urge you to consider that the presence of CPD in our school system does less to protect our communities' schoolchildren and more to instill an atmosphere of fear and prejudice, especially in BIPOC schoolchildren whose communities are disproportionately targeted and abused by CPD. The money that is spent on retaining CPD officers in our public schools would be better spent on employing more counselors, better school lunches, improvements to our aging school buildings, and any of the other myriad problems that I'm sure you are intimately aware of. Please think deeply about this issue and take the first step toward raising our children out of the school to prison pipeline that has destroyed the futures of countless BIPOC children over the years. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS contract

Good afternoon!

My name is [REDACTED], a resident of the 47th ward and a two minute walk away from Lake View High School. I'd like to voice my support for ending the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools. They're not actually keeping students safe, and they cost a lot of money - seems like two pretty good reasons to end that contract!

---

Please terminate CPS's contract with the CPD

Hello,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for terminating Chicago Public School's contract with the police department. Please reallocate the massive amount of money that is currently spent on policing our students to provide counselors, nurses, supplies, food resources, smaller classroom size, and other programs that would benefit our students. You all vote tomorrow. Please do the right thing for these students. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

To the Chicago School Board,

My name is [REDACTED], I live in Albany Park. My 14-year-old son, [REDACTED], graduated from 8th grade two weeks ago and will soon begin his freshman year at a Chicago Public High School. My son most likely won't be personally affected by CPD presence at his high school, as he is white and more than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color. But as I am teaching him to be empathetic, and compassionate, and I lead by example with this email to you, in which I am demanding that you cancel the CPS contract with CPD and do not renew it in August.

The \$33M currently allocated to policing our students, and disproportionately targeting Black and Brown children could fund 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. How many art and music teachers could you hire with \$33M?

The time to invest in the health and safety of Black and Brown children in Chicago is NOW. Please cut ties with CPD and invest in the social services and resources our kids truly need. Break the school-to-prison pipeline with your vote tomorrow.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

CPD out of CPS

Chicago Board of Education members,

I'm [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Our Black and Brown students, immigrant students, or other marginalized groups in our schools need support, not policing. This is just one step towards educational reform.

I know determining what is "best" for students is complicated, but this seems simple - police are not the answer to the inequality in our system and over and over, we've seen that they do not make students safer - sometimes quite the opposite. I hope you'll vote to remove police from CPS schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS Now

Hello CPS Officials,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Thank you for doing what is right.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Keep the CPD out of CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Ward 47 in Chicago. I am writing to emphatically implore you to vote to remove the CPD from all Chicago Public Schools.

The school-to-prison pipeline is not only real, but is alive and well in Chicago - yet nationally, 84% of these arrests made in schools are for misdemeanors. These charges disproportionately affect black and brown people, young men in particular. The effects of these arrests leave a lifelong impact and further perpetuate the systems oppressing racial minorities in low-income neighborhoods. This system is rampant in our city.

In a report done by Project Nia, from 2013-2015, there were 39,729 juvenile arrests in Chicago. 7,704 of those arrests took place on CPS property and 6,836 were made inside a CPS building. For every white kid arrested, 27.2 black kids were arrested in a CPS building. 53.2% of those juvenile arrests were for a child under the age of 16. A 16-year-old shouldn't have to go to jail and be taken out of school - they need mental health support.

Just this past fall, before the pandemic and the 2020 Black Lives Matter uprisings upturned our society and way of thinking, Chicago had another social movement - a city-wide strike for CPS teachers begging for you to give more money to Chicago Public Schools. For months now, our community is in near-unanimous agreement - we need more resources for our kids and teenagers.

According to the ACLU, 1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors, 3 million students are in schools with police but no nurses, 6 million students are in schools with police but no school psychologists, 10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers, and 14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker. Police don't help make our schools and children safer. Social workers and mental health advocates do. By cutting the CPS contract with the CPD, that money can be better spent to give these kids the support they need and to stop the consequences they don't yet deserve.

Do you remember being 15 or 16? Did you or children ever act out a little when they that age? Did you get sent to jail? Or were you given a slap on the wrist, the trust to grow and change, and the support to help you do so? I know what I received. I bet you do, too.

Please vote to end the CPS contract with the CPD. Keep our kids safe and stop systemic racism in Chicago at one of its many sources. History is currently happening in this country. How will the history books write about you?

We are watching,  
[REDACTED]

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Please Vote Police Out of Our Schools

Dear President del Valle, Board Member Revuluri, Board Member Rome, Board Member Truss, Board Member Todd-Breland, Board Member Melendez, Board Member Sotelo, and Chief of Staff Ellis, and to whom it may concern,

Thank you for considering the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a CPS teacher, and this issue is extremely important to me. **There is evidence that police CAUSE HARM and DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.**

This quote comes from an NPR article entitled *Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer*:

“There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — **that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety** that we are all looking for." ”

There are also academic works, like *Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes* which states

“Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, **school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations.** These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[**police funding**] **have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students.** This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study *Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth*, published by the American Sociological Review, states

“Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through **negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety.**”

Police are **not** the answer we need to safety issues in our schools - counselors, nurses, and restorative justice practitioners are. I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed.

This is an educational equity issue. We know that Black and Brown students are already more likely to see disproportionate discipline compared to their white classmates. We know that police in schools also disproportionately affect black and brown students.

Please listen to the hundreds of voices across the city, and the ten thousands across the country, and take police out of our schools.

Thank you,  


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Investing In All Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well and you are in good health. I am writing to you today in regards to the vote taking place on June 24th, 2020 to terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am from a small town in northeastern Illinois by the name of Zion. I grew up there and went to all district 6 schools for my elementary and high school education. While this is not the best school district in the state, I have noticed a significant difference in the culture and aptitude of the schools I grew up in versus the schools I currently work in across the west side of the city.

I work for a non profit that partners with CPS elementary schools and focuses on the middle grades, 4th - 8th grade specifically. We currently serve 4 schools; 2 in North Lawndale and 2 in Humboldt Park. When I started this position just over 2 years ago, I had never walked into a CPS school. Since then I have been in dozens, and to say the police presence in schools on the west side is jarring is an understatement. I have also noticed the divestment in these schools communities. Abandoned classrooms, limited/underpaid support staff, rusty pipes that produce undrinkable water, 1 social worker for 300+ students, and the list goes on. Parents are pulling their children out of their neighborhood schools for better opportunities. No family should have to travel outside of their neighborhood so that their child receives a better education. No family that does not have the privilege of carting their children to a different neighborhood should have to send their students to a school in these conditions.

I say all this to ask you to vote "NO" to renewing the \$33 million dollar contract between CPD and CPS. Broad sweeping change needs to start at the top, and you have the power to do that with your vote. Our students deserve these funds reinvested into their schools. There is a direct link between police presence in schools and learning environment disruptions, not to mention that our schools are being militarized and our children are being conditioned to being policed from the time they step foot through those doors as 5/6 year olds.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

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Request to terminate IGA between board of education and city of Chicago

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago, IL. I am emailing today to support the motion to terminate the IGA between the board of education and the city of Chicago, by which

the city of Chicago Police Department provides resources to CPS. The annual cost of \$33M should be redistributed elsewhere.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please vote for less police in our schools

To the CPS Board of Education,

Please vote in favor of investing more money into programs that have been proven to help our students, like after school programs. Our vulnerable students need nurses, qualified counselors, social workers and less police in schools.

Thank you.

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Cancel the CPD Contract

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Northwestern student, as well as a resident of the Chicago suburbs.

Cancelling the CPD contract and defunding the police, which either the City or Chicago Board of Ed has the authority to do, would free \$33 million to be reinvested in at least 300 counselors, restorative justice coordinators and social workers for every school in the district. I demand that CPS cancels this contract and re-invests that money into life-giving resources for all CPS students, especially BIPOC students.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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**June 24, 2020 Board of Education Meeting**  
**Written Comments Received Monday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 25th**  
**Submitted via BOE@cps.edu**

Vote to end CPS's contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Ward 48 (Winthrop & Granville). I'm writing to you today to ask that you, as members of the Chicago Board of Education, take the critical action needed on June 24th and vote to end CPS's contract with CPD.

While I do not have children of my own, I have lived in Chicago for enough years that many of my friends in the city have had children while living here. Those children are well on their way to attending school, and so my question is, what kind of schools will they be attending? Ones where students of color must fear daily harassment and abuse, both overt and subtle, at the hands of cops? Ones where education exists alongside constant policing? Ones where their Black and Brown friends will see in the faces of the officers walking the halls the faces of the officers who have hurt and killed their friends and relatives? I hope not. That is not the kind of education I want to see for the young people in my life, for the children of Chicago.

The \$33 million contract that CPS has with CPD could be put towards so many better things, such as placing more nurses, counselors, and transformative justice facilitators in schools, rather than cops. Access to technology could be expanded, as could funding for the arts. All of these measures are things that would drastically improve the quality of the education CPS students receive. These are the kinds of things that will actually make our schools, communities, and city safer. These are the things that will save lives.

Please stand with those who are working to remove CPD from CPS and vote to end the contract.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Remove police from Chicago School Systems

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Please remove them and invest in the resources our schools and students desperately need.

For those concerned with in-school violence, a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health.

I urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students succeed. This is just one step toward educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

As a concerned community member, I am calling on you, Miguel del Valle, to express support for the Police Free Schools ordinance and demand that you encourage the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Miguel del Valle, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Contract with CPD

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you as a Chicago resident who is deeply concerned with the wellbeing of the children who depend on CPS to nurture their growth as students and human beings.

I was shocked and saddened to find out about the \$33 million in spending that goes towards outfitting schools with police officers, when so many students in Chicago - particularly Black and Brown students - don't have a librarian or even a nurse.

That is not to mention mental health professionals, etc. that could make a real impact on the welfare of the students in your care

It boggles my mind, as I'm sure it does many of yours.

I urge you to apply common sense thinking here, especially knowing that the country is watching.

Every school deserves to have the basic professionals that can impact change in these children's lives - nurses, librarians, and counselors.

To spend such a large amount on CPD presence when these basic means are not met is a disservice to our children and their futures.

It is within your power to make this right. I urge you to do so and appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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SRO Resolution and CPD/CPS

Hi,

As a Chicago parent I urge you to cut ties with the CPD and rethink the use of armed SRO in Chicago Public Schools. The money saved could be better used on counseling and nurses in each school. When danger arises then of course the police should be called in. Let's put our kids mental health and well being ahead of a military environment in a place of learning. You are sending the wrong message to our kids- the majority of schools do not have violent activity on a regular basis.

It's time to re-evaluate how we are educating our most precious resource.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

As a concerned community member, I am calling on you, Sendhil Revuluri, to express support for the Police Free Schools ordinance and demand that you vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Sendhil Revuluri, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police Officers from Chicago Public Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking the time to consider removing police officers from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). I am a CPS teacher and will be a CPS parent in the future. In both of my roles in relation to CPS, I feel passionately that police officers unequivocally do not belong in our schools.

Young people are developing, growing, and figuring out how to best handle difficult situations all the time. We know from neuroscience that the frontal cortex, responsible for logic, problem solving, and long term decision making, is not fully formed until one's mid-twenties. This should make it clear to all involved in the education of young people that we need to do everything we can to help students develop skills needed to appropriately manage and mediate their behavior and decision making. We need to understand that student behavior is a form of communication, often used when the young person is unable (due to lack of skills development, or lack of brain development and maturation) to communicate in any other way. Thus it is our job as a school system to ensure we have the resources to meet students' behavior expressions with understanding and then spend instructional time helping students to develop more appropriate ways for expressing themselves. This begins with calm, respectful and appropriate de-escalation of behaviors. To do this, an adult needs specialized training, which the police officers in CPS do not have. In "Handcuffs in Hallways: The State of Policing in Chicago Public Schools" (Shriver Center on Poverty Law, 2017) it states "School Resource Officers (SROs), or law enforcement permanently assigned to schools, are not required to undergo any specialized training for interacting with children... This has led to poor outcomes for students, particularly students of color, impairing their ability to learn and develop, imperiling their civil rights, and increasing their likelihood of being swept into the criminal justice system." School counselors, social workers, and restorative justice coordinators undergo extensive training and professional development equipping them with the tools to de-escalate behaviors, and then to educate students so problems can be eliminated and students can find success. Police officers, on the

other hand, often take a punitive, authoritative approach which all too often results in students, especially students of color, having their first experience with arrest in a school setting.

In addition to the problematic lack of training for police officers in schools, studies illustrate that police presence erodes the trust and safety students feel in school. Schools need to be a place where students feel safe to grow, develop, learn, express themselves, and make mistakes. The reality of our world is that police presence denies this safe space to too many students, again this is particularly true for students of color. In “New Studies Point to a Big Downside for Schools Bringing in More Police” Barnum summarizes two in depth studies done on the effects of police presence on students. He writes, “In one case, adding police to Texas schools led to declines in high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates. Another found that more police in New York City neighborhoods hurt the test scores of black male students” (Barnum, 2019). CPS cannot afford to continue practices that are harmful to our students. Schools must be a safe place for all students – this is the first step toward creating an equitable education system in Chicago.

It is time for us to really reflect on the toll of the harm that police in schools inflicts upon our students. I have seen no evidence that there are benefits of having police present in schools. There is just the ‘feeling’ of safety that it grants to a group of predominately white adults. Our schools are there to serve students and communities; they do not feel safer with police present. This has become abundantly clear as student activists have come forward from across the city to demand that the contract between Chicago Police Department and CPS be terminated. We need to listen to our students, we need to listen to the studies that show police presence is harmful to the very students we serve, we need to make a change.

A recent report by the ACLU shows that “1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors. 10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers. 14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker”. Police officers do not provide the educational services and life skills of a counselor, or the connection to essential services like a social worker, or the ability to provide individualized education plans and systems of support like a psychologist. Those essential services our students need and deserve are going unmet while we spend thirty-three million dollars on bringing police officers into our schools despite evidence of harm. We will not succeed if we continue to do this. We cannot deny students and families of the resources they need and expect our schooling outcomes to improve. In an article “New Study Shows Police Presence in Schools Has a Negative Effect on Students” by ACLU of Northern California it states, “To meaningfully address the deeply rooted challenges students face, school districts should reinvest money spent on school resource officers, security guards, and police officers into counselors and training on restorative strategies and positive behavior intervention and support.” I implore you to imagine what could be achieved if you took this opportunity to do just that. This policy affects the life trajectory of young people across the city of Chicago. What would it mean in the life of those young people if instead of interacting with police officers, they were supported by counselors, social workers and restorative justice coordinators? How many more positive outcomes would there be? Shouldn’t we take action now to make those changes?

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to really consider the importance of removing police officers from Chicago Public Schools. You will find links to all of the studies and articles I referenced below. In closing, I simply ask: who would you want to encounter on your worst day, in your worst moment: a police officer willing to arrest, or a counselor trained in de-escalation and support? Who would you want dealing with your child in their worst moment?

Thank you,

██████████

Handcuffs in Hallways: The State of Policing in Chicago Public Schools - Published in February 2017 by Shriver Center on Poverty Law

New Studies Point to a Big Downside for Schools Bringing in More Police – by Matt Barnum, February 2019

New Study Shows Police Presence in Schools Has Negative Effect on Students – Published by ACLU of Northern California, October 2016

ACLU Cops and No Counselors – How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students

██████████

██████████

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CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is ██████████, and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

As a concerned community member, I am demanding that you, Amy Rome, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Amy Rome, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please Vote to End CPS' Contract with the CPD in Tomorrow's Board Meeting

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I don't know if this will matter by the time anyone reads this, but I would like to take this opportunity to urge you with my strongest possible voice to please vote to end your contract with CPD in tomorrow's board meeting.

As a resident of Chicago, I have seen budgets cut for education and schools shuttered in my own neighborhood and around the city, even as the police department budget has increased every year I have lived in the city. I do not believe having more guns in schools makes anyone safer, and I don't think you do either.

I'm not even sure if you have the power to end the contract in tomorrow's meeting. Whatever the case may be, please use all the power you do have to begin the process of removing police from our schools. Their presence does not help the students, their presence does not help the teachers, their presence does not help our city.

In Earnest Sincerity,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a teacher in Chicago. I work at an independent school, but I am emailing to express my concern over CPD's presence in Chicago Public Schools. Police have no place in our city's schools. Children deserve to feel safe and valued at school, and the CPD's punitive presence disproportionately harms Black students.

Please, remove CPD from CPS and reallocate resources and funds to ensure that every school can care for the health, safety, wellbeing, and education of our young people.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please make the right decision

To Chicago Board of Education members,

Thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Lane Tech Alumna. I personally had friends in high school harassed by officers whom often made sexual comments. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and \*\*replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts\*\* to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you kindly,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

As a concerned community member, I am demanding that you, Dwayne Truss, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Dwayne Truss, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Police in the Chicago schools

My daughters both live in Chicago and have called to my attention that many Chicago schools don't have a nurse or a librarian or a guidance counselor, but they do have police, and I'm suggesting that the latter would be a better use of taxpayer money.

Thank you for your attention,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please end the contract with CPD!

Dear Board of Education:

I work as an arts partner with CPS, and I am urging you to vote to end the contract with CPD.

BOE can use this 33 million to add to arts programming, restorative justice programming, and counselors. This is a better way to do violence prevention and will help our students immensely!

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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Please terminate your contract with CPD

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] a resident of Chicago, I am urging you for the sake of CPS students and their wellbeing to terminate the contract you currently have with the Chicago Police Department. These officers presence are not beneficial to the students or the school environment, and are in fact detrimental. As a future educator and someone that simply cares, please terminate your contract.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

I am writing to demand that you, Elizabeth Todd-Breland, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be immediately reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Elizabeth Todd-Breland, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SRO Decision on June 24<sup>th</sup>

Hello, Board of Education!

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Ravenswood. I'm writing to you to urge you to end CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department; I care about the students of our great city and it's in all of our best interests to end the school to prison pipeline and keep our students safe. CPS students need counselors, social workers, and other support staff, and need school to be a place of learning and support, not one where they are patrolled, policed, and sent to correctional facilities.

Thank you for reading and thank you for all you do,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

CPD out of CPD now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

I am writing to demand that you, Luisiana Melendez, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be immediately reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Luisiana Melendez, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Signed,

[REDACTED]

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## TAKE CPD OUT OF CPS

As a product of cps, I'll say the role of CPD in CPS is unnecessary , expensive and does little to reinforce students feeling safe while they learn. We already have too much proof that cops use excessive force against black and brown students. Funds used for CPD in CPS can go towards teacher salaries or resources that center building autonomy for students, instead.

## DEFUND THE CPD!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

I am writing to demand that you, Lucino Sotelo, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be immediately reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Lucino Sotelo, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## CPD out of CPS now!

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Ravenswood.

I am writing to demand that you, Katie Ellis, vote for the termination of Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million dollar contract with CPD. The presence of school resource officers in Chicago schools results in the disproportionate criminalization and traumatization of nonwhite students. This \$33 million should be immediately reallocated to fund the resources and support personnel Chicago students desperately need.

I encourage you, Katie Ellis, to read the report authored by the Police Free Schools Coalition about why the removal of police from our city's schools is a critical step in ensuring equity and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. You can find the report at the website [copsoutcps.com](http://copsoutcps.com).

Vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

Signed, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED], and I'm an employee at the social service agency, Erie Neighborhood House. I'm also a resident of the Noble Square neighborhood. I would strongly like to encourage you to vote to remove the CPD from CPS.

Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer, "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools," says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like *Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes* which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college." [Weisburst 20]

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions." [29]

Additionally, the in-depth study *Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth* [published by the *American Sociological Review*], states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "the school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer." [NPR].

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a Beaubien Elementary alum and a Lane Tech College Prep alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cancellation of CPD contract with CPS

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago's 33rd ward and I'm writing to urge you to cancel the CPD contact with CPS. That \$33 million dollar contract does more harm than good for the students of our city.

That money should be reinvested in social programs, education, and healthcare for the students.

I would like to know which way you plan to vote on this proposal tomorrow and why.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD

To the President, Members, and Chief of Staff of the Chicago Board of Education:

My name is [REDACTED]. I live in Uptown, and I've been a teacher and teaching artist for 12 years. I'm writing to tell you that as a voter, as a teacher, and as someone who chose Chicago for my life and work, I want CPD out of the Chicago school system.

I'm proud to live in this city for many reasons. The incredible Chicago Teachers Union is one of them, as is the long fight for labor justice that defines Chicago. I am not proud of the CPD's history of violence, racist oppression, and policy-flouting. Whether you agree with me about the nature of the CPD or not, the question is whether these officers belong in our schools, with our children.

Police do not make children demonstrably safer. They do not stop rampant school shooting. In fact, statistically, they are a danger to the kids they are supposed to protect. They create a school-to-prison pipeline that targets BIPOC children and perpetuates generations of trauma.

They also cost \$33 million dollars, money desperately needed for guidance counselors and art programs. These resources are proven to save children. At the very least, teachers shouldn't be buying their own classroom supplies when right now that money is funding the criminalization of kids. Kids under your protection.

I urge you to vote to get CPD out of our school system. I'm sure you've seen the same videos I have, heard from devastated parents and teachers. You've seen the consequences of poorly-trained, incompetent, dangerous police. Heartbreak and outrage. The CPD must go.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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SRO CPS contract

Good evening,

I am writing to voice my support for ending the CPS contract with the CPD. CPS needs to walk the walk of restorative justice, and we all know that can't happen without more counselors, social workers, psychologists, and restorative justice coordinators. These are proactive and proven solutions. \$33 million dollars toward these professional salaries is a start in the right direction.

Future CPS parent, former CPS teacher-librarian, concerned Chicago citizen,

[REDACTED]

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No Cops in CPS

Dear Board,

As a caring citizen of Chicago with some dear connections in the public school system, I strongly encourage you to vote to end your contract with the Chicago Police Department. Their presence in Chicago's schools is detrimental to learning and flourishing and compromises students' safety, especially for students of color. The money can be much better spent addressing the lack of counselors and social workers, food security, the arts, smaller class sizes... I could go on.

Our children's future is in your hands. Please, give them what they need, not what's popular in City Hall.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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CPD OUT OF CPS

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] and currently live in Avondale. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

I submitted a comment through your online form but I wanted to reaffirm my belief that CPD should be removed from CPS and that the contract for \$33 million should be terminated. Use this money for nurses, counselors, lunches, new books and supplies, teachers' salaries, after school programs, and more. This is an easy choice. This is what's best for the students and their growth. This is part of cutting off the school to prison pipeline. Please vote to remove CPD tomorrow. Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Letter in support of removing SROs from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Members of the Board,

Please find a letter on behalf of the Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago School of Law attached. We ask for your support in removing School Resource Officers from CPS schools. Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a current CPS High School Math teacher and department chair. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or

stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED counselors, social workers, psychologists, restorative justice coordinators, nurses, and other developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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CPD IN CPS

Good evening,

I am a Whitney Young Alumni as well as an assistant educator in various CPS high schools through Northwestern University's Peer Health Exchange Program. This means that I hold both perspectives as a student and teacher in CPS. With these years of experience, I can confidently state that our students and teachers need resources not the police. We need tutoring and after school programs, athletic and artistic outlets. We need college prep and mental health counseling. We do not need cops. No student left behind means prioritizing our students' safety, future, and wellbeing. Investing in CPD has time and time again proved to fail that mission statement. Divest from cops. Invest in students. Listen to what our city needs. Please and thank you.

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Cancel the CPD Contract

Good afternoon,

We are ████████████████████, a tattoo shop in Chicago's 11th ward.

We are writing on behalf of the students of CPS who we believe would benefit from the cancellation of the \$33 million dollar contract with CPD.

While Lori Lightfoot has made her stance clear the students of Chicago deserve better from their Board Members.

We urge you to cancel the contract and reinvest in students. As professional artists we believe school art programs and after school programs are essential to the education of young people, many of which have been steadily defunded and cut over the past decades.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Take CPD out of CPS

Dear Board of Education,

I have worked in several CPS middle and high schools for the past 5 years, specifically supporting refugee students through a non profit organization. The presence of police officers (and their unwanted weapons) is re-traumatizing and triggering for our students. We do not want police officers in our schools; we want enough social workers, nurses, librarians, and mental health services in our schools. As we all want our students to be able to heal and learn in our schools, police officers keep my students in their flight or fight state, unable to learn and develop as they should at their age. Our community does not want the guns and threats of police officers when there is conflict or "illegal" activity at our schools. We want caring adults and community members who understand and acknowledge how our black and brown students have been dehumanized and criminalized since birth. We love our students and care about their safety. We want CPS to end their contract with CPD now.

Please advocate for this at the meeting tomorrow. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD presence in CPS

Hello,

I am a resident of Rogers Park, Chicago, and am writing to you to ask that you vote to remove CPD from CPS. Having police presence in schools contributes directly to the school-to-prison pipeline, and it's up to all of you to give these kids a chance in life, and break the cycle. Instead of hiring police officers, consider hiring mediators, individuals to teach yoga and meditation in schools, and providing more constructive outlets for students, such as art or trade skills.

The children are our future, and tomorrow you will hold the power to choose how our future is shaped. Please consider and choose wisely.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to Terminate the Contract between CPS and CPD

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a former CPS student and Northside College Prep graduate writing to request that the Chicago Board of Education vote to terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. Earlier this month I sent a similar message to Dr. Janice Jackson (CEO of CPS) and Deputy Mayor of Education Sybil Madison. Eliminating police from Chicago Public Schools would ameliorate the disproportionate criminalization of Black and brown students, and free up funding for the library, medical, and counseling services that many students do not have adequate access to.

At Northside (a uniquely privileged institution, and one that is disproportionately non-Black), in-school police officers make students feel scared and unwelcome. This was at one of the most-funded schools in the district. At others, where academic resources are more scarce, the threatening presence of police is even more disruptive, and serves as a menacing reminder of (if not a major contributor to) the school-to-prison pipeline.

Please, do not invite Chicago Police Department officers to return to Chicago Public Schools as school resource officers. Please use this as an opportunity to reinvest in underfunded schools, and to reinvest in Black lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS, also head of the police union is dating a student he met while on the job

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I am overwhelmingly in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools, and I believe this removal is long overdue. In addition to the brutality that Chicago Police officers enact on the streets, the amount of trauma that is done to students by having armed and dangerous officers roaming their halls is unthinkable. Teachers, aids, counselors, therapists, nurses, and leaders trained in restorative justice are more effective at diffusing any heightened situation should one arise. We have dealt these CPS students a terrible hand by not only taking away the funding for their resources, support systems, and even schools at large, but instead using that money to create a dangerous environment for students, one that often leads them directly into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Please vote yes to remove CPD from CPS tomorrow, and let's work towards an education system that actually gives students a chance to succeed.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

P.S

The head of the Chicago Police Union, John Catanzara, met his current girlfriend while he was hired security at her high school. SHE WAS A STUDENT. GET THEM OUT OF THERE NOW. (This happened as a direct result of your decision to allow CPD in the schools. This is on you Please do the right thing.)

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End contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education,

Good evening. My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a Chicago resident living in Rogers Park. From my personal and work experience I am urging CPS to end their contract with the Chicago Police Department. CPD cultivates and escalates an environment of distrust, suspicion, racial profiling and violence. We need to stop treating schoolchildren--particularly Black schoolchildren--as if they are criminals.

This \$33 million contract has contributed immensely to the school-to-prison pipeline, which prepares students not for success but for a life of confinement. News broke just a few days ago that 700 staffers at CPS are getting laid off. Surely the money from this contract could be put to better use. CPD needs to invest in their students' futures. Please vote not to renew your contract with CPD.

Thank you,



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Please

Hi

Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with the CPD. Money that could be used to uplift the Black community is being used to perpetuate a cycle of imprisonment and poverty.

If you do it I will bake you cookies.

Sure....you may be feeling the pressure to appease all sides people are taking in a massive city, but did anyone else offer to bake you cookies? That's what's up

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Be Brave

Hello,

As a teaching artist and childcare professional here in Chicago, I implore the Chicago Board of Education to end the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. Our children do not deserve to be criminalized as they seek education. Allow the schools to be the safe space they should be. Allow Black and brown children to learn without a reminder of constant surveillance, without an expectation of eventual wrongdoing, without fear. I know that y'all know, in your hearts, what is right and good. I believe you began to work in education because you wanted to make an actual difference.

I invite you to make history tomorrow.

Join the many other school boards making bold decisions during this transformative moment.

\$33 million could make meaningful changes in the lives of young Chicagoans.

Be brave,

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[REDACTED]

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Please remove the CPD from the Schools

Chicago Board of Education,

The presence of uniformed police officers in our schools is a detriment to the education of our current and future citizens.

Surely there is a way to ensure appropriate rapid response when needed without intimidation of uniformed officers and the message this sends.

We are not a police state.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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We need Police out of Chicago Public Schools NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], Lane Tech Alumni. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD at CPS - Police do NOT contribute to a positive school environment for students

To the Chicago Board of Education,

As a teaching artist and a Chicagoan for over 12 years I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote to Eliminate CPD from CPS Schools

Board Members of CPS,

I'm aware that on Wednesday you will be voting on a motion to terminate the contract/agreement between CPS and the Chicago Police Department. I'm writing to urge you to vote to terminate the contract. Students do not need to be policed at school. Having a police presence increases anxiety among students, which makes it impossible to properly focus on learning. Rather than pay for a contract with CPD which hurts Black and other marginalized students, nurses, counselors, and other resources could be funded to foster a safer environment that is conducive to learning. I believe that you're on the Board of Education to look out for the best interests of CPS students; removing CPD from the schools and reallocating the funds is the best way to do so. Thank you.

Best,



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Take CPD Out of Public Schools!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a resident of Chicago, and am hopeful that Chicago is ready to be at the forefront of a much-needed national movement. It is time to listen to the people who are most affected by the presence of police in schools: the students. They have been pleading, protesting, and begging you to do what is necessary to protect them. Remove the police from schools, and instead use the \$33 million to invest in those students.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students. Be on the right side of history. Your bravery could inspire many others to do the same.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Cancel the contract CPS has with CPD

Dear Board Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen, and as an alumni of CPS. Tomorrow you will vote on the contract that CPS has with CPD, and I implore you to cancel the contract.

I read the the Inspector General's report for Chicago Police in CPS and was appalled by the disorganization of the program, as well as the failure for CPD to heed and implement meaningful change regarding the suggestions that they had made. The lack of the lack of accountability and transparency for officer selection and training is unbelievable.

Police officers simply do not belong in our schools. It is unconscionable that we are able to afford the policing of students when schools don't have the resources to meet their basic needs that schools are responsible for providing. We are failing our kids.

The millions of dollars spent on policing the schools should instead be invested to limit class size, pay teachers a living wage, offer consistent access to nurses and counselors, healthier food options, and after school programs. This should be done particularly in BIPOC neighborhoods on the south and west sides of the city that suffering from our deliberate lack of investment.

It is your responsibility as members of the board to create a nurturing school culture and supportive learning environments for all of our Chicago students to succeed. By voting against CPD in CPS you will be actively choosing to make our schooling system better, and can use the money we pay CPD to provide the resources necessary to level the playing field for BIPOC students. You will be taking a stand against the systemic racism that is prevalent in the way we selectively fund and care for our students in CPS. By voting for CPD to remain, you will be actively choosing to prop up the broken system that is harming the futures of the students you are supposed to protect and advocate for.

Growing up in CPS there were countless stories from friends about the unnecessary force that was used by police officers. Taking punitive measures, most often against BIPOC, leads to lasting consequences that have been proven to negatively impact the rest of their lives. In psychology it is well understood that punishment does not effectively motivate students to change their behaviors. You have the opportunity to redesign school environments in a way that will promote their mental and physical health, as well as the safety of our students. They are our future, and they deserve better.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I worked as a Science Education Fellow at Mather High School this past year. In my one year at a CPS high school, I saw more police officers on site than I did nurses. In an average week, I could not send my students to the nurse when they were sick because she was not there, it was not her day to be at the school. Likewise, there was only one social worker on site at my high school. Students should not be attending schools without nurses, librarians, social workers, mental health professionals...etc. I was privileged enough to attend a high school that had these resources and I credit them for who I am today. I want the same for my students. I want them to attend school without first having to go through a body scanner, without seeing police officers milling about their school compounds or down their hallways. Tomorrow, you are going to vote on whether or not to remove CPD from our public schools. I implore you to vote yes to CPD removal. We do not need more cops in our schools and especially not in place of nurses, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and librarians. Our students need resources that will advance them in their careers, not a system that actively criminalizes their existence and makes them pawns in an existing school to prison pipeline. Please VOTE YES TO REMOVE CPD from our schools. Doing so will only be for the benefit of our students, their futures and their communities. Thank you!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Chicago resident and a mother of a toddler who will attend CPS schools. I want to strongly urge you to consider ending the contract between CPS and CPD for resource officers. I myself grew up in a school that was over-policed, and know firsthand the kind of escalation, violence, and school-to-prison pipeline issues it can cause. I personally do not want my son and his peers in this kind of environment.

This is a historic moment and you have a chance to be on the right side. You can follow the lead of other school districts who have considered the other ways this money could be spent, and how it can benefit their schools and communities.

Please end the contract.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Vote Tomorrow

I am asking that CPS vote to remove CPD officers in schools. I want to encourage you to stay open minded. Imagine schools with protection that is not CPD.

Best,

[Redacted]

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Get CPD out of CPS

This alone should be reason enough: <https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao?fbclid=IwAR1HHI0XOicKotyEwr6WRrEhzD21KMFizrv1166M8kK2aLBeNqPH9S-3QY4>

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools Now!

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a rising senior at Northwestern University. I am emailing you because of the upcoming vote on removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I think it is essential that CPD be removed from CPS, and I urge you to vote in favor of this. We should not be criminalizing our youth while they are trying to receive an education.

I hope you will do the right thing, and I thank you for your time.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Contract with CPD

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in the city of Chicago for over 10 years now. I consider myself a Chicagoan, and have been disappointed as year over year we hear that Chicago Public School funding has been cut yet again. I then found out that \$33 million in spending goes to outfitting schools in our city with police. Which made me upset, sad, and to be quite frank: sick to my stomach.

Sure, with school shootings higher than ever, safety is important, especially for our kids. But what doesn't make sense is these are the same schools that don't have nurses, librarians, or even guidance counselors or advisors. Can cops in our schools do any of the above jobs? No. What difference do police offers make in a school setting? I'm not sure - they don't seem to be keeping people safe from the harm that you are imparting on them mentally.

We always discuss that in order to continue the cycle of children turning to bad behavior requires a lot of nourishment and activities to 'keep them off the streets'. But you, as educational professionals, are

effectively pushing our kids into the streets because YOU have not made the resources you so proudly exclaim as essential, available in our black and brown communities.

Every school in our city, and our country for that matter, needs to provide the essentials for children to learn, grow, and be nourished by education. And, you have the power to impact our children and make this right by revisiting the contract with CPD and re-allocating the \$30+millions of dollars spent on police.

Imagine the future that YOU can create for these kids. Imagine being able to tell your children's children that you helped turn our school system around. Let's make that a reality.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chicago resident

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Remove CPD from CPS, Invest in Students

To Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a Northwestern student who has worked directly with CPS students as a volunteer and mentor. I am writing regarding the Board's vote tomorrow on the contract between CPS and CPD. The Board should vote to end the \$33 million contract and divert those funds to resources for students.

Other major cities have removed police from their schools, as police presence perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harms students of color, the vast majority of students in CPS schools. All students have the right to feel safe in their schools, and police presence makes this impossible.

Instead, I encourage you all to use this \$33 million to improve ELL instruction, purchase new books, hire social workers, improve health services, and hire additional mental health counselors, among other initiatives.

There has never been a place for police officers in schools and we must use our funding to truly support our students. Vote to end the contract with CPD.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please Vote to Remove CPS from Public Schools

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education.

I am a Children's Librarian with the Chicago Public Library system as well as a former educator, and I am writing to ask you to vote to remove CPS from our public schools tomorrow. As a librarian who works directly with children and teens, I believe in protecting them from the violence and harassment that they experience at the hands of police. Libraries and schools should be safe havens, and while police are in our schools black and brown children especially are at risk.

There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience, and I am going to outline some of that evidence below likely from sources you are already familiar with, but I want to first state that I know firsthand that having licensed therapists, social workers, and non punitive consequences for children are far better than having police in schools. I worked in a school that practiced restorative justice and had no police or security guards or authorities allowed on the premises, and students opened up to us as they found ways to cope with and heal from trauma. A different world is possible.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29). Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

Please, please remove police from public schools.

Thank you.

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████████████████████  
████████████████████

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This is extremely important to me and to many other Chicago residents

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is ██████████ and I have lived in Chicago for a few years now. It has always worried me how little money is allocated to our schools. Especially now with Covid-19 causing a deficit, the fact that \$33 million of what little CPS has is being given to CPD is a disgrace. Especially when the Police are already being funded better than any other public service and with how long it took for teachers to get a deserved raise. If we want to see our city thrive we need to invest this money in providing counseling services not violent police officers. Many of whom have multiple incidents of harming students without being fired or at the very least taken out of the school.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels,

school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

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Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Dedication to Students

Hello,

My name is ██████ and I am a teaching artist in many Chicago Public Schools. I am writing today to ask that you vote to terminate CPS’s contract with CPD tomorrow.

I teach diverse learning students especially those on the autism spectrum and I fear for their safety not only out of school but also within their schools. They should not have to fear for their safety or feel intimidated when their focus should be on learning. The money that is allocated to paying for the CPD contract could better be used on providing other professionals who would better serve Chicago students.

This is an opportunity for us to look at the systems in Chicago Public Schools and how they are serving to protect our students and contribute to a positive and productive future. That can be served with more counselors, nurses, and other programs instead of going towards policing within schools.

Please join other school systems around the country in removing police officers from schools. Show your dedication to students' well being by parting ways with Chicago's history of a corrupt and racist police department and instead focus on bettering your offerings and programs for the cities' youth.

Sincerely,

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Police in schools.

Dear Board of Education Members,

Please keep the decision regarding police in schools a local decision in which the immediate community can have input via the LSC. As a teacher with a total of 15 years of experience, I have witnessed many positive interactions with police and students in my school.

First, although we have security guards, these individuals often tend to be less professional in their interactions than the police, and they do not have any effect on keeping the gangs out. They cannot act with the same immediacy as police when weapons are involved. Students do not respond with the same level of respect when there are group fights or other escalations. Maybe grade schools don't feel the same need, but high school is different. There is no policy in place for when security guards are absent, which leaves our students even more vulnerable.

I think when kids have exposure with respectful and polite, caring interactions with police in grade schools it will set the police and the students up for better interactions out in the community. These should be police officers who are pre-screened for the type of skills and disposition needed to work within a school setting. In addition, these officers should live within the district where the school is so that the kids if they do get in trouble, can say please call officer so and so. He knows me.

At my school, almost every year we get at least 2 students who somehow sneak weapons in. Last year a student pulled a knife out in class threatening the teacher, special education teacher, and students. The special education teacher was pregnant and was so traumatized she didn't come back for 3 months. When she did return, it was under the duress of losing her job and she was still visibly shaken. The general education teacher was so traumatized she would start to cry every time she tried to talk about it. Another student snuck a gun in and told a student, who was smart enough to tell the principal, and we went into immediate lockdown with the police bringing in dogs to check lockers.

Although we have metal detectors, the students let their friends in through side doors so they don't get in trouble for cutting a class. Obviously, we cannot have security at every door to the building for the entire day, and the side doors don't have X-ray machines or metal detectors. We can't chain those doors; they have to open from the inside for fire safety. I tell the kids when I see them why they shouldn't do this, for their own safety and their friends' safety, but many still do it.

The police at my school are amazing....especially with the kids who have IEPs or are living in volatile home situations. I have been witness to graduating seniors who have told me what a wonderful influence these officers have had on them, how they have helped them to grow up, learn to control themselves, and mature. Some of these students have had a long history of disciplinary issues, and they recognize the positive example and care these officers demonstrate on a daily basis.

The process of how they hire, who they hire, proper training from the start with an emphasis on de-escalation and community service needs to be changed from the ground up. Let the good police do their jobs and be role models for the new ones. Fire the bad ones who have documented cases of excessive force and unprofessional conduct. Place the officers within the community where they live and work so they are invested in making neighborhoods better, safer, etc.

Do we need more proactive approaches? Yes. Do we need more social workers, early intervention supports, nurses, and psychologists who can help our students process the trauma that they live with and learn positive coping mechanisms? Yes. Do we need nurses, and psychiatrists, and access to proper mental and physical healthcare? Yes, but in addition to--not at the expense of--the sense of security and safety that having police in our schools provides to our students and their families.

The LSC at our school has voted to keep the police officers in our building. They feel police create a safer environment by keeping the gangs out and keeping the drugs out. We feel the police create an environment where our students feel much safer and can devote their energy to learning instead of worrying about their safety. Our students deserve to feel safe and secure at their place of learning.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The police do not belong, and have never belonged, in our schools

To the Board of Ed:

It is a sickening reality that we live in society that has said "okay" to placing police officers in our schools. The police are violent. The police lie. The police exist to perpetuate systems of oppression.

Dnigma Howard. The thousands of other students that have been brutalized by CPD. The thousands of students with IEPs who have been brutalized by CPD. How is it that we have allowed a place of safety, learning, youth, to become a place of violence?

The Board must cancel the CPD contract immediately. The Board must allocate those \$33 million to enriching our educational programs, providing nurses, counselors, and social workers.

The Board must prioritize Black lives. The Board must stop disinvesting in every Black community, closing Black schools, and tearing communities apart. The Board must dedicate itself to uplifting Black communities. The Board must do the right thing.

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[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern University. I am urging CPS to remove the Chicago Police Department from their schools. As someone who comes from a predominantly Black and brown community, which is paralleled in CPS schools, I have first hand experience of how the police does not fight crime but incite crime. Your Black and brown students are, due to implicit bias, subject to being seen as more mature and thus subjected to more discipline. What are they to do when they feel a stronger police presence in the very environment that's supposed to allow them to grow and feel safe? A system that is just itching to

throw them in prison after a little mistake instead of having the opportunity to go to the counselor's office or to a social worker? We have seen firsthand how the police reform after reform does not have the

interest of Black and brown people at heart. Even "good" cops are working for a system that has always protected the white and wealthy. This is not different in Chicago. I urge you all to vote in favor of removing CPD from schools. It is in the best interest of minority students and their futures.

Thank you,

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Remove Police from Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking in to consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago mother of an eight year old and a six year old. Police in schools have harassed students over minor infractions while behaving aggressively towards minors. Additional,there is evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience.

I am requesting that the \$33 million dollars that is currently allotted to pay for police in schools be applied to social services for the students, such as qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed.

Thank-you

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REMOVE CPD FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hello,

My name is ██████████, and I demand that you remove police presence from CPS. If you claim to truly care about bettering education, CPS must foster a safe and secure environment by funding mental health professionals, counselors, and social workers, NOT the Chicago Police Department. Police in school intimidate, enforce, and discriminate against Black students disproportionately.

I demand that the budget spent on policing in CPS be re-allocated to truly strengthening educational and after-school recreational programs in addition to better counseling and mental health resources.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Police in CPS Schools

Good evening,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student attending Whitney M. Young Magnet High School. I am contacting you in regards to tomorrow's vote on the contract between CPS schools and the Chicago Police Department. I urge you to make the correct decision for our city's youth and vote out CPD from our public schools.

Although having armed officers on campus is often seen as a solution to school violence (which is incorrect), their presence often has many detrimental effects on Black, Hispanic, and disabled students. Schools with more economically disadvantaged students of color have more police, and students at heavily policed schools are more likely to be arrested and face criminal charges for nonviolent disorderly conduct. The criminalization of youth in incidents such as this are part of the school to prison pipeline, which unfairly and disproportionately sets students from certain backgrounds for failure later in life. In addition, the presence of armed officers in what is supposed to be a safe and nurturing environment is inappropriate. There have been many occasions in the past of police brutality and cops using excessive force on youth- and I am sure you agree that all students have the right to receive a quality education without feeling afraid for their own lives.

In tomorrow's vote, I urge you to choose to keep police officers out of our schools and to keep underprivileged students safe from blatantly discriminatory policies and actions. In addition, I also wish to see what you personally are doing to tackle systemic racism and oppression inherently part of our country.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote for removing CPD from CPS

Hello Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a former CPS student from 2nd grade (Rosenwald School) through senior year of highschool (Curie Metro) as well as a current Substitute Teacher for CPS. I encourage you to vote YES to remove CPD from CPS.

CPS students need law enforcement who are properly trained to handle children appropriately. Our children face realities that most CPD officers will never understand. CPS, with serving more than 600 schools in the district, should operate the way universities do; having their own designated law enforcement who are solely devoted to school students that are properly trained for the environment.

Recent events in the world and even some camera-footage within some CPS schools advocate for why CPD should be removed from CPS. Our students need more mental health counselors, social workers and perhaps even hiring law enforcement personnel who have a background or experience in such to not just "correct" behavior, but rather understand it.

Please vote "YES" on tomorrow and give our students the due justice they deserve when it comes to their safety, well-being and education.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

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The removal of CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Retaining police in schools will lead to the continued harassment of students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic scholarship, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you



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END \$33M CPS contract with Chicago Police Department

I am the grandparent of three children in CPS schools.

Schools are meant as places of learning and should be a refuge from the inequities of society.

Police in schools threaten students and thus interfere with their education, inhibit restorative justice, and feed the school-to-prison pipeline.

There is NO evidence that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. SROs inside schools result in increased suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, many of the officers stationed at schools not only lack training, but have numerous misconduct complaints and use-of-force allegations. This is unconscionable.

Imagine the developmental progress children would make if instead of \$33M going to the Police Department it were spent on social workers, psychologists, and arts programs.

Please follow other urban school districts in this country and vote to remove police from our schools. I urge you to vote as if you were elected by the people of Chicago to protect the children you are entrusted to serve. Vote as if your children were attending Chicago schools.

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No more cops

My name is [REDACTED], and I have been a resident of Rogers Park for four years. Please vote to end your partnership with CPD, and get police out of Chicago's schools. Gun carrying authoritarians have no place in schools.

Sent from my iPhone

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CPD in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a Chicago resident, and work here as a social worker with Holocaust survivors. I am writing to urge you to vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. CPD has proven time and time again that rather than keeping young Chicagoans of color safe, it serves as a force to menace and harass them, often to the point of endangering them (Dnigma Howard, Laquan McDonald, 2017 Department of Justice Report, etc.). Every student deserves to feel safe at school. Resources should be allocated to better educational funding, more social workers and counseling, and

providing for the material needs of CPS students. All of these would contribute to their safety on a larger scale far more effectively than keeping police in CPS schools. Please, vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you for reading this email.

Best

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Choose our kids over our shortsighted Mayor.

Demand education equity.

History will remember YOUR choice tomorrow.

Every kid deserves an excellent school with caring professionals to help them navigate the challenges of childhood and adolescence effectively. They do not deserve to be put into a school to prison pipeline. Get the cops out and give the money to investing in making their classrooms excellent places to nurture their curiosity and build a Chicago that finally ends white supremacy.

Vote to tomorrow to get cops out of CPS!!

[REDACTED]

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removal of cpd from cps schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an alumni of Andrew Jackson Language Academy and Walter Payton College Prep. I am strongly urging you to removal CPD from our schools, they are an ominous force to our students and negatively affect their wellbeing's. Please reinvest the money into providing adequate counseling, health services, and teaching support for our bright and deserving students. These kids deserve the world and the opportunity to succeed, please make this happen. Thank you so much, and I trust in you all to make the right decision.

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Police-Free CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Lakeview. I am writing to urge the Board of Education to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools and redirect funds from the CPD contract to place guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, etc. in CPS schools that do not have them.

Research clearly shows that police officers in schools do not stop shootings, but make students feel uncomfortable and unsafe, while disproportionately arresting Black and Latinx students.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools! Vote to remove CPD from CPS

To the board members of Chicago Public Schools,

I am writing to you today, ahead of your board meeting tomorrow June 24th, to beg your attention to the only intelligent outcome of your discussion tomorrow. You must be in agreement that Chicago's Police department does not belong within the educational institution in any capacity. This long standing relationship, which is not exclusive to Chicago, between police departments and educational institutions has only contributed to the detrimental school to prison pipeline. It has penalized students and jeopardized their future rather than lead them through compassion and understanding towards better paths.

Please hold the weight of your conscience vividly in your minds, and truly think about the future of our children. Not just the ones with privileged and wealthy backgrounds, but all the children who need guidance, representation, and EDUCATION not INCARCERATION.

Focus on growing your efforts towards supply funding opportunities, equitable and diverse resources for youth, community programs and recreational events, not on weapons and criminalization.

If the decision you agree upon is not to remove CPD from CPS, your actions will not fall on blind eyes, deaf ears, and idle hands. The people you are meant to serve will hold you accountable.

Sincerely,

An educator, and artist, a human

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Remove cops from schools

I have two children in CPS schools. For their safety please vote to remove all police from schools.

Thank you,

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CPD presence within CPS

Good evening,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Special Education Classroom Assistant at James G Blaine Elementary. I am writing to you today to implore you to end your contract with the Chicago Police Department and not to renew them. Our students have not been made to feel any safer with police presence, in fact many fear school even more with them there. With everything coming to light over this past month it would be incredibly distasteful to maintain our current ties to CPD and the money saved could be used for so much more.

Think of the demands my and the teachers union made last year, a nurse, a counselor, and a social worker in every school every day. This would be more financially feasible with the money saved. Additionally these are the kinds of support systems that will help our students achieve their full potential and not just the only option the police presence provides, ending up in jail. I am proud to support our students and I hope with your help we can all continue to do so.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Keep police out of our schools!

To the Chicago Board of Education:

I am trusting you to do the right thing. There is no reason based of logic and evidence to keep police officers in our school. The education system should foster collaboration, learning, and exploration. Schools should be a place of focus and reprieve, not one of intimidation from authority.

Instead, the police and prison system is profiting off of our youth. If they have been placed there to protect our students, our communities children from harm, then why do they turn on them? Why do they push their authority from within? They do not serve us. This is a ploy for money. Use the money from their contracts to provide schools with what they so desperately need: resources.

Education fosters pride and intelligence in our citizens. Policing turns citizens into criminals. Remove police from schools and create a generation that is fit to lead, not turned away from opportunity because of an ill-designed, expensive contract.

I'm counting on each and every one of you.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]

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Chicago Board of Education: Invest in our children. Choose police-free schools tomorrow.

Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I am writing to implore you to end the Chicago Public School system's contract with the CPD. If you renew this contract, you continue to invest \$33 MILLION in policing children... creating an UNSAFE school environment... and bringing fear, violence and potentially death into our schools.

SROs have abused their power and brought harm into our schools. This disproportionately affects black and brown youth, who have been profiled, harassed and assaulted by police officers. For example, Dnigma Howard, age 16, was dragged down the stairs and tased after getting caught using her cellphone. Does that seem like an appropriate punishment? Even more black and brown students have unjustly placed thousands of others on the Chicago Gang Database, affecting their prospects for the future.

his contract feeds into the school-to-prison pipeline, where instead of teaching our youth to be leaders, thinkers, and successful members of society, we throw them away... into prison cells, into poverty, and into a generational cycle of trauma, struggle, and hardship.

As a Minneapolis transplant to Chicago, I implore you to follow the example of the Minneapolis Board of Education, who chose to END their contract with the MPD. The killing of George Floyd has shined a light on the problems with police that are baked into the system and have been for a long time.

But we can be better. We can change.

It starts with you.

End the contract with CPD.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hi there -

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the 42nd Ward. I'm emailing to request that you vote to terminate the \$33 million contract that CPD has with CPS.

I firmly believe that police do not belong in schools, especially considering the data that points to black children being disproportionately policed in school. On top of this, I have seen reports of cops with multiple force complaints who are allowed to work in schools. This is a disgrace.

You have the power to make Chicago a safer place for kids by removing CPD from schools. Myself and many other Chicagoans demand that you stand up for what is right and protect our children.

We will continue to tell you what we want and push for these changes, I hope you will be on the right side of history and listen to your communities.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Transfer of police funding for schools

The Chicago Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools should follow the lead of Minneapolis and end relations with the Chicago Police Department. Police enforce criminal laws, while schools are supposed to nurture students. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police.

Thank you

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## GET CPD OUT OF CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED] and I lived in Lakeview East. Police in Chicago Public Schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.), while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from CPS and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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**URGENT REQUEST: Vote Yes to Remove CPD from CPS!**

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a Class of 2013 CPS alumna currently residing in Brooklyn, NY. I write to urge you all to vote in favor of the removal of CPD from all Chicago Public Schools and of the termination of all contracts between CPD and CPS.

Any police presence in a learning environment is dangerous, particularly for Black and brown children who are overly criminalized by society from the moment they are born. The aggression, disrespect and lack of care that police officers have shown time and time again towards Black and brown children and young adults, whether it be in their own front yards or in their school hallways, is evidence enough that having police around Black and brown children is a direct threat to their lives.

While I no longer live in Chicago, I look back very fondly on my time as a CPS student and would hope to have my own children attend Chicago public schools as well. I would never be able to do so if CPS continues to allow harmful entities like CPD to take up space and enact violence against students in an environment that is meant to be safe and nurturing.

I hope you will make the right choice tomorrow and vote to remove CPD from our schools.

Best wishes,

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Defund the CPD in CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I have spent 7 years as a nanny in Chicago and have seen firsthand the racism within CPS. I have also seen how the children and teenagers in my care FEAR and DISTRUST the officers in their schools. Specifically I am speaking to experiences at the Disney School, Bateman elementary, and Lakeview Highschool.

Think back to your own education. Who was most impactful in your development and growth? I'm guessing you will recall librarians and nurses, tutors and teaching assistants, guidance counsellors and teachers... not cops.

Please end your contract with CPD so that funding might go to better role models within CPS. Every school deserves to have a nurse, librarian, and mental health professional. This is within your power. Listen to feedback from the city, teachers, and parents and get cops out of our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Terminate the CPD Contract

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support in terminating the contract between CPS and CPD. Police do not belong in schools. The money used for the contract could be used for so much more. Making sure that every

school has nurses and health services, social workers, better food resources (WITH ABSOLUTELY NO LUNCH DEBT), and other actual needs had by students. These students deserve schools where they are taken care of, and provided the tools to make their education truly good.

Thank you,

██████████  
████████████████████

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm ██████████ and a McPherson Elementary and Lane Tech High School alum. I am currently attending NEIU as a graduate student in the school counseling program. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. Police in schools is one of the leading contributors to the school-to-prison pipeline.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED school counselors, therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Please Make CPS Police-Free

Hello -

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a current resident of Lakeview after growing up in Albany Park & Lincoln Square. I'm a CPS alum, having gone to Budlong Elementary for grades 6-8, and then graduating from Northside Prep in 2005. I dearly appreciate my CPS education and hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to urge the Board of Education to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools and redirect funds from the CPD contract to place guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, etc. in CPS schools that do not have them. The same funding can be used in so many ways more effective and more safe than allowing armed police officers in our schools. Research I've read continues to show that police officers in schools make students feel less safe and comfortable, which disproportionately affects Black and Latinx students, while not providing an added layer of safety.

I hope you consider my plea in your vote.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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End CPD Contract Now

Hello,

I am writing to demand that Chicago Public Schools not renew its contract with the Chicago Police Department. The data shows that the School Resource Officer program does not actually make our students or teachers any safer and, in fact, may make schools more dangerous! According to the Citizens Police Data Project, 96% of school resource officers had misconduct allegations leveled against them, and 41% of officers had those allegations sustained - that is, proven to be true. This is clearly not a program that is achieving its goals when nearly half of SROs are proven to be committing various forms of misconduct in our schools. How is this making our schools safer?

Please, reallocate the \$33 million spent on the CPD contract to resources that students actually need - social workers, mental health services, meal assistance, and after school programs are all far better uses for these funds. Police do not belong in our schools. The City's own Inspector General points out the CPD's slow progress in implementing badly needed reforms to the SRO program, writing that "Overall, CPD has failed to undertake action with the immediacy called for by OIG or consonant with the deep community consternation over the method, manner, means and, in some quarters, very existence of the program."

While I understand the desire to give local school councils autonomy, it is imperative that CPS take a strong stand in favor of all its students by unilaterally ending the CPD contract. A patchwork SRO program will inevitably lead to deepened inequalities as some schools remain over-policed while others make data driven decisions to allocate their resources toward programs that actually help students. Punting this decision to local councils is nothing short of a dereliction of duty.

Give our children a chance to escape the school to prison pipeline by spending the CPS budget on services that will help lift them up, not drag them down. The SRO program is a poorly managed boondoggle that is ineffective at best and, at its worst, condemns thousands of young Chicagoans to a future spent bouncing back and forth between poverty and prison. The future of our city is in your hands, and I ask you to consider this responsibility with great care.

Thank you,

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Removal of police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am ██████████, a CPS alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational

aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Vote to end CPS contract with CPD

To Whom it May Concern,

As a former teacher and school social worker, I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

As a social worker, I work with students who've experienced significant trauma, live with disabilities, or come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of the criminal justice system. Our school systems should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity tomorrow to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Over 300 kids aged 6-10

Have had an "incident" with police in school. These are our babies. Get police OUT of CPS now!!

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Removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago community member and education researcher at the University of Chicago, where I work with students and teachers in CPS. As a developmental scientist and education researcher, I am extremely concerned by the criminalization of adolescent behavior that occurs with police officers in schools. I am especially concerned for Black students and students of color who are likely to be

disproportionately affected by this criminalization. I stand with other Chicago community members, including the Chicago Teachers Union, calling for the removal of CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer": "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools," says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or

stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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No Cops in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for your consideration of the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police have no place in our schools, and create a hostile learning environment for our black and brown students in particular. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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End the CPD contract with CPS!

Thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure. We do NOT need CPD in our schools. We are funneling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

We have \$33 Million dollars for police who ARE NOT TRAINED to work with kids but teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and NURSES (that we still do not have).

The idea that the schools would not receive the funding back is also a slap in the face to the teachers, students, and parents of CPS schools.

We need to do better for our children. End the School to Prison Pipeline. It starts with you.

Please vote accordingly.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Get CPD Out of Chicago Public Schools

Dear Board Members,

First of all I'd like to thank you for considering removing CPD from Chicago public schools. My name is [REDACTED], I'm a resident of Chicago, I live in the 26th Ward, and I urge you to vote in FAVOR of removing police presence from Chicago public schools. There is evidence that police do not contribute to a safer school experience for students or faculty. In fact, it encourages the transfer of funds from school and community programs that DO have a positive impact on safety.

I strongly urge you to remove police from Chicago schools and to replace them with school therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts who can help students to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

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No More Cops in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a former CPS student (Whitney Young HS) and a current resident of Chicago. I am asking you all to please terminate your contract with CPD. They have shown time and time again that they are not here to serve and protect, but rather to control and terrorize the black and brown communities of Chicago. The thought that those same terrorists are walking through the halls of the schools that are supposed to protect our youth is horrifying. I am lucky because I am white and went to a well-funded selective enrollment school. Not to mention I came from an affluent family and went to a private elementary school where I didn't have to worry about armed cops walking around just waiting for a reason to terrorize me. Like so many other Chicagoans, I want care, not cops. Please consider redirecting the funds away from CPD and use it instead for mental health services and nurses in our schools. I hope that you all consider the legacy of white supremacy in our country and how your decision tomorrow plays a direct roll in either upholding or dismantling it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a Lane Tech alumna. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Schools are for kids, not cops

Dear Board of Education,

I'm sure you're getting a lot of correspondence at this time, so I'll keep this brief. I am a Chicago resident of the 32rd ward contacting you to let you know it is time for CPD to leave Chicago Public Schools entirely. Their presence does not keep children safer. Rather, it criminalizes them, instills an atmosphere of fear, and prepares them for a life either in an institution or dreading it.

Schools are for learning.

Get CPD out now. Now is the time. It is not tomorrow, not next year. Now.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

As a Chicagoan, I support removing CPD from CPS! It's time to dismantle the school to prison pipeline.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

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I am counting on you to do the right thing

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I appreciate that you have decided to consider the removal of police from Chicago school systems. As a Chicago resident who plans on raising children in Chicago, CPS policy is extremely important to me. After seeing reports of police in schools harassing students over minor infractions and behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors, it has become clear to me, that Police don't belong in our schools. Police don't have the proper training to work with children and teens. As an American Sign Language Interpreter, I have already seen the deadly consequences that disabled adults face from under trained police officers. Children with disabilities are even more vulnerable to this kind of police harassment which makes police presence in schools that much more dangerous for them. There is overwhelming evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

If you are looking for examples of the vast array of studies that have been done on the subject here are a few well regarded academic studies on the issue:

Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

it also goes on to explain "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth (published by the American Sociological Review),

"Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools."

It is imperative that we remove police from schools and replace them with desperately needed therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts. These children are our future and denying them basic needs is not an option. Do the right thing and remove Chicago public police from our schools.

Thank you,



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CPD in Chicago Public Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to urge you to break the contract with CPD. There is no evidence showing that school resource officers actually improve safety in schools. However, there is evidence that shows that police involvement has a number of unintended and detrimental effects. There are countless homeless and poor children that attend CPS and providing one more doorway to funnel them into the prison system, when what is needed is counseling, education, resources, food, and place to grow and learn.

Over the past few years, as a society and country, we have learned the many way systemic racism has plagued our society. We have also uncovered many instances of systemic racism and violent practices within the Chicago police force. That intrinsic behavior is not something we should let seep into Chicago's schools.

I know CPS has many unique challenges, but adding police to schools is like throwing water on a grease fire. It seems like the right thing to do when faced with sudden fire, but it isn't going to work and will likely do more harm than good. There are many great ways to use that 33 million dollars and I think school counselors (staff that specifically want to and have studied for many years how to work with children and trauma) would be a great use of that budget.

Please hear our voices and know there are no broken children, but broken systems that fail them. Let's not fail our children!

I appreciate your time!

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen - [REDACTED]

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Vote CPD Out of CPS

Hello,

Black and brown students' lives are depending on this. The CPD must be voted out of CPS. They've targeted the Black community again and again. Please do not let them continue doing this.

The safety of students is the utmost importance. Will you continue the oppression and brutality brought by police or make a change in the right direction? This fight continues for Black students; it will not stop until we've changed the system.

Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please reduce CPD contract with CPS

Dear Chicago Public District Board of Education-

I am an artist and a theatre arts educator who has been working with CPS students since 2008. I have deeply valued my relationships with students, teachers, administrators and support staff over the years I have implemented, designed, and overseen programs with students all over the city from Kilmer Elementary to Beaubien Elementary to Washington High School to Wendell Phillips. I have seen how militarized some of our city's charter schools have become firsthand and the way police presence in CPS creates fear, confusion, and takes the place of the much needed and desired support staff that could offer youth the services they could benefit from and request. The district has said it believes in restorative justice and now it's time to prove it by reducing police presence in our community's schools and instead offering counseling, staffing schools with individuals trained and invested in deescalation, and providing programs for relationship building and mentorship with struggling youth. Let's invest in our youth instead of punish them. Let's work harder to create equity in the schools and rebuild trust in our schools. Let's make them worthwhile to attend. Let's dismantle the punitive white supremacy that currently guides these choices.

I am part of the Arts Education Chicago Group, a collection of Artistic and Educational Directors who work for Chicago-area arts organizations. We call here upon all artists (including and especially young artists who attend CPS schools), educators, teaching artists, arts administrators, and others in the arts fields to demand the removal of the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be reallocated into resources (community intervention workers, librarians, social workers, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors in schools, just to name a few) that support marginalized students by addressing root causes, rather than relying on structures of intimidation and trauma. Police presence in schools reflects an American problem of investing in the criminal and juvenile justice system instead of schools and students.

This is a moment in history when we all as individuals and institutions have to make a choice. And we are calling on you to make the right one by choosing to follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who have ended the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens these past few weeks, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reduce CPS's contract with the CPD.

Invest meaningfully in students and schools.

Make our schools a place students want to be and belong.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Cops out of our schools

Please please please vote tomorrow to remove CPD from our schools.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS!

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm writing you today as a concerned constituent and social worker living and working in the city of Chicago. I am contacting you to urge you to vote to terminate the contract that currently provides for the Chicago Police Department to have a presence in Chicago Public Schools.

Given my research on disproportionate police brutality within communities of color, my professional knowledge of childhood trauma and systemic inequality, and the statistical reality that a police presence in schools makes it more likely for students to become involved with the criminal justice system and enter the school to prison pipeline, I feel strongly that the ongoing presence of CPD within CPS is causing real harm to the students and communities concerned. Furthermore, I believe in listening to the activism of the students, parents, and CPS staff who have identified specific concerns and called for the removal of CPD from their schools, and call upon you to do the same.

If you truly care about investing in the futures of the students in Chicago, I would strongly recommend that you put the resources that are currently funding a police presence in the schools toward crucial supports like social workers, counselors, nurses, and community supports instead. These preventative measures will improve outcomes and decrease the need for police responses.

I thank you for your time and consideration and will be watching carefully as you make a decision tomorrow.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove Cops from CPS schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and am a proud product of Chicago Public Schools. I am asking you to remove police officers from Chicago Public Schools. Police officers are disruptive to the learning environment and have never made me or my peers feel safe. They do not belong in our schools. The children of Chicago deserve better than what my peers and I have experienced. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

---

STOP PROTECTING COPS

Hello,

I'm writing you today to demand that the Chicago Police Department be defunded and taken out of Chicago Public schools.

It is time for the fraternal order of police, CPD, and white supremacy in Chicago to be checked and evaluated. Please use the money from the contract to hire social workers, counselors, and librarians. Chicago demands change and we will not stop until we get it.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

To the Board,

I am writing to ask that you be mindful of the harms of having police in schools, and cognizant of the lack of efficacy they have in reducing crime and other harms, and asking that you vote to remove CPD from CPS.

<http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/False%20Sense%20of%20Security%20-%20TT50.pdf>

All the best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Please end the CPS contract with CPS!

Hello board member,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a teacher assistant at Hawthorne Scholastic Academy in Lakeview. As a paraprofessional staff member with the role of supporting teachers and students, I know first hand the kindness, love and respect that children need to thrive at school. In order to create a welcoming, safe and productive learning environment for all students, no matter their age, gender or race, police need to be out of Chicago Public Schools. There is no reason small children should be arrested at school or feel unsafe with the presence of armed officers. CPD presence in schools only strengthens the school-to-prison pipeline and further criminalizes Black and brown children. Instead, children need more social workers, paraprofessionals, nurses, restorative justice counselors, after school workers and librarians to help them grow and learn. Imagine yourself as a child. How would you feel seeing guns and handcuffs in your school everyday, especially if your family or community has a history of violence with police. If you have kids, are these the messages and images you want them to see every day at school? Even if you don't mind that, open your heart to the experience of children and family who are more at risk for police violence and criminalization because of the color of their skin or the neighborhood they live in.

The students and families of CPS know what they need to feel safe and thrive in schools. Please listen to them and end the CPS contract with CPD.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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BOE CPD Vote

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a rising senior at Northwestern University. I'm writing to encourage you to vote against the continued presence of CPD officers in Chicago public schools. Policing in schools negatively impacts the learning experiences of students of color, especially Black students, and has failed to make students of color feel safe in their learning environments.

Thank you so much for your consideration. I really hope that you do what is best for the marginalized students that you represent.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS

You must remove all police from Chicago Public Schools re-invest the \$33 million currently allocated for the CPD contract in non-police supportive services for students, including counselors, nurses, and restorative justice coordinators

<https://copsoutcps.com/>

<https://grassrootscollaborative.salsalabs.org/policefreeschools2020/index.html>

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Chicago Resident

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It's Time to Get CPD Out of CPS

To the board,

The police have no place in Chicago Public Schools. While the highest goals of the police may be to protect and serve, their mere presence threatens punitive action. They are an inherently escalating force, and we have seen that in practice. When CPD has been present in Chicago Public Schools, children have been arrested for routine behavioral infractions. The goal of public school is to enhance opportunities for all students, regardless of their background. The presence of CPD in our schools is antithetical to this mission. It is a moral and practical imperative that CPS cancel its contract with CPD.

I'm writing you this letter because I care about the city I live in, and I am committed to making it stronger. I have recently purchased a home in Avondale. When I have children, they will attend CPS. I'm in this for the long haul. Please take this step to choose what is right for our schools and our cities.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Terminate CPS contract with CPD

I am a community member of the 46th Ward and I am writing to demand that the Chicago Board of Education end the CPS contract with the CPD. We demand that the money currently going to cops in schools go to hire social workers, psychologists, counselors, restorative justice coordinators, and other support staff to provide holistic, healing-centered solutions in schools. CPS should be a place for students to feel safe and be free from the school-to-prison pipeline, **OUR STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER.**

—████

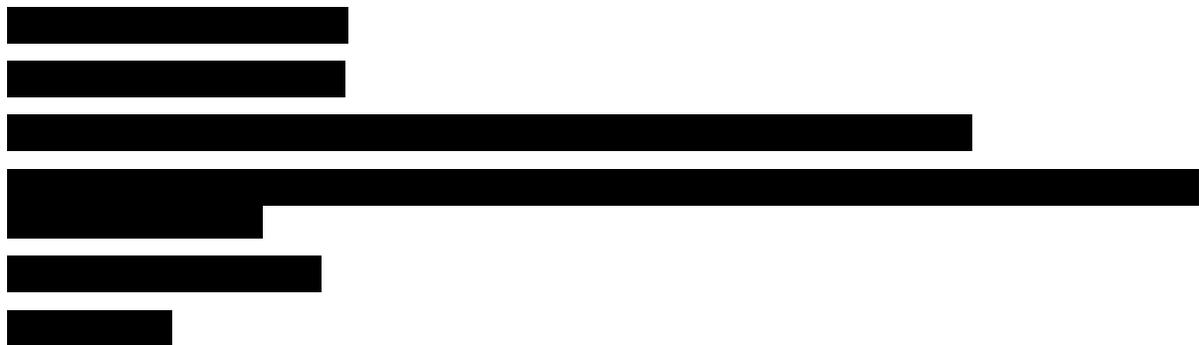
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END the contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to urge you to vote to END the CPS contract with CPD. Police have no place in our schools. My children have friends who have been beaten, arrested, and harmed by CPD. They do not want police in their schools. I do not feel safe having police in their schools. Read the research below. Restorative practices, not police, keep our students safe.

Sincerely,



Speak Up

What the Research Shows: The Impact of School Resource Officers (SROs)

Humera Nayeb & Amy Meek, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

### SROs Are Not Effective in Improving School Safety, Discipline or Climate

- SROs do not improve school safety or reduce school violence. There is no clear evidence that the use of school resource officers (SROs) or guards in schools is effective in preventing school violence.[i] A review of 40 years of evaluations of school policing showed no positive impact on school safety outcomes.[ii]
- Students feel less safe, and more fearful, at schools with SROs. Research shows that school security measures (including SROs) generally increases students' fear and negatively impacts students' perceptions of safety.[iii]
- The presence of SROs leads to more expulsions and suspensions – particularly for Black students. Studies show that schools with SROs also rely more heavily on exclusionary discipline.[iv] Schools with high security (including police presence) have significantly more suspensions, and a greater black-white disparity in suspensions.[v]
- Schools with SROs criminalize and arrest youth for minor misbehavior. When SROs or security are present in schools, trivial forms of student misconduct are more likely to result in arrest and court

referral.[vi] Most secondary school administrators say their SROs are involved in school discipline, even in situations where no crime was committed.[vii]

## Black and Brown Students Experience Disproportionate Harm and Trauma from School Police

- Black and Brown students feel less safe at schools with SROs. Students of color – especially Black students – are less likely to say they feel safer with police in their school.[viii]
- Police encounters trigger stress, fear, trauma, and anxiety for Black and Brown youth, which harm mental health and erode educational performance. The health consequences of police contact are even greater when youth believe they are being stopped or targeted due to their race or ethnicity. One study found that extensive low-level police contact significantly reduced test scores for African-American teenage boys, perpetuating racial inequalities in educational outcomes.[ix]
- An SRO's presence can cause anxiety and fear for Black and Brown youth who live in overpoliced neighborhoods. For youth who live in neighborhoods with a higher rate of invasive police stops, seeing police officers may trigger general anxiety and fear.[x] Young men of color experience higher anxiety with frequent police contacts, with anxiety symptoms significantly related to the number of times they were stopped and to how they perceived the encounter was conducted.[xi]
- Arrests at Chicago Public Schools (CPS) disproportionately target Black male youth, often for subjective reasons like perceived disobedience or defiance. School-based arrest rates at CPS were twice as high among African American boys as for the district as whole. Most arrests were the result of peer conflicts or conflicts between students and teachers, based on perceived disobedience or defiance – not for criminal infractions like substances or weapons possession.[xii]

## What Works? Relationship Building, Restorative Justice, Mental Health Services, and Social-Emotional Development

- When schools focus on social-emotional development, arrests go down and student outcomes improve. A February 2020 study of CPS high schools found that schools that focused on enhancing social well-being and promoting hard work enhanced students' self-reported social-emotional development, resulting in fewer school-based arrests and better long-run educational attainment for students from those schools.[xiii]
- Schools with strong positive climates, including strong relationships among students, parents, and teachers, have fewer arrests or disciplinary problems. Research shows that school climate – including the degree to which students and parents feel supported by teachers and staff – shapes school safety.[xiv]

One study found that improved student-teacher relationships meant students were less likely to get in trouble and had higher academic achievement, even controlling for factors like earlier problems and sociodemographic background.[xv] In CPS, schools with stronger relationships among students, parents, and teachers saw improved safety, and were able to resolve conflicts, regardless of factors like neighborhood crime.[xvi]

- School-based mental health providers improve school climate and safety. School mental health services – provided by counselors, social workers, nurses, and psychologists – are demonstrated to improve behavior and school climate, and reduce disciplinary referrals.[xvii]

- Restorative justice programs are demonstrated to decrease violence and disciplinary issues at CPS. One report found that CPS schools that consistently implemented restorative justice programs saw a decrease in violence and disciplinary issues, along with improved school culture and performance – similar to results from schools across the country.[xviii]

[i] See, e.g., Tanner-Smith, E. E., Fisher, B. W., Addington, L. A., & Gardella, J. H. (2018). Adding security, but subtracting safety? Exploring schools' use of multiple visible security measures. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 43, 102–119; Addington, L. A. (2009). Cops and cameras: Public school security as a policy response to Columbine. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 52, 1424–1446; Phaneuf, S. W. (2009). *Security in schools: Its effect on students*. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC.

[ii] Stern and Petrosino, What Do We Know About the Effects of School Based Law Enforcement on School Safety, West Ed Justice and Prevention Research Center, April 2019, <https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/JPRC-Police-Schools-Brief.pdf>.

[iii] Bachman, R., Randolph, A., & Brown, B. L. (2011). Predicting perceptions of fear at school and going to and from school for African American and White students: The effects of school security measures. *Youth & Society*, 43, 705–726; Perumean-Chaney, S. E., & Sutton, L. M. (2013). Students and perceived school safety: The impact of school security measures. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38, 570–588.

[iv] Why and When Do School Resource Officers Engage in School Discipline? The Role of Context in Shaping Disciplinary Involvement. *American Journal of Education* 126 (November 2019), the University of Chicago; 0195-6744/2019/12601-0002 (page 37).

[v] Finn, J.D. & Servoss, T.J. (2014). Misbehavior, suspensions, and security measures in high school: Racial/ethnic and gender differences. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, 5 (2), Article 11, <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/childrenatrisk/vol5/iss2/11>.

[vi] Hirschfield, P. J. (2008). Preparing for prison? The criminalization of school discipline in the USA. *Theoretical Criminology*, 12, 79–101.

[vii] Why and When Do School Resource Officers Engage in School Discipline? The Role of Context in Shaping Disciplinary Involvement. *American Journal of Education* 126 (November 2019), the University of Chicago; 0195-6744/2019/12601-0002 (page 36).

[viii] Nakamoto, J., Cerna, R., and Stern, A. High School Students' Perceptions of Police Vary by Student Race and Ethnicity : Findings from an analysis of the California Healthy Kids Survey, 2017/18. San Francisco, CA: WestEd.. <https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/resource-high-school-students-perceptions-of-police.pdf>; Perumean-Chaney, S. E., & Sutton, L. M. (2013). Students and perceived school safety: The impact of school security measures. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38, 570–588.

[ix] Legewie, J. and Fagan, J. Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth. *American Sociological Review* (2019).

[x] Sewell, Abigail A. and Kevin A. Jefferson. 2016. Collateral Damage: The Health Effects of Invasive Police Encounters in New York City. *Journal of Urban Health* 93(1):42–67.

[xi] Geller, A., Fagan, J, Tyler, T., Link, BG. Aggressive Policing and the mental health of young urban men. *Am J Public Health*. (2014);104:2321–2327.

[xii] U Chicago CCSR Research Report: Discipline Practices in Chicago Public Schools - CPS Discipline Report.

[xiii] Jackson, C.K., Porter, S.C., Easton, J.Q., Blanchard, A., Kiguel, S., School Effects on Socio-emotional Development, School-Based Arrests, and Educational Attainment, CALDER Working Paper No. 226-0220 (February 2020).

[xiv] Steinberg, M.P., Allensworth, E., Johnson, D.W. Student and Teacher Safety in Chicago Public Schools: The Roles of Community Context and School Social Organization. Consortium on Chicago School Research Report (May 2011).

[xv] Crosnoe, R., Johnson, M.K., Elder, G., Intergenerational Bonding in School: The Behavioral and Contextual Correlates of Student-Teacher Relationships. *Sociology of Education* (2004).

[xvi] Steinberg, M.P., Allensworth, E., Johnson, D.W. Student and Teacher Safety in Chicago Public Schools: The Roles of Community Context and School Social Organization. Consortium on Chicago

School Research Report (May 2011); Stevens, W.D. et al; Discipline Practices in Chicago Schools: Trends in the Use of Suspensions and Arrests, Consortium on Chicago School Research Report (March 2015).

[xvii] National Association of School Psychologists, Rethinking School Safety: Communities and Schools Working Together(2013); ACLU, Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students (2019).

[xviii] High HOPES Campaign, From Policy to Standard Practice: Restorative Justice in Chicago Public Schools (Fall 2011).

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I support CPD out of CPS

Hello,

I am writing to voice my full support for getting the CPD out of CPS. I urge you to end the \$33M CPS-CPD contract completely. I urge you to do it now. This is critical for generations of students! You have the chance to do the right thing. The right thing is now.

Sincerely,

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Removal of police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a Chicago resident in the Edgewater neighborhood at ██████████ ██████████. I wanted to write to thank you for taking up the possibility of removing Chicago Police from the city's public school system and to strongly encourage you to remove them. At this critical moment in our city, demonstrations are taking place that lay bare the contempt that the Chicago Police Department has for our city's Black and minority communities as well as the abuse that those communities have suffered due to countless episodes of police brutality.

For the sake of Chicago's Black, Latinx, and other minority student populations, the time has come to remove police from their schools so that they do not encounter this reminder of the threats that they live under on a daily basis at a critical time in their development as young people. Police officers stationed on school grounds frequently bully and harass Black students and you probably don't need me to tell you that such a thing is reprehensible, especially coming from public servants whose jobs are to serve and

protect. Such a poisonous atmosphere contributes to the staggering difficulties Black students must deal with during their CPS careers due to decades of systemic racism.

The time has come to stop this pattern of abuse. Again, I strongly urge you to vote to remove police officers from our city's public schools. Furthermore, I ask that you redirect the money budgeted for CPS presence to invest instead in qualified therapists, developmental experts, and psychologists in order to build our city's students up. This funding could also be used for infrastructure, new textbooks, or bringing CPS technology up to date.

We're at a moment in history where every person of conscience is re-evaluating what we can do to eradicate racism from our city. Please take this step to help bring us closer to that goal.

Sincerely,

██████████

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#### END CPS CONTRACT WITH CPD NOW

I am a community member of the 46th Ward and I am writing to demand that the Chicago Board of Education end the CPS contract with the CPD. We demand that students in Chicago be provided holistic healing-centered solutions in schools through the hiring of social workers, psychologists, counselors, restorative justice coordinators, and other support staff, NOT COPS. CPS should be a place for students to feel safe and be free from the school-to-prison pipeline, WE DEMAND COPS OUT OF CPS NOW.

██████████

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No police in public schools.

Officer Fred should visit schools to educate about safety: personal, bike, traffic safety.

However, elementary schools should be neighborhood schools that service as community centers for recreation, adult education, physical exercise.

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(no subject)

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████, and I am a rising senior at Northwestern University. I'm writing to encourage you to vote against the continued presence of CPD officers in Chicago public schools. Policing in schools

negatively impacts the learning experiences of students of color, especially Black students, and has failed to make students of color feel safe in their learning environments.

Thank you so much for your consideration. I really hope that you do what is best for the marginalized students that you represent.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please help terminate the contract between CPS and CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in Chicago for almost a decade now. I feel very strongly about the dangerous consequences and criminalization of children when police are present in their schools. I urge you to help terminate the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

The public high school I attended is top ranked and praised for their education and overall success of a child's future. This school, like many other top ranked schools, have zero police presence. Policing children does not equate to a better education or a safer environment. Instead of allocating funds to the police department, I think schools would benefit from additional nurses, counselors, and programs dedicated to helping children succeed.

Police inside of schools create more dangerous conditions for students. Please help relocate the money towards getting the support the kids need the most and end the contract between CPS and CPD.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Termination of Contract with CPD

Hello Board,

I speak to you as a recently graduated student from Walter Payton College Prep, urging you to terminate your contract with the Chicago Police Department. As a student from a disproportionately privileged school with a great deal of funding, I personally have not had run-ins with School Resource Officers whole at school, so I cannot speak anecdotally to the damage that this contract does. But as a former member of the Mikva Challenge Youth Safety Advisory Council, which allowed me to work with students from across CPS including very underfunded schools, I know that my peers do not benefit from this contract. It does not make students feel safer, and can often lead to animosity and negative interactions between students and police. Police are not properly trained to be in schools, and students should not have to feel like they're constantly being watched or are at risk of being assaulted by police in their own schools. CPS students deserve to feel safe in a place that is sometimes the most stable place in their lives. I implore you to revisit and terminate this contract for the well-being of students across CPS.

Thank you so much for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Protect CPS Students

CPS BOE,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of Chicago's 47th ward, imploring you to consider voting in favor of the proposal to terminate the \$33million contract with CPD. The school to prison pipeline is well documented and our students deserve better than law enforcement in a space for learning. Our students deserve Nurses, Counselors, Social Workers, and funding for the arts. Give students an environment where they can imagine a bright future, not a punitive one. No one can learn when they feel caged, invest in those who specialize in care rather than incarceration.

thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Citizen Comment for Your Vote Tomorrow

Good evening Board Member Rome,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a theatre artist living in East Lakeview in Chicago. I am emailing today to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

In the past have been a teaching artist in schools across Chicago. As a former educator of young people, I care deeply about eliminating the negative effects that SRO's have on their learning environment. SROs contribute to over-surveillance and criminalization of young people, harassment of young women, and send the message that students who come to school are dangerous and need to be controlled. I believe in creating nurturing educational settings so that students may focus on their education.

Instead of spending \$33 million on SROs, we could invest in support staff and technology for classrooms. The safest schools are not those with police officers, but those that are appropriately resourced. Just look at the schools with counselors, social workers, nurses, and librarians instead of police officers. I can't imagine going to a school that doesn't have a nurse, librarian, or counselor on-staff every day.

I urge you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD, for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Citizen Comment for Your Vote Tomorrow

Good evening Board Member Revuluri,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a theatre artist living in East Lakeview in Chicago. I am emailing today to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

In the past have been a teaching artist in schools across Chicago. As a former educator of young people, I care deeply about eliminating the negative effects that SRO's have on their learning environment. SROs contribute to over-surveillance and criminalization of young people, harassment of young women, and send the message that students who come to school are dangerous and need to be controlled. I believe in creating nurturing educational settings so that students may focus on their education.

Instead of spending \$33 million on SROs, we could invest in support staff and technology for classrooms. The safest schools are not those with police officers, but those that are appropriately resourced. Just look at the schools with counselors, social workers, nurses, and librarians instead of police officers. I can't imagine going to a school that doesn't have a nurse, librarian, or counselor on-staff every day.

I urge you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD, for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Citizen Comment for Your Vote Tomorrow

Good evening President Miguel del Valle,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a theatre artist living in East Lakeview in Chicago. I am emailing today to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

In the past have been a teaching artist in schools across Chicago. As a former educator of young people, I care deeply about eliminating the negative effects that SRO's have on their learning environment. SROs contribute to over-surveillance and criminalization of young people, harassment of young women, and send the message that students who come to school are dangerous and need to be controlled. I believe in creating nurturing educational settings so that students may focus on their education.

Instead of spending \$33 million on SROs, we could invest in support staff and technology for classrooms. The safest schools are not those with police officers, but those that are appropriately resourced. Just look at the schools with counselors, social workers, nurses, and librarians instead of police officers. I can't imagine going to a school that doesn't have a nurse, librarian, or counselor on-staff every day.

I urge you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD, for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]



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Please Consider The Research and Hard Data, and Remove Police From Schools.

Good evening,

I am happy to see that you are considering removing police from public schools. Police in schools harass children over minor infractions and create an environment where students feel scared and bullied. This is not appropriate or healthy. Students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods are mistreated and punished, rather than given the help they need. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" — as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence — a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are

often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

Like so many jobs the police are asked to do, there are better options and more qualified people who can handle the situations in a way that does not irreparably harm people. I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a current CPS teacher on the southwest side.

My job as teacher - and your job as Chicago Board of Education member - is to listen to our students. Listening to actual voices of CPS's Black and Brown students can do a fine job of illustrating the harm that police in schools have caused. Not only the disproportionate rates at which Black and Brown students are reprimanded with force, but the psychological effects the presence of police can cause.

It's important to notice the patterns of policing in our district. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to join school districts across the country and remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational justice. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD Contract

Hello,

As a class of 2020 Lane Tech grad, 15 year CPS student (Pre-K thru 12), and lifelong Chicago resident, I demand that you eliminate the CPS/CPD contract and instead put this funding toward counselors in every school in CPS. It is absurd that more schools have cops than social workers. Please take into account how you are putting the Black students in your schools in danger and making them relive trauma every day they go to school with cops.

Take action please!

[REDACTED]

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CPS' Budget with the Chicago Police Department

Dear Board,

I am a resident of the city of Chicago, writing to support the motion that CPS terminate its contract with the Chicago Police Department and end the placement of SROs in schools. There is little evidence that SROs actually reduce violence in schools or make students even feel safe, and in fact contribute to negative impacts on students' learning and wellbeing, inducing anxiety and fear in Black and brown students, and resulting in arrests of Black and brown students for behavior that might otherwise be dismissed as teenage misbehavior that does not require law enforcement intervention. Bias--sometimes with fatal results--against Black and brown people among CPD officers is well-documented in Chicago. If SROs do not in fact make students safer, and in addition are a stressor that negatively impacts the ability of students of color to learn and succeed academically, then it's time to terminate the contract and allocate that \$33 million to school and community resources that may actually achieve those ends without putting children in danger. This must be done with the input and guidance of community members in each school district, as each community's needs are different.

Lori Lightfoot's own "A Plan to Transform Chicago Public Schools" describes how lack of funding has resulted in inadequate school resources like full-time nurses, social workers, and certified librarians in CPS schools: "CPS cannot educate and care for the whole child if it persistently reduces educational support positions like nurses, social workers and librarians. These reductions have hit full-time nurses, whose jobs were outsourced in 2015, and social workers, whose numbers were significantly reduced in 2015. And while CPS recently announced it would hire 160 social workers for the 2018- 19 school year, CPS' social worker to student ratio is nowhere near the recommended 1 to 250. In 2013, CPS budgeted for 454 librarians. That number dropped to 139 by 2017. As a result of these cuts, only 22% of CPS schools started the 2017-18 school year with a certified librarian." I fully support re-allocating money from terminating the CPD contract to ensure that these crucial resources, among others, are funded in our schools, and that they incorporate trauma-informed instruction and mental health resources.

Sincerely,

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CPD out of CPS

I'm a CPS graduate and the police were a terrifying and negative presence. You have the chance to do the right thing tomorrow. Please do.

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Remove CPD from CPS Immediately

Hello,

My name is ██████████, and I am writing to demand that the Chicago Police Department is removed from Chicago Public Schools immediately.

Evidence and research suggests that armed officers do not keep schools safe, and, instead, make schools a more dangerous space for POC students. These students DESERVE to feel safe. It is difficult to learn in an environment when a constant threat is present. Additionally by eradicating CPD from CPS, the school to prison pipeline will begin to break providing a brighter future for POC students.

At this point, it is unacceptable to continue to keep a police presence in CPS with the understanding that it does little to keep students safe. Remove CPD from CPS immediately.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen

██████████

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Public comment on the CPS contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a concerned Chicago resident writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO). I am not currently a student or parent but am writing to advocate for my friends, family and neighbors who are enrolled or have children enrolled in CPS.

The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had a SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/.../school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making

decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Thank you.

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#### Request

I am writing this email because I know that the vote to take CPD out of CPS is tomorrow June 24th. I am emailing to encourage you to stand up for Black students and students of color and take CPD out of CPS. The fear that SRO's instill in students and this culture of fear is NOT conducive to a positive learning space. I am certain students will feel more comfortable and be better served if funding for CPD was re-directed to support staff, teachers, and counselors. We know students need support, CPD does not provide that support please think of the student's well-being and vote to eliminate the contract between CPS and CPD.

Best,

██████████

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#### Wednesday's vote

Hello,

I've lived in Chicago for the last 20+ years, and am writing to ask the Board to please remove police officers from Chicago Public Schools. The next generation of children need the support of librarians, nurses, counselors, and psychologists who can help them develop and grow. What message does it send to predominantly black and brown children that instead of these resources their suburban counterparts have, they have the police?

Events in this country over the past few weeks have shown that we as a society need to do things differently. The old way of doing things isn't working. I ask you to please have the courage to make this long overdue change. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

██████████

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum and parent. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

To the Board of Education and its members,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and recently former resident of Chicago, who has not only had the pleasure to meet many of the students impacted by your decisions, but who has previously been a student in public education as well.

A relationship between CPS and CPD is not one that breeds a successful future for many of Chicago's finest students. While at many institutions it may seem better, almost necessary, to have a police presence to enforce the law at your institutions, I plead with you to find alternate solutions to these problems.

Students (especially Black and POC students, who undergo an all too frequent discrimination at the hands of the police) should not be confronted with law enforcement in the place they should be focusing on their education and enrichment. By maintaining a relationship with a dysfunctional group that unfairly and unjustly targets minority groups, you not only create an atmosphere that goes against the betterment of your student population, but you show that you care less about said students and more about maintaining law and order in your institutions.

I plead with you, focus on investing instead on creating an environment with the resources needed to allow all your students to flourish, allowing their brightness to truly shine through. This could be through increasing partnership with mental health resources to provide your students, assuring food safety, training more faculty in conflict resolution, or even hiring on more (and more experienced) counselors who can guide the youth you are responsible.

Thank you very much for listening, and I hope not only the best for each of you, but the best for CPS as a whole in these turbulent times.

Best,



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End contract with CPD

Hello,

I am writing today as a 5 year resident of Chicago, a taxpayer in the 48th ward, and a teaching artist who has worked in Chicago Public Schools and with CPS students to demand that CPS terminate their \$33 million dollar annual contract with CPD.

There is abundant evidence that police presence in schools is harmful to students, and disproportionately impacts, Black and brown students and students with disabilities. Young people deserve an educational environment free from policing where they can learn and thrive. CPS' budget needs to go towards programs and staff that will support the health and wellbeing of all young people, and CPD has failed time and time again to meet that need.

My parents teach at a private school and I have first hand experience comparing how schools that have proper funding and resources, including personnel, create environments where young people can thrive. The experiences I have had with school officers in CPS have made me as an adult feel afraid and powerless. In order to create safe environments at schools, we need to INVEST time and resources, not POLICE conditions that do not allow young people to thrive.

I hope that you are aware of your power tomorrow and choose to use it to advocate on behalf of young people. Please make the right choice.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please excuse any typos and grammatical errors, sent from my phone

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Vote yes tomorrow on removing CPD from our public schools

To our Chicago Board of Education,

We need to remove police from our schools.

The stress that the presence of police adds to an environment where our students need to feel safe is detrimental to the stability they need to learn. Regardless of how kindly and gently the police approach students while in schools, the PTSD caused by events in the lives of our Black and Brown students cannot be ignored. Police brutality is affecting their lives and if we can't do anything about that, then the least we can do is not remind students of that every single day. We are doing students and their futures a disservice by inviting police into their spaces - and quite honestly, we're doing our neighborhoods, city, and societies a disservice, too - the less our students trust educators the worse it will be for us when future generations are the leaders of our society.

There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

In NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child psychology. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police

being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. I want to send my kids to a Chicago Public School one day and this decision will largely factor into whether or not staying in Chicago makes sense for our family.

Please do what is best for the students. And not to mention what makes sense for our budget - \$33 million would be better spent on any of the above alternatives.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Voting on CPD in CPS

Hello,

I have lived in Chicago for 2 years. I lived in New Orleans before then. One commonality between the 2 cities is the unnecessary and harmful practice of putting police in our public schools. Such practices only serve to exacerbate the all too common and harrowing school to prison pipeline. Police officers are not equipped to de-escalate. Kids are being treated with suspicion by men and women who have the means to derail their life for common childhood issues. This is not right.

Criminals are not born. They are made. All too often they are created by a society that neglects them in every which way until they are forced to turn to dubious means of security and prosperity. Police in schools do not help.

Instead, I plead with each and every one of you to invest in the future of these kids by giving them tools and resources that promote their personal and communal well being. Bring in more counselors. Support

your overworked and underpaid teachers. Do not continue to guide the future with fear and punishment. All you have to do is look around and see what the status quo has gotten us.

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### Fund our Communities, NOT COPS

As someone who was a CPS student for all of her primary and secondary education, I know first-hand that having police in our schools neither provided safety nor security for me and my peers. As a matter of fact, it created a hostile and scary environment for most of us. As a young queer woman of color, these experiences were heightened with the presence of police. Instead of feeling like we were going to school, it felt like we were going to a prison every day. We needed counselors, nurses, art programs, and social workers more than anything. I urge you to cut ties with CPD. Fund our student's futures by placing that money going to CPD into resources that actually support and uplift our children. There are alternatives to policing that our communities practice everyday to ensure and we know that it works. Please listen to the youth that are telling you what they need.

We can't continue like this. We need change NOW.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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### Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote to REMOVE police from Chicago Public Schools. Having police as the defacto solution to issues with kids is not the way to build a restorative justice system, it builds a punishment system. We don't need more police, we need after school programs, and counselors, and people equipped to deal with the turbulence of young minds put in stressful situations.

Chicago should not endorse and school to jail pipeline. There are other ways of handling security issues within schools. Who do the police officers make feel safe?

I have read that CEO of CPS, Janice Jackson believes the solution is building strong relationships between Police and students to reduce the psychological stress of having police in schools. I strongly reject this premise within schools (yes within communities but not within schools). Police have no place in our schools, plain and simple. This is not just about making students comfortable at school (though that should be a high priority): it is teaching young people that we've already given up on them and are expecting them to fail. That has long term impact on an individual level AND on a societal level.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

I will be downtown tomorrow protesting and demonstrating that people support removing CPD from schools.

Again, please consider who CPD is making feel safe by being in schools while you vote.

Sincerely,



25th Ward Resident

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Wednesday Vote

Dear CPS Board of Education,

As a resident of Chicago and a professional whose career works directly with Chicago Public School students, I am asking you to please vote to end the contract between CPS and the Chicago Police Department. It is nothing but willful ignorance to overlook the fact that CPD is one of the most violent and corrupt police departments in the nation and has been for decades. But most importantly, this is about the safety and wellbeing of all CPS students, especially the Black and Brown ones. There is a wealth of evidence that police officers in schools disproportionately target, harm, and traumatize students of color. Regardless of any supposed safety benefits police in schools cause, they are minimal at best compared to the damage done. Chicago is failing its residents and failing to lead by positive example in the nation in terms of opposing systemic racism, ending police brutality and listening to the cries of its people. This is your chance to make a step towards positive change, towards actual safety for our students, and to take a stand for the city and the nation.

Please do what is right for our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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please remove Chicago police from Chicago Public schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a student at Northwestern University and a concerned citizen. I am writing today to ask you to please vote to remove Chicago police from Chicago's public schools. CPD presence in schools is an essential part of the school to prison pipeline and the racist system that criminalizes black and brown youth. Your divestment from CPD will show you are committed to bettering the lives and educations of children in Chicago, rather than contributing to a blatantly racist system that further encourages police brutality. Please, do the right thing, and divest from CPD.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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REMOVE CPD from CPS

Hello,

It is important to invest in the proper resources to support our students and ensure their safety/development. Please remove CPD from CPS. You have the power to change the world and mold our future society.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Your vote is your moral legacy

Right now there is immense progress being made to give our children a better future, to give them a more fair chance in life. Would you want your child to be sucked into the prison system from the very place you put them to grow? Us Chicagoans want better for our kids. Follow the example of Minneapolis, Portland, Denver, Seattle, and Oakland. Stand with them on the right side of history. Stop wasting precious funding on criminalizing children of color. It's that simple, and it's enormously significant. Listen to the people of this city and do the right thing.

Sincerely,

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

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Please vote against CPD in schools

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████, I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended CPS schools for all thirteen years of my education. The presence of police officers in schools was confusing as a child. Police officers in schools are symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD.

The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

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A parent's thoughts about CPD in schools

Greetings -

This fall I'll be sending my daughter [REDACTED] to our neighborhood school, William P. Gray Elementary, in the Portage Park neighborhood. We made an intentional and informed decision to go to our neighborhood school, unlike many neighbors who choose Catholic schools. In the years leading up to this, we've volunteered with the newly formed PTO and are very excited by the energy at the school.

There is one thing that I do have serious concerns about, and that is the presence of the Chicago Police Department is CPS. I am in no way comfortable with the concept of school resource officers. They have been demonstrated to result in unjust punishment of minority students and to increase the school to prison pipeline. Beyond that, there is scant evidence that they increase safety and the \$30M contract is an unnecessary drain on much-needed resources.

I strongly request that you vote against this contract, and work to secure a brighter, more equitable future for all CPS students and parents.

Thank you,

- [REDACTED]

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**URGENT: END CPD CONTRACT**

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a lifelong Chicago resident as well as a CPS alumni, having attended Lincoln Park High School. I have been informed that tomorrow, the Chicago Board of Education will be meeting tomorrow to vote on whether to end the contract with CPD. The presence of police in schools is not necessary and negatively affects and disadvantages black and brown students.

In my own experience, the police were never utilized in my school, and made many students incredibly uncomfortable in what is supposed to be a space of learning and growth. It is unfathomable that so much of the budget is used on police; using those resources to hire nurses, psychologists, librarians, wellbeing counselors, more academic counselors (none of which existed in my high school, LPHS) would be much more productive and helpful to the wellbeing of CPS students, which is what you all claim to support.

I implore you to get rid of the contract between CPS and CPD, pushing for a reallocation of resources that would benefit our city's children, rather than a racist system that holds so many back.

Thank you for your time, and I truly hope you do the right thing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Dear Board of Education,

I am a Chicago native and community member of the 46th Ward. I am writing to demand that the Chicago Board of Education end the CPS contract with the CPD immediately. The money that is going to cops in schools would be better served to hire social workers, psychologists, counselors, restorative justice coordinators, and other support staff to provide holistic, healing-centered solutions in schools so that our children are raised in a space that centers them and their needs instead of instilling fear leading to further social, emotional, mental problems, and more for students who already have enough on their plates (remember those nightmarish years?). Please let Chicago be an exemplary example of how a city and its students can thrive if you will invest in their needs first. Let it's students and residents praise you for creating a safe haven by getting CPD out of CPS.

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police From Our Schools

To the members of the Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am demanding that you vote to remove Chicago Police from our public schools. Police have no place in our schools and only serve to create a hostile educational environment. Schools should have support systems for students in order to encourage them to learn instead of criminalizing students with police presence.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove SROs

As a current school social worker, I strongly encourage the Chicago Board of Education to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

As a social worker, I work with students who've experienced significant trauma, live with disabilities, or come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Our schools should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity tomorrow to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

A Chicago School Social Worker

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VOTE TO REMOVE THE POLICE FROM CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for taking this serious matter of removing police from the Chicago school system into consideration. I am an alum of the CPS system as well as a nurse with an invested interest in the well being of our children. I do not believe that police in schools is appropriate or safe. They create an environment that is intimidating, aggressive, and not conducive to learning. It creates a seriously unhealthy atmosphere where children who may be acting out or not conforming are taught a form of punishment that is damaging to their mental health. Not only that but there are more police in schools where black and brown students attend in higher numbers, clearly communicating to them that they are criminals or that they always need to be monitored.

It disturbs me greatly that a child must be expected to excel in such an environment. I hope that you vote to remove the police from our schools and utilize the funding to increase programs and materials that are lacking in our poorest schools.

Thank you for your time and again I urge you to vote to remove the police from CPS.

Sincerely,

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(no subject)

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am ██████████ from the 34th Ward. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

████████████████████  
████████████████

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No police in schools

End the CpD contract in schools. They are criminalizing spec Ed students! They do not have the training or orientation to therapeutically intervene.

Sincerely,

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Please end your contract with CPD

Hello!

My name is ████████████████████ and I am writing to you to ask you to please vote to end your contact with the Chicago Police Department.

It is time to rethink what that kind of exposure does to our children in Chicago.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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SROs in CPS Schools

Dear Board of Education Members,

I'm writing as a concerned Chicagoan to express my support of removing CPD officers (School Resource Officers) from CPS schools. I believe very strongly that these officers create a presence that encourages fear, enforces obedience, and creates risk for CPS students. First, by keeping a police officer in our school it teaches students that they cannot solve problems on their own; rather, that if they get too "out of hand" their freedom must be surrendered to the law. If schools are a place of learning, what does this teach? That we must do right because we fear the law? Second, this cycle of fear teaches our students obedience rather than understanding. If we always keep police as a last resort in schools, then those situations will never have their true root resolved. Students learn to do what they can get away with and fear being caught - that having a harmful act be known is worse than the act itself. Finally, officers trained to handle conflicts with violence are always at risk of harming our students.

Please listen to the voices of the concerned citizens who are asking you to address this risk to Chicago's young people. Please remove the police presence from our schools. Students commit violence when they feel they're at the end of their rope. Let's give them a million reasons not to commit harm. Remove the connection between schools and prisons and invest in teaching students to deal with problems in their life by looking for justice and peace rather than violence and revenge. If we believe we are a society that values doing the right thing because it's right, rather than just obeying rules out of fear, then let's model those values in the way we teach and discipline our students.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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End CPD in CPS

Dear CPS Board,

As a Chicago physician, I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

Our Students experience significant trauma, live with disabilities, or come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Our schools should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity tomorrow to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please end CPD contract

Hello, my name is [REDACTED]

I'm a resident of Chicago, IL and I'm sending this email to encourage and urge the Chicago Board of Education to end the \$33 million contract with CDP.

As a lifelong resident, former CPS student and supporter of my community, I must stress to you that the presence of Chicago police inside of schools creates dangerous conditions for students that have led to criminalizations, mass incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force against Brown and predominantly, BLACK students, as stated by those proposing the ordinance in which I'm supporting.

Our students require those funds to be allocated to programs such as nursing, counseling, case managers and other wraparound services.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and hope you are able to put yourself in the shoes of these terrified children who need, not constant policing and fear in their schools, but services that improve the community, their sense of self worth and the overall trust between CPS-student relations.

Thank you.

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Please end CPD in CPS

Hello,

I'm a young professional living in the Wicker Park neighborhood. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

As a volunteer with a non-profit focusing on early childhood education, we work with students who've experienced significant trauma and often come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Our schools should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity tomorrow to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

All the best,

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CPD out of CPS

Hi,

My name is █. I am a resident of Lakeview. I am writing to urge you to cancel the CPD contract with CPS.

The police have no place in our schools. They instill fear in students and terrorize students of color who are often already over policed at their homes.

Schools should be a safe haven, not another site of state surveillance and violence. Programs such as restorative justice (which are in some CPS schools already) are much more effective and healthy.

Please remove CPD from our schools.

Best,

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Remove CPD from our Public Schools

Hello --

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident ([REDACTED]) who is sickened by Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department. I am calling on you to end this obscene contract immediately.

Police officers have no place in our schools. The criminalization of childhood angst is not only inappropriate in the moment -- it has lasting impacts on the life trajectories of our students. Police in school are the first step on the school to prison pipeline and Chicago MUST do better by our youth.

We can build a better future for them but that future demands investment. Where will these resources come from? For starters, by reallocating the funds used to terrorize our students via the current CPD contract. \$33M of potential for enrichment, for increased food security, for decreased class size.

\$33M. Make this change. Our children's future, our city's future -- it depends on you.

Thank You,

[REDACTED]

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Cops out of Schools

Hello Board of Education Members,

Today I come to you as a mother, a teacher and as a former cps student. I want to let you know that cops in schools are not good for anyone. There is evidence to show that there are many reason why they shouldn't be there so why are they still there? We can be using that money for social workers or restorative justice workers. As a mother of a CPS student I do not want my son to be around cops, a place where he should feel safe, a place that I should feel safe dropping him off. Cops are not trained to work with children and so I do not feel safe having them around my son. Please as a mother, a teacher and a former cps student I am begging you to make the right decision tomorrow. Tomorrow you can be making a difference. Please make the right choice and remove cops from our school. You will be helping our black and brown students which make up majority of CPS students. Please! Thank you for your understanding and your time!

Sincerely,

A worried mother, teacher, former CPS student.

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Vote to End CPD contract with Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago, IL. I strongly encourage the Board to vote to end the Chicago Police Department contract with Chicago Public Schools. It is very clear that a police presence in schools leads to worse outcomes for marginalized students, especially those who are Black and People of Color. Please do your part to end this. Vote to cancel the contract.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Removing Police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But

there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

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Please remove police from Chicago Public Schools

From:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To the honorable members of the Chicago Board of Education:

I'm writing to implore you to vote to cancel the Chicago Police Department's contract with the Chicago Public Schools.

Even if school resource officers or their equivalent were vitally necessary to protect students' safety and deal with serious disciplinary problems, they're not succeeding at either. Not only do their racially biased patterns of intervention and violence disproportionately involve Black students and other students of color, but the single largest consequence of their presence is to needlessly make kids into criminals with arrest records. Police in schools are a major component of the school-to-prison pipeline, which robs young people of their futures before they've even begun.

Officers embedded in a racist system of policing can never provide justice or safety to schools whose students are majority Black or of color. No matter how decent they may be in their hearts, policing is simply the wrong tool for the job. Good intentions can't fix that.

And as I'm sure you know, local school councils can vote to remove SROs—but they do not have the authority to transfer the money spent on police to services that will actually improve the lives of their students, such as social workers or counselors. LSCs cannot cancel this contract, which is draining money from CPS at a time when it's laying off hundreds of teachers and even more support staff. But you can.

Chicagoans desperately need a city government that believes in the common good and will devote its resources to helping those who suffer. That is not what policing does. Too often, it only increases suffering. And because the city cannot create revenue out of thin air, it's time to look at reapportioning the 39 percent of our budget we spend on police. What good could that money do if spent in more compassionate ways? Canceling this CPS contract is a small but necessary first step. Please consider taking it—history will judge you kindly.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Urging you to remove CPD from CPS schools

Dear Board of Education Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago. I understand that you are voting on Wednesday on ending the Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department to have officers in schools. I implore you to vote in favor of ending the contract.

It is no secret that police officers often escalate situations dangerously, rather than deescalating them, and ultimately criminalize black and latinx students. As a Chicago resident, it is my hope that our schools have the social workers, counselors, restorative justice practitioners, and teachers they need – let's put the budget into those assets that support our kids, and not toward police who have shown us time and time again that they are not cut out for working with students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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End CPS contract with CPD

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of ending the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. There is no reason why there should be armed security in school, especially given that studies have shown that they disproportionately target Black and brown students. Students deserve to feel safe in school. Students should not feel like criminals in their own school environment.

Listen to the voices of the people of Chicago! Consider the needs of your students! End the CPS contract with CPD!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools Ordinance

Good evening,

I urge the Chicago Board of Education to vote to terminate the contract with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million spent on this contract is money desperately needed to serve the students. Specifically, the money could be used to fund positions for 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. Otherwise, the money could be used to fund the changes needed to protect students and staff from COVID.

This is not unprecedented territory. Schools around the world operate without the presence of armed guards. Instead of treating students as prisoners, foster their needs. There is sound reasoning in having professionals present for student safety and well-being; and, there are professionals that can address those needs. Professionals that are properly trained to work with children. Professionals that do not carry guns. School counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists would be more well-equipped to deal with the students and address their problems and not address them as the problem.

Data shows that students of color are disproportionately disciplined in schools. More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve non-white students. Even though black students make up just 35.9% of CPS's student population, they are involved in 66% of police incidents. This data is not news to you.

School is supposed to be a safe place for students. There have been over 2000 complaints of misconduct against the police in CPS. People of color cannot be safe at school until it is free of police. How can a teacher or parent explain to a child that they should feel safe because the officers are there to protect them when others in the same uniforms kill black people in the street and even within their own homes?

COVID has taught us that we are all in this together. It has exposed vulnerabilities within the systems that shape our society. We are at an unprecedented juncture where those cracks can be corrected. Change the lives of these students. Show them that their voices are heard. Empower them rather than imprison them. We cannot, must not return to how things were.

I implore that the Chicago Board of Education vote to terminate the contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is ██████████, and I'm a CPS alum - Lane Tech. So are my sister and brother. Police in schools have harassed students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in schools

Thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure. If I may weigh in as a constituent and as an Administrator who works closely with CPS youth--

Not only do we not need CPD in our schools, I feel that their presence is dangerous. We are funnelling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

\$33 Million dollars for police, police who are not trained to work with kids, yet our teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and nurses.

Our children deserve better. End the School to Prison Pipeline.

Please vote accordingly.

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[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED], and I am a current CPS student attending Northside College Prep.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (for instance dress code). Additionally, the police on many school campuses across Chicago are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, and neighborhoods. In fact, there is evidence to underline that police do not contribute to a positive school experience.

There is an in-depth study from the American Sociological Review called "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma, and anxiety" - as long as the police force engages and protects racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence, the vast majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of Child and Young Adult Psychology and Health, which police frequently do not provide. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings - the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters, such as in Parkland, Fla.

I sincerely urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed, not traumatize them. Especially for our black and brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group.

I hope you consider our perspective and the evidence provided to truly help students of CPS succeed; this is just one step towards educational reform, but I have faith you will make the right decision to help marginalized students succeed.

Thank you,



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Support the resolution to terminate - remove CPD from CPS

I write to urge the Board to fully support the motion to terminate the contract with the City of Chicago and begin the process needed to remove CPD from CPS. Our students deserve safety and care, which we have seen time and time again, cannot and will not come from the police.

Keeping police in school, where Black students are punished disproportionately to their White peers, is unjust. We have the opportunity to be on the right side of history; to attempt to right some of the deeply entrenched wrongs that shape our city. Redistributing the resources that currently fund police to fund programs, organizations, and leaders who are invested in creating true community safety, and disrupting - rather than entrenching - the school to prison pipeline is critical.

Thank you for the work you do for your communities, and I trust that you will take full advantage of this opportunity to vision safer and more equitable schools without police.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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#### Terminate CPD contract

I am writing to urge you to pass the motion to terminate the \$33 million CPD contract and block renewal; and the motion to consult communities on more appropriate safety measures, including counseling and restorative justice practices, with all or a portion of the money saved.

There is no place for police in schools. I have worked in CPS and am friends with several teachers besides. I understand that schools face very real difficulties in keeping their students safe. However, I do not believe that the criminalization of students through police presence is a meaningful or substantive way to produce safety. At best, police in schools contain conflict through fear, and fear does not produce safety. Only actively meeting the woefully neglected needs of students can do that. At worst, police in schools meet violence with violence, and set up children to live their lives in constant contact with an incredibly flawed criminal justice system.

Current school operations teach black children that the system is not on their side. They apprehend this deeply and correctly. You are in a position to do something to change this. Vote CPD out of CPS, and put the money to better use.

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#### CPD Contract with CPS

Hello Vice President Revuluri,

I am reaching out to you as an alumni of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School and a Brown Asian-American. I am aware that tomorrow, the Chicago Board of Education will be meeting to vote on whether or not to end the contract with CPD. I am asking you to strongly consider ending this contract with CPD, an organization so systematically flawed, they have no reason to be tied to our school.

It is no secret that our city's police department has unfairly targeted and let down People of Color. Students of Color make up approximately 90% of the CPS student population. Black people are the most targeted of us all, and Black students make up approximately 35% of the CPS student population. According to a 2018 NPR article "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make them Safer?," police presence in schools does not make them safer and result in a higher rate of unintended consequences for students. As stated by the article "...that includes [a] higher rate of suspensions, expulsions and

arrests that funnel kids into the criminal justice system." This is more true for students of Color, who are already facing a system that is designed to fail them.

If we know that police officers in schools generally make the environment more unsafe for students presently and in the future, there is no reason they should be there.

Thank you for your time,



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#copsoutcps

#copsoutcps

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End CPD contracts in our schools

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident and I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please re-allocate these funds to provide better social services and support to our city's children. CPD can be called if needed. Reserve police intervention for things that genuinely require police support. Police presence in our schools is counterintuitive, harmful, and does not align well with current best practice in the care and education of children.

Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention. Police presence is not the answer.

Wholeheartedly,



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Please Do Not Renew CPD Contract

Good evening,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Lakeview. I am extremely concerned with the City of Chicago's inordinate investment in the Chicago Police Department (CPD) at the expense of critical youth, education, and health services.

I am therefore writing to demand that tomorrow, each of you vote to reappropriate funds allocated to the CPD to support services such as city libraries and arts programs and essential frontline workers such as city libraries, fairer wages for nurses, educators, and social workers.

Unlike increased police presence, allocating funds for the aforementioned services promotes the well-being of citizens and reduce crime. It is morally reprehensible to dedicate 40% of the City's operating budget (approximately \$4 million per day) towards policing while thousands of citizens are homeless and many more lack access to essential services, including clean running water and necessary mental health resources.

People are marching in the streets because they know that these actions will result in a healthier, more just society. I implore you to please listen to the needs of your constituents and take immediate action to address their concerns.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED] - a teacher and a CPS alumni. Police in schools would harass students over minor

infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]

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No more CPD in CPS

Dear CPS BoE,

I'm sure you've heard a lot of public outcry with incredible statistics and rock solid arguments of community, empathy, caring for the children, destroying the school to prison pipeline, reallocation of resources, the importance of fostering an anti-racist learning environment, and on and on. Well I'd like to also include my voice along with those. It is time to remove the police from schools. There is no place for police within a learning institution. They do more harm than good, and we pay them money for it! It's time to make a smarter decision for the children, families, and community of Chicago.

Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

I'm a CPS graduate- William H. Ray Elementary school in 1995 and Kenwood Academy in 1999.

I would like to voice my opinion that CPS schools should not have CPD officers in the schools.

The money would be more constructive spent on social workers, psychologists, nurses...support staff to help students versus criminalize them.

I am so grateful for the quality education CPS provided me over the decade and a half of enrollment and hope that tradition can continue for current and future students.

Best,

██████████

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Vote - CPS contract with CPD for Student Resource Officer

My name is ██████████ and I am writing to you as a community member and advocate in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had a SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools such as increases in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students. I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns

outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No Police in CPS!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am an educator at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and many of the students I work with attended CPS. I am writing to urge you to vote tomorrow to remove police from schools in Chicago. Research has shown that police do not contribute to a positive school experience, and that instead they sometimes harass, silence, or bully students -- especially students of color and students with disabilities or mental illness.

A 2018 report on NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/591753884/do-police-officers-in-schools-really-make-them-safer>) on police in schools notes that, despite estimates by the National Association of School Resource Officers that there are (as of 2018) "between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools" there is "no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools". According to Marc Schindler, the head of the Justice Policy Institute, "the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” (<https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22116>) which state that police presence may create "an adversarial school culture" and can ultimately have negative impacts on "the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college".

This study continues to point out that police funding disproportionately affects low-income, Black, and Hispanic students-- a distressing finding confirmed in other studies which show that "these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions".

One such corroborating study on the disproportionate impact on minority students, “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122419826020>), finds that contact with police in schools can "erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety”. It is clear that police presence in schools perpetuates racial violence, class discrimination, and mental unwellness. As such, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

To those concerned with school violence, please note that a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. With regards to school shootings, the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are complex, but ultimately, less access to weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. The shooting at the Parkland, FL high school, which had a school police officer present that day, is only one example of this failure.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and use the funds instead to invest in solutions backed by research: hire qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. This is critical, especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, and students from other marginalized groups.

Please do what is best for our students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cut Ties with CPD and Fund our Schools

Our communities demand that CPS cut ties with CPD NOW and fund Black and Brown children's futures. Allocate those funds towards teachers, nurses, counselors, social workers, and programs at school. There are other ways to ensure student's safety in schools. I was a CPS student and I know that police in our hallways DID NOT ensure safety -- it created a more violent environment instead. LISTEN to the voices of students URGING you to do what is right.

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

Please remove CPD from CPS and reallocate the attention to much more constructive resources such as counselors.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a current student at DePaul University. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"for it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence." -Audre Lorde

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Hyde Park in Chicago. I want to voice my support of removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Their presence does not keep our students safe and disproportionately harms students of color.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Request

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Chicago, IL. When I think about my future children, my plan has always been to move to the suburbs once they have to go to school. This idea is largely impacted due to the existing relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

School is intended to be a safe environment for ALL children. The existing contract with CPD and police presence in schools is not conducive of a safe environment.

I request you remove CPD from all CPS schools.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

Vote against police in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], I live in Andersonville. I'm writing to ask that you vote to remove Chicago police from Chicago Public Schools and reinvest that money into mental health support and staff, nurses, and libraries, funding the actual education and support of our students here in Chicago.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Cancel CPD contract with CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for taking the time to consider removing police from Chicago Public Schools. My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Lincoln Park. I implore you to remove police presence from CPS. According to a study done at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, schools with police presence are more likely to refer children to law enforcement. In fact, the main result of having police in schools is that there are more disorderly conduct charges. Oftentimes, Black students are more likely to be arrested than other non-Black students.

By removing CPD from CPS, funds could be redistributed to better support students. CPS could increase the number of therapists, psychologists, and school nurses available to students. I'm sure there are myriad other areas of CPS that could also benefit from additional funding. This redistribution of funds will be especially beneficial for BIPOC students, since they are more likely to be negatively impacted by police presence in schools.

Please do what is best for the CPS students and remove CPD from schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Terminate CPS Contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education Member Sotelo,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a current resident of the 46th Ward and I am a CPS alumna, having attended Hawthorne Scholastic Academy from 1999-2003, and Lane Tech College Prep from 2008-2012. I am writing to demand that you vote in support of the motions that will be introduced by Board members Elizabeth Todd-Breland and Amy Rome on Wednesday calling for the termination of the district's contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Students of color are disproportionately harmed by the presence of police in our schools, and they do nothing to make our students or communities safer. It is unreasonable to expect local school councils (LSCs) to make the decision to remove police from local schools unless adequate funding is provided for alternatives, such as restorative justice practices and additional school counselors. The funding currently allocated toward policing our city's students should instead be used to support these alternatives in our schools. Even at a selective enrollment high school, we had only 12 counselors for 4,000 students; I was unable to develop a relationship with my counselor because her caseload was too full.

You have the chance to be on the right side of history, and stand up for the needs of the district's most disadvantaged students. Leverage your power and your voice, and vote to remove the police presence from Chicago schools, as so many citizens in our city are demanding. Show us whose side you're truly on.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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vote YES on the removal of CPD officers from CPS schools

Hello!

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Chicago living in Lakeview, [REDACTED]. I am reaching out today to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from Chicago Public Schools.

The \$33 million used to fund police in schools would be better invested in restoring schools in low-income communities, paying teachers more, hiring more teachers to reduce classroom size, special educators, counselors, nurses, technology in the classroom, funding extracurricular activities, mental health professionals, and other resources to create a safe and supportive environment for students and teachers.

I urge you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD, for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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Concerned about Police in our Schools

Hello CPS Board,

I am a concerned citizen living in Rogers Park. I urge you to remove police from Chicago's Public Schools. Their presence contributes to the school to prison pipeline that is a detriment to so many of our young people, especially students who are Black and/or Latinx. We should be investing in student wellness and resources that ensure the success of our students, not increase their likelihood for intimidation and incarceration.

I know you may be in a difficult situation but I urge you to meet this moment and do the right thing.

Warmly,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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We Don't Need Cops in our Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a recent graduate from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. As a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to urge you to vote to remove the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Your students will be much better served by redirecting CPD funds to hire counselors or academic support. Thank you for doing your duty by advocating for choices that take care of our students.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Voting on Cops in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ravenswood here in Chicago. I am writing to you today to speak on the presence of police in Chicago Public Schools.

It is absolutely necessary that you vote to remove cops from CPS. As many school districts around the country are following suit, I expect Chicago to join those ranks. CPD, and policing in general, has a

history of racism and violence. Defunding CPD would allocate money to community resources to build up marginalized and minority communities, not tear them down. The school-to-prison pipeline is real, and with CPD in schools, it only furthers this racist structure. Schools are not meant to be a holding ground until prison. Students need to be supported and heard, not profiled and policed, especially in their place of learning.

According to Cops Out CPS, The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them. And, 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color.

If the \$33 million budget was redistributed, CPS could hire 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. All of which support students and their physical, mental, social, and emotional needs much more so than having police in CPS (Cops Out CPS).

For more data and reasons on why to remove cops from schools, I encourage you to visit this site <https://copsoutcps.com/map/> and click on the downloadable report that was mainly written by CPS students. The data doesn't lie. Removing CPD from CPS is necessary to continue our fight against systemic racism not only in our schools, but in our country and world.

If you truly believe in the safety and futures of your students, vote to end your partnership with the Chicago Police Department.

Best,



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Police do not belong in schools

Thank you for the opportunity to add public comment. I am a Chicago resident and an educator with over 25 years in the field. Please vote to end the contract with the police.

Schools are for educating students; not for policing them.

Thank you,



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Please Remove CPD from CPS Tomorrow

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an alumnus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community.

I'm writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools.

Thank you for doing what is right!

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Comment to cancel CPD contract with CPS

Dear All,

I am writing to express my support for canceling the \$33 million contract that CPS has with CPD to provide School Resource Officers in CPS schools. I have lived in Chicago for over 10 years, and have worked as a teaching artist and program manager for multiple arts-based NPOs in Chicago. I have worked with incarcerated youth, youth in our communities, and youth in schools. In each area, I've seen the impact of police presence on our youth, particularly in working with incarcerated youth at IYC Warrenville, IYC Chicago and the CCJDC. So often, their stories of incarceration began at school, interacting with police presence, including SROs who were not equipped, even with training, to handle their needs and handle the situation in a way that was not violent or dehumanizing to the student. Most importantly, it was in school that these students started their path to incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system. While schools may have had SROs to help de-escalate situations, they, in fact, did the opposite, whether they meant to or not. The presence of officers in schools places the stress of surveillance on an already over-surveilled population. Students often talked about feeling threatened and intimidated by the mere presence of SROs in their schools because it reminded them of the police.

I do not believe that having CPD in our schools is a valuable or wise use of our resources. CPD, as with all police departments, has been built upon a historically racist system meant to target, police, and harm

people of color (you shouldn't have to look further than John Burge and the Midnight Crew for proof of that in our city), and therefore cannot be anything but, no matter what training you give them, no matter what good intention individuals may have. The thought that SROs can and should improve student relationships with the police is a grotesque one - you are asking students of color to essentially make nice with "Officer friendly" while they are routinely harassed, violated, and murdered, and are regular witnesses to these atrocities on their family, friends, and community, at the hands of CPD outside of school. There is no line of trust there to be built. Whatever is planned is a mere bandaid for the damage CPD does to communities of color on a daily basis. I implore you to vote against this \$33 million contract with CPD, and instead invest in proven alternatives to improving the safety and health of our students. Listen to our communities of color and what they are saying and asking of us in regards to policing and its abolishment in all forms. It is the only way forward.

Respectfully,

██████████

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

My name is █████ and I am a CPS alum. I am writing to urge you to cancel CPD contract as school officers. Kids need care, not cops. Reinvest that money into our children's futures.

██████████

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am █████, a resident of Streeterville (2nd Ward), and I urge you to remove the harmful presence of CPD out of our public schools. Police on campus often engage in unhealthy activity by bullying and harassing teenagers and children over minor infractions. They notably put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. Furthermore, there is concrete evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

In NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute, states that there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed

approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

Academic works like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" found that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29). They also point out that "police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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Police do not need to be in schools. Period.

Hello all,

I urge you to take ALL police out of all public schools and places of learning. I do not think they have a real purpose in these institutions of learning. Please replace all police officers with social workers, school nurses, and therapists/other professionals. I think these things help foster better educational environments and therefore better students.

Thank you!

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Please remove police from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I understand that you will be voting tomorrow on the presence of police in Chicago Public Schools--thank you for considering this proposal. As a proud Chicago resident, I am urging you to please remove CPD from our schools and use the funds to hire more qualified support staff, such as therapists, social workers, and restorative justice practitioners.

While I am now in my 30s, I strongly remember finding the consistent presence of police in my high school to be extremely unsettling, and I was a white girl who had never before had a single negative encounter with police. I can only imagine the anxiety that my Black and Brown classmates felt in the same situation. Moreover, research shows that students who are anxious and stressed cannot learn as effectively.

Ultimately, no matter the character of individual officers, police are inherently violence workers. And violence workers have no place in schools, which should strive to be caring and supportive communities for all who walk through their doors. Our Chicago students may act out for a variety of reasons, ranging from unstable homes to mental health--all of which would be better served by therapists and social workers than by police.

Please do what is right for our Chicago community by removing police, who only endanger and traumatize students, from schools and instead invest in support systems that will help them thrive. We've seen cities across the U.S. take action on this critical issue, and it is long past time for Chicago to do the same.

Thank you,

██████████

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

I am writing to express my support of the proposal to remove the police from our public schools. Our children should not be criminalized.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove police officers from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

As a Chicago resident (of the 48th Ward) who cares about youth, I ask you to follow the lead of school districts in Minneapolis; Denver; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle and end Chicago Public Schools' contract with the police department. Police in Chicago's schools do not keep students safe. There's no evidence that they stop school shootings, but there's plenty of evidence that their constant presence leads to harming children. They harm students physically; think of the allegations in the Department of Justice report alone about CPD officers Tasing students and choking 8-year-olds. In the 2019–2020 school year—theoretically after multiple years of implementing reforms to School Resource Officers in Chicago—96% of CPD officers in schools had allegations of some kind of misconduct against them, according to Chalkbeat. They arrest students, and in particular arrest Black students at nearly twice the rate of CPS students in general, funneling them into the school to prison pipeline. (And not because of real need: There's evidence that having police in schools leads administrators report more less-serious crimes to police.) Indeed, their very presence is a threat, signaling daily that the school is willing to use physical force against students and to subject students to a lifetime of difficulties by involving them with the criminal legal system.

Chicago police have done too much harm to children in our schools to keep them there. We need to use the \$33 million spent on the CPD contract on what our children actually need: guidance counselors and social workers in schools that lack them, which do far more for the foundations of safety, and safety plans for emergencies that don't involve making students unsafe every single day. Do the right thing. End the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

██████████

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Keep CPD out of schools

I really, really want to be able to send my children to public schools. I went to public schools in Illinois and earned my k-12 certificate in Illinois. I know that residents of this state have what it takes to make public school amazing. I've lived in Chicago for 10 years and I know what are communities are capable of when not over-policed.

NO CPD IN SCHOOLS.

Best,

██████████

Sent from my Xs-Wing Starfighter

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Taking Police Out of Schools

Good evening,

My name is ██████████, and I'm a resident of Chicago's 46th ward. I am deeply upset by the sheer amount of dollars that this city spends policing its students. The Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Police Department needs to be terminated.

As other cities have led the way recently, I am asking you to end this contract immediately.

Police officers have no place in our schools. The criminalization of our city's children is inappropriate and has lasting impacts on a child's life trajectory. Police in school are the first step in the school-to-prison pipeline. Chicago can and must do better by our youth.

We must invest in the future of this city by investing in its students. By reallocating the funds used to deploy police in schools, there is the potential for \$33 million to be invested in food security, enrichment, and decreased class sizes.

Our city's future and its children depend on you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Police in schools

Dear Mr. Del Valle and school board members,

I am aware that tomorrow you will be voting on whether or not to continue having police in schools. I strongly support not continuing to use millions of dollars of money towards police in schools. This money could be used to have more counselors, nurses, or even security officers who are trained on restorative justice practices. As you are aware, unfortunately students of color are disproportionately called upon to the police, and end up serving more time in jail and prison.

Also, as a pediatrician, I am well aware that there will be many increased financial needs with preventive measures to ensure safe learning environments due to COVID. This money previously used for police in schools would be better used to protect our students from this public health crisis.

Thank you for considering this.

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a CPS alum from Walter Payton College Prep. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's

schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" — as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence — a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings — the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum (Smyser '05, Lane Tech '09). Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Remove Police from CPS

Hello,

I am a public school teacher and I demand that you remove police from Chicago Public Schools. Police criminalize, incarcerate, and kill our Black, Brown, and students, families, and community members of color and make school yet another unsafe place for our children. Police are killing Black and Brown people. Make Chicago a place for all children and young adults to learn and thrive and live. Now.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am an alumni of CPS and I support Alderman Martin's proposal to remove CPD from CPS. Having police officers in schools not only contributes to the school to prison pipeline but also makes many children feel unsafe. CPD hinders the learning abilities of many poc and have no place in schools. Please follow the lead of school districts across the country and vote to remove armed officers from our schools.

[REDACTED]

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Please remove SROs from our schools

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am reaching out as public health educator and a parent asking you to please remove SROs from CPS schools and to reallocate the \$33 million spent on on them toward support services such as restorative justice practitioners, counselors, nurses, increased access to supplies/technology and other unfunded essential support services that our school communities need and deserve.

As a practitioner I've worked closely with CPS students and have often been told that SROs do not make students feel safe and secure in their schools, quite the opposite. Please interrupt the school to prison pipeline that is funneling so many of our students, particularly students of color, into the criminal justice system and reallocate these funds to supporting our students safety and positive development.

The students in our schools are asking for our support in creating environments where they will learn and thrive (not be criminalized). Please listen to them tomorrow and vote to remove SROs from CPS schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

URGENT: CPS to divest from CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a recent graduate of the Chicago Public School system. I am reaching out to demand that the Board of Education cut ties with the Chicago Police Department immediately. CPD has no place within the CPS system and perpetuates unjust violence majorly against Black and Brown students. By cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department, we can divert the money spent on funding the anti-black system that is CPD to actual resources and needs of the community, like social workers, librarians, and college counselors.

I demand the dissolution of CPS' contract with CPD immediately.

[REDACTED]

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The Vote Tomorrow

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I am writing to you about a vote that will take place tomorrow, and I want to urge you to remove CPD from CPS schools. In my experience as a white female at Walter Payton College Prep, I have been lucky enough to not have traumatizing interactions with members of the CPD. However, many people cannot say the same. I believe this is the time for radical reform. Vote CPD out of CPS. Reform the system to create a SAFER, HEALTHIER environment for the students you care about. The research does not lie. A change is necessary on the issue of the inherently racist system that is policing. I am writing to you in hopes that whomever reading this does something to chip away at the many problems in our world, by simply voting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Former CPS Student [REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended CPS schools for 9 years of my education. The presence of police officers in schools was confusing as a child, and now that I study education and education policy at University of Denver I realize that while they may have just been confusing to me, a young Asian-American boy, they were symbols of violence for my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD.

The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from CPS

Hi-

My name is [REDACTED], and I've worked in the Chicago Public Schools system for the last 20 years. I've worked with a lot of different kids with different needs, from kindergarteners to high schoolers. Education is a complicated machine, and there are a lot of well-meaning missteps as we figure out how to serve our kids the best we can. I think it's great to try things in the hopes that we'll get better at it. I don't have all the right answers about how to do it best.

But the one thing that I am absolutely certain about is that removing the police from our schools is the right move.

The police use hammers when we need conversations. They are there to intimidate, not to solve problems or mediate. We need mediators in our schools. People who are trained to listen and counsel.

I add my voice to those asking you to take a stand for our kids, their educations, and the future of our city by fundamentally changing the environment of our schools. Please remove the police force and give students the resources they need to grow into curious, contributing, happy adults. Give them therapists, librarians, psychologists, support staff, and teachers who will encourage them and guide them.

We could be so much more.

All of us.

Thank you for your courage, and for seeing what is possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police From Schools Request

To whom it may concern,

Please vote tomorrow to remove police presence from CPS and instead reallocate those funds to invest in educational resources such as mental health counselors. As someone who has been brought up with an alternative education (I grew up Hasidic) that was not respected by mainstream US culture, I know firsthand how many opportunities are only possible through educational milestones. Your students future individual choice and life is massively impacted based on what schooling they've had access to. Has it been a safe place for learning and growth? Did your teachers and adults around you believe the best in you and your future? So many Chicago students cannot say this is the case - pulling police from schools would be a step in the direction of making schools safer and a more trusting environment can grow from that. How can we expect students to learn and be their best selves when police are monitoring their every move?

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

---

CPD does not belong in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and as a resident of Chicago (Ravenswood neighborhood), I would like to express my strong support for removing the Chicago Police presence from our city's public schools. Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with

disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. This is truly unacceptable, especially for a city with the makeup and history of Chicago.

For far too long, our city has financially prioritized increased police presence in every corner of our community, and nowhere is that more clearly evident than in the city's \$33 million contract with the CPD. That money should be redirected towards resources like librarians, social workers, and mental health professionals, all of whom would help foster the growth of our young people, rather than traumatizing them and criminalizing their childhoods.

Major cities including Minneapolis and Seattle have terminated and suspended partnerships with their respective police departments. I learned recently that my own former public high school in California has also removed the police presence on campus. I stand with the students and activists who have been pushing this for a long time when I urge you to commit to removing the CPD from CPS.

Thank you for reading this, and eagerly await tomorrow's vote.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS schools

Dear CPS Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED]. I live in Chicago IL, in the 48th ward, and I am a teaching artist at CPS schools throughout Chicago. I work for several different theater companies and teach in residencies in schools such as Prosser Career Academy, New Field, Hayt Elementary, Shurz, and many more.

My experience teaching in schools, learning about the school to prison pipeline, and listening to student accounts is what leads me to demand that police be taken out of Chicago Public Schools. We know that having a police presence can lead to imprisonment, and statistics show that these arrests disproportionately affect black and brown students. Research shows that 2/3rds of CPS police incidents include a black student. In the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breona Taylor, and so many more Black people at the hands of the police, I feel that it is obvious why we should remove police presence from schools.

I heard an account of a student speaking at a rally this past week that the cops at their school did not work to form relationships with the students. They stood at the entrance, guns on display, policing them. If the impulse to have cops in schools is to protect the students from external danger, I do not see this happening. Instead they are policing the students actions in a place that is supposed to nurture their

growth. Conversely, the student expressed appreciation for the social workers and unarmed security guards who put time into getting to know the students and made them feel safe.

If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. These positions could help nurture student growth instead of policing their behaviors. Their presence would not prove as a threat to the students safety and mental well being. These positions could help set students up for success later in life, instead of sending them down a vicious cycle of imprisonment that so many of our students are trapped in now.

Please, vote to remove the CPD from CPS schools at this time. Follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department,

Be on the right side of history.

Best,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Safety in Schools

Hi there!

2020 has proved to be an inspiring year, one that will be pivotal in the hope for a better America. We've seen the people of Chicago come together to protect each other from illness and fight injustice.

You're a CPS board member for a reason, because you care about students and the future of our city—and I care as well.

As a Chicagoan, I would like my tax dollars going to protect one of the most vulnerable groups in our city, young people. I want to be sure children are fed, cared for and are able to learn as much as possible in a safe environment.

Earlier in the school year, we witnessed the mayor deny CTU's calls for extra funds for social workers in schools, for people who could help protect students and help them grow.

There is a difference you can make tomorrow, to vote to end the CPS contract with CPD. Officers often escalate situations dangerously, rather than deescalating them. Ultimately, officers in school criminalize Black and Latinx students. Children are not criminals and should not be treated as such when they enter a school.

Public funding should be used for children to get the most out of their educations; for after school programs, for advocacy, for art, for opportunity.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove police from CPS

Dear Board of Education,

Please consider the power you hold in deciding what our schools not only look like, but what they feel like for the students who attend them. When police are present, The ACLU finds:

"Schools that employ police see:

- Greater student alienation
- Poorer school climate
- Greater criminalization of our youth"

Please don't give children greater difficulties than they face. Consider using our resources to solve the problems our children face by moving the money spent on police in schools to counseling and staff to help students with their difficulties. Countless studies and interventions are published and prove there are better ways to help students through their problems than police.

Let's solve the problem, not put a band aid on it. You have the power to decide.

Very Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Support for YES VOTE on actions 20-0624-M01 and 20-0624-M02

Dear School Board,

As a Chicago resident and parent of two CPS students, I urge you to vote YES on actions 20-0624-M01 and 20-0624-M02 to terminate the CPS contract with police and work with schools to identify alternatives to the SRO program. Our children deserve a bright future and an educational atmosphere shaped by educators, social workers, nurses, and librarians - not the school-to-prison pipeline. You have my full support in making these urgent and necessary changes to our CPS schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: End CPD Contract

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a lifelong Chicago resident. I have been informed that tomorrow, the Chicago Board of Education will be meeting tomorrow to vote on whether to end the contract with CPD. The presence of police in schools is not necessary and negatively affects and disadvantages black and brown students.

In my own experience, the police were never utilized in my school, and made many students incredibly uncomfortable in what is supposed to be a space of learning and growth. It is unfathomable that so much of the budget is used on police; using those resources to hire nurses, psychologists, librarians, wellbeing counselors, more academic counselors (none of which existed in my high school) would be much more productive and helpful to the wellbeing of CPS students, which is what you all claim to support.

I implore you to get rid of the contract between CPS and CPD, pushing for a reallocation of resources that would benefit our city's children, rather than a racist system that holds so many back.

Thank you for your time, and I truly hope you do the right thing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from CPS

Hello,

As a resident of Chicago, specifically Logan Square, I support removing Chicago Police Officers (or known as School Resource Officers) and other private security from ALL Chicago Public Schools. There is no need for these offices when they can be replaced by better trained professionals to work with young people.

I recognize there also needs to be an increase in funding for other school needs and I will continue to advocate for that as well to support the removal of officers from schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPS Safety

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer

schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD Contract with CPS

Hello Vice President Revuluri,

I am reaching out to you as an alumni of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School and a Brown Asian-American. I am aware that tomorrow, the Chicago Board of Education will be meeting to vote on whether or not to end the contract with CPD. I am asking you to strongly consider ending this contract with CPD, an organization so systematically flawed, they have no reason to be tied to our school.

It is no secret that our city's police department has unfairly targeted and let down People of Color. Students of Color make up approximately 90% of the CPS student population. Black people are the most targeted of us all, and Black students make up approximately 35% of the CPS student population. According to a 2018 NPR article "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make them Safer?," police presence in schools does not make them safer and result in a higher rate of unintended consequences for students. As stated by the article "...that includes [a] higher rate of suspensions, expulsions and arrests that funnel kids into the criminal justice system." This is more true for students of Color, who are already facing a system that is designed to fail them.

If we know that police officers in schools generally make the environment more unsafe for students presently and in the future, there is no reason they should be there.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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Vote yes to remove CPD from CPS

To Whom It May Concern:

I've lived in Chicago for 18 years, and taught in CPS for 7 years. I'm writing to encourage you to vote in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from the Chicago Public Schools. They do not make our schools safe, and the money could be much better spent. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students. We should take the money from the \$33 million CPD contract and use it instead to pay for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them. Let's put an end to the school-to-prison pipeline. It's ruining the lives of the next generation before their lives even begin. Do the right thing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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PLEASE RESPOND: Urgent Request for CPS vs. CPD

To whom it regards:

As a friend of a former teacher and current school social worker, I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

I have been educated on students who've experienced significant trauma, live with disabilities, or come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of law enforcement and the

criminal justice system. Our schools should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity tomorrow to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

██████████

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██████████

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Remove the CPD from CPS

Good evening,

I'm writing to ask that the Board of Education votes to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. As a Chicagy resident, it concerns me that the police routinely harrass students, particularly Black students and other kids of color, over minor infractions. Police do not create a safer environment.

I hope the board if education removes police from schools and instead invests in teachers, support staff, and libraries.

Thank you,

██████████

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Terminate CPS district's contract with CPD

Hello- My name is ██████████ and I am from Orland Park, Illinois. I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities, all of whom are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into schools. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be allocated into resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, art/music programs and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Please listen to the people of Chicago. Listen to what we have to say, read what we have written to you.

[REDACTED]

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Cancel contract with CPD

Good evening,

Tomorrow, please vote to end CPD presence in Chicago Public Schools. I am a nanny to two wonderful rising third grade boys at Bateman Elementary and my wish for them and their classmates is that CPS redirects that money to counselors and services that will help them flourish - NOT feed the school to prison pipeline. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] and my daughter attends a CPS school. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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### BOE - Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

I'm a Chicago resident and former teacher with Playmakers Laboratory and other organizations that work in Chicago Public Schools, and I'm writing to urge you to vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools tomorrow.

A police presence in our schools teaches our young people that we see them as criminals or criminals-in-the-making, rather than students who are there to learn. The money we spend on CPD would be put to much better use hiring social workers, librarians, nurses, after school staff, and others that provide support for students. A police officer carries with them the threat of violence, and most officers are underqualified to interact with students who are bringing real trauma with them when they enter the school doors.

"Bad" behavior is usually linked to trauma and stress - let's meet that trauma response with care, support, and opportunities rather than threats and punishment.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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### Terminate CPS districts' contract with CPD

Hello-

My name is [REDACTED] and I am from Orland Park, Illinois. I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities, all of whom are brutalized and traumatized by the police you put into schools. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be allocated into resources (librarians, social workers, nurses, art and music programs and mental health counselors in schools) that actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

[REDACTED]

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CPD Contract

Dear CPS Board of Education,

I urge you to not renew the CPD and CPS contract. Having police in schools is ineffective, unhelpful, and contributes to the school to prison pipeline which mainly effects black and brown students. This funding should be used for social workers, psychologists, nurses, and restorative justice programs.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

I understand that there is a meeting tomorrow regarding discussing police within the Chicago Public School system. As a Chicago citizen, I highly disprove of the use of police in schools. Any sort of partnership with CPD is extremely suspect and having police around students daily just leads to further criminalization. These kids need counselors and librarians and RESOURCES. Police have no place in schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

I live in Chicago IL, in the 48th ward, and I am a teaching artist at CPS schools throughout Chicago. I work for several different theater companies and teach in residencies in schools such as Prosser Career Academy, New Field, Hayt Elementary, Shurz, and many more.

My experience teaching in schools, learning about the school to prison pipeline, and listening to student accounts is what leads me to demand that police be taken out of Chicago Public Schools. We know that having a police presence can lead to imprisonment, and statistics show that these arrests disproportionately affect black and brown students. Research shows that 2/3rds of CPS police incidents include a black student. In the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breona Taylor, and so many more Black people at the hands of the police, I feel that it is obvious why we should remove police presence from schools.

I heard an account of a student speaking at a rally this past week that the cops at their school did not work to form relationships with the students. They stood at the entrance, guns on display, policing them. If the impulse to have cops in schools is to protect the students from external danger, I do not see this happening. Instead they are policing the students actions in a place that is supposed to nurture their growth. Conversely, the student expressed appreciation for the social workers and unarmed security guards who put time into getting to know the students and made them feel safe.

If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses. These positions could help nurture student growth instead of policing their behaviors. Their presence would not prove as a threat to the students safety and mental well being. These positions could help set students up for success later in life, instead of sending them down a vicious cycle of imprisonment that so many of our students are trapped in now. Other ways to re-allocate the money, suggested by CPS students:

The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Please, vote to remove the CPD from CPS schools at this time. Follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department.

Be on the right side of history.

---

CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am a resident of the 47th ward and live right across from Lakeview High School. I am opposed to having police in schools and am calling on you to vote that CPD be pulled out of CPS. Police are a threat to

students from Black and Brown communities, and students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, or neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to follow the examples of Minneapolis and other cities to remove police from schools and replace them with therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Cops in schools

Dear distinguished members of the Board of Education,

I have been sitting here staring at the screen for some time now, trying to think of the best way to frame my argument against police officers in public schools. Finally it occurs to me, if you don't know all the reasons why having cops in schools is a terrible idea and a failed experiment then you a) haven't been paying attention and/or b) have interests that trump the safety and wellbeing of CPS students.

The parents and children of Chicago are placing our trust in you. Please do not disappoint us. Vote to end the contract with Chicago Police Department.

Most Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Please no more CPD in our schools

I'm emailing to express that the CPD should be removed from our CPS and replaced with community-based organizations that can enhance Social health and wellness.

[REDACTED]

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I urge you to remove CPD from CPS

Chicago boys and girls cannot learn safely in an environment where they are policed. I urge you to vote tomorrow to permanently remove all CPD officers from CPS.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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Ending CPS Contract with the CPD

Hello,

I am emailing to implore the Board of Education to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I earned my Master's of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago, and have spent time working in CPS schools on the south and west sides where I have witnessed CPD officers interacting with students in schools. It is the sad truth that these officers have a history of harmful interactions and impacts on BIPOC students, and that no amount of reform will reduce this harm. The CPD has got to go especially when it comes to interactions within schools, primarily those with high populations of black and brown students.

"And what is happening in schools around the country,' says Hagopian, 'is, instead of figuring out how to help that [student] who's having a difficult time by having counselors, we meet these kids with force.'

This all adds up to what Monique Morris calls the criminalization of Black students.

'The presence of police in schools, I believe, is fueled by a dehumanization of children of color, which suggests that there needs to be a constant surveillance of these children in schools.'

-Jesse Hagopian/Anya Kamenetz in NPR's "Why There's A Push To Get Police Out Of Schools"  
<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/23/881608999/why-theres-a-push-to-get-police-out-of-schools>

I hope that the board considers this perspective in its decision. Thank you!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Terminate the Contract with CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

As a CPS graduate and proud member of the Chicago community I urge you to vote to get CPD out of CPS. Numerous studies have shown the dangers of having police in schools and that the presence of police furthers the school-to-prison pipeline. This should be plenty to show the need to fight to remove CPD from our schools, but in light of the recent protests it is additionally clear that many students do not feel safe at all with police around CPS hallways. This danger for so many students must be dealt with immediately. Schools must be a safe place.

I also implore you to use the money saved by terminating the contract to invest in underserved schools. Please invest in social workers and additional social services that countless students need right now. Please take bold action to fight for the students and improve the CPS system.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Please end the contract with CPD. Not a good use of CPS money.

██████████  
(Former CPS student)

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Terminate Chicago Police Department's Contract with Chicago Public Schools

Dear Chicago Public Schools Board of Education:

I am writing to ask for your support in terminating CPS' contract with CPD. By doing this, you will side with the Black and Brown students in this city who have communicated legitimate fear walking along the halls with police officers, a fear that will only go away with the removal of cops from our school. Chicago Public Schools can re-invest the \$33 million currently allocated for the CPD contract in non-police supportive services for students, including counselors, nurses, and restorative justice coordinators; ensure all students have access to technology and internet for at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and when school begins

When you vote in favor of the ordinance, you free up \$33 million that can go toward arts programs, after school programs, and more. CPS can also guarantee adequate cleaning for our schools; adequate soap, water and disinfectant for students and workers; PPE for all; temperature checks and adequate staffing of health professionals in our school buildings; and social distancing strategies that protect students, their families and workers (for example, smaller class sizes).

Please heed Chicago Public School students, alumni, families, and community members' calls to terminate CPD's contract with CPS and invest this money into a future that provides true safety for CPS students and meets their emotional, academic, and community's needs.

Sincerely,

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**TERMINATE CPS's CONTRACT WITH CPD**

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████, I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended a CPS school

for my high school education. The presence of police officers in school was always confusing to me and now that I study human development and family studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,

I realize that while they may have just been confusing to me, a young white girl, they were symbols of violence for my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD. The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, psychologists, and counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Good evening everyone,

Tomorrow you have the ever important vote that can help start the overall CPD reform that is desperately needed. We can show the kids of CPS that the world can change for the better and ensure that our most impressionable minds aren't destined to repeat the same mistakes from generations before. My family genuinely appreciates everything you have historically done, and will continue to do tomorrow, in protecting and guiding the youth of this incredible city.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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Removing police officers from CPS schools

Good evening,

I am writing this email on my thoughts about removing police from CPS schools in perspective as a CPS student alumni, parent of three children and educator.

I have so many questions about whether or not it would be appropriate to remove police. What system is in place to report incidents where police involvement has been needed to mediate situations? Protect students and staff? Remove persons who pose a risk to others? I feel that a reporting system would determine whether or not police presence is beneficial or harmful in schools.

Also, if police are removed, would funding be provided for preventative measures such as:

Home visiting programs?

Parenting skill and family relationship programs?

Preschool enrichment with family engagement?

Mentoring programs?

Support staff?

Mental health staff (therapists/counselors)

Hospital community relationships (more school-based nurses)?

Smaller classroom sizes?

More schools in high-risk areas?

Higher quality education?

Higher Education funding for staff/ training programs on behavior management?

The question is not whether or not we should remove police officers from schools, but **WHAT COULD WE DO TO HELP REDUCE THE NEED OF POLICE PRESENCE IN SCHOOLS?**

Keep the police in the schools until you've come up with the money to meet the needs of the families you serve.

Keep the police in schools until you've come up with a solution for smaller classroom sizes.

Keep the police in the schools until you've come up with the money to provide resources for educators to train better in behavior management.

Keep the police in schools until every school has enough counselors to help families meet the social and emotional needs of children who have experienced trauma and neglect.

The problem isn't police presence in schools, it is the lack of resources provided in high need areas, short-staffed educational buildings, and lack of funding that's the problem.

Sincerely a concerned parent of brown CPS students,

██████████

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Comments regarding motion to end contract with CPD

Hello,

Ending CPS's contract with CPD is of utmost urgency given today's climate. Currently, many CPS schools do not have a social worker or a counselor on staff. This is concerning because these healthcare professionals are there to support students' progress by employing evidence based strategies grounded in clinical science. CPD doesn't. Instead, CPD has a long history of disproportionately criminalizing black and brown people who make up 89% of CPS's demographic. Cancelling the CPD contract and defunding the police would free \$33 million to be reinvested in at least 300 counselors, restorative justice coordinators, social workers, librarians, speech language pathologists and nurses in schools every school in the district.

I urge the Chicago Board of Education to keep their students' needs first by ending CPS's contract with CPD.

Best,

██████████

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to end CPS' contract with the CPD tomorrow

To the CPS Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a lifelong resident of Chicago's 32nd Ward, an assistant pre-K teacher in the South Loop, and a current student in the Masters of Arts in Teaching Elementary education program at National Louis University.

I am writing on behalf of my three to five year-old preschool students who will soon enter the Chicago Public School system. They, along with every child in our city, deserve a quality public education where they feel safe, nurtured, encouraged, and valued.

CPS students have raised their voices, collected data, recorded hundreds of testimonials, and lived the reality of having armed police officers in their places of learning. Students and the people who love them know that police officers create fear, anxiety, and conflict. They draw resources away from social services that are more effective at reducing conflict, eliminating violence, and promoting student wellness.

Overall, the presence of SROs sends the message that children in predominantly Black and Brown Chicago Public Schools have no future except prison; it tells them that, instead of being loved and celebrated, they must be surveilled and punished.

As a teacher who has undergone trainings that include topics such as "how to carry all the infants in our daycare out of an active shooting without a stroller", I am the first to prioritize the safety of our schools. But armed police officers have not been and will never be the way to provide that safety.

My students would tell you themselves that every child deserves love, kindness, and fairness - we try to practice that every day in our classroom - but they are still working on writing out their full names.

Still, I hope that by the time my little ones reach high school, they will not have to write you emails, because their schools will have everything they need, free of police and full of joy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Vote to end CPD's contract with CPS tomorrow.

Sincerely,

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██████████████████  
██████████████  
██████████

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS schools!

Hello,

My name is ██████████. I was a student in Walter Payton College Prep's Class of 2023, and I'm currently a student at Northwestern University. I urge you to vote to remove the CPD from public schools tomorrow. This is a first step in alleviating one of the many undue pressures on Black and Brown students in CPS schools. Please vote with the many CPS students who feel unsafe in places meant to foster their learning and emotional growth in mind. Having police officers in schools doesn't necessarily protect students and places many kids in the school to prison pipeline

([https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2577333](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2577333)).

Please support CPS students and VOTE TO REMOVE CPD FROM CPS SCHOOLS!

Thank you,

██████████

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End the CPD contract with CPS

Dear Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a music teacher in Chicago. I have taught music classes at Chavez, Westcott, National Teachers Academy, Armour, and KIPP One Academy through a number of Chicago arts education organizations. I am emailing to demand removal of all CPD officers from Chicago Public Schools.

Police make schools less safe for Black and Brown students. Two-thirds of police incidents in CPS involve Black students, despite the fact that Black students make up 40% of the school population. 95% of police incidents in CPS involve non-white students. Black students make up 78% of arrests on CPS grounds. Students with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by the presence of SROs. Additionally, police are a source of trauma for many students of color, and having a police presence in schools creates a culture of punitive discipline rather than restorative justice and community. The effects of growing up and trying to learn in a police culture stay with kids and their communities for the rest of their lives.

The \$33 million CPD contract is absurd. Imagine the impact if those resources were moved away from policing students and invested in school communities. The money could be put towards hiring counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, restorative justice coordinators, and other support staff. It would make it possible to put a smaller cap on class sizes, or to invest in arts programs. Reallocating the money from the CPD contract towards staff and enrichment programs would create real student safety and agency.

It is imperative to support students of color and invest in Black futures and communities. CPS must end its contract with the CPD.

Best,

██████████

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remove CPD from public schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I'd like to thank you for considering the removal of police from the Chicago school system. As a resident of Chicago, I've become increasingly concerned about the presence of police in schools. Research suggests this makes schools less conducive to learning and more likely for students of color to be funneled into the criminal justice system.

Academic works such as "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" state that "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and reallocate funding to replace them with qualified counselors/therapists, social workers, and developmental experts to help students succeed. This is just one step towards educational reform and I urge you to please do what is best for students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Chicago Public Schools Police Vote

Good evening,

I understand that a decision will likely be made about Chicago Public Schools having police presence at the schools. I would like to state that as a member of the Chicago community, I strongly oppose the continued presence of police within schools. I do not think it should be standard for police to be around during students on a day-to-day basis. If any student is involved in a crime, that should be addressed outside of school and not have police continue to alienate students involved and provoke discomfort during a crucial growth process for other students not involved.

I suggest there be more comprehensive de-escalation and conflict management training by school officials in order to reduce some of the minor conflicts that police otherwise would be dealing with.

I hope that you consider these thoughts when making your decision as they reflect discussions from countless members of the community in order to better educate Chicago's children and to improve our city.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Say NO to CPD in CPS

Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I live at [REDACTED]. I am writing to you to voice my concern about continued CPD presence in CPS. Do not renew their contract, and instead create an arrangement that allows schools to reappraise those funds. Perhaps schools could use that same money to hire and support a restorative justice coordinator, allowing CPS to honor its commitment to restorative justice and equity in education.

Do the right thing. Say NO to CPD.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am a current student at Northwestern University and I am incredibly upset by the continued use of police in the Chicago public school system. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campuses are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and

anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Listen to the support for this from the Chicago Teachers Union and please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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Say No to CPD in CPS

Hello, Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a citizen of Chicago residing in Ravenswood(██████████). I am writing to you to implore that you vote "No" tomorrow and commit to removing the police from Chicago Public Schools. Those funds could be redistributed to create a position for a restorative justice coordinator. That way, CPS can take steps to honor their commitment to restorative justice. Please do the right things and remove CPD from CPS.

Sincerely,

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██████████

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from Chicago schools

Thank you for considering the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago resident who fully believes that police have no place in our schools. There is much evidence that suggests police do not contribute to a positive school experience. Children should be treated as such and not subjected to being treated like criminals when they should be receiving an education. I hope you will take this into consideration when you place your vote.

[REDACTED]

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Please terminate contract with CPD & identify alternatives

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to urge the Board to vote YES on the motion to TERMINATE the contract with the Chicago Police Department (20-0624-Mo1) and vote YES on the motion to identify/recommend alternatives (20-0624-MO2). Take the money saved and invest in social workers, guidance counselors, college counselors, nurses, parent mentors, community partnerships, more teachers, and restorative justice staff. These are the people who will support the well-being, success, and safety of Chicago Public Schools students. Be a role model in this city and show that Chicago takes to heart the urgent calls for change advocated by the Black Lives Matter movement. Real policy change will demonstrate the Board of Education is listening--not just offering platitudes. Thousands of people are demonstrating in Chicago and millions more are active online--their voices deserve to be heard and acted on. Please take this step towards justice and educational equity for Black students. Black Lives Matter!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Removal of police from Chicago school sys

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a CPS alum from Walter Payton College Prep. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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End the Contract

Hello,

I am writing as a resident of Ravenswood in Chicago to ask you to please vote to end CPS' contract with CPD. Police have no place in schools. All children in Chicago need the care and attention that vulnerable, developing humans need. They need social workers; they need psychologists; they need support services; they need librarians; they need teachers. The violence that is inherent to police intervention is damaging to children in the short and long term and in no way recognizes the vulnerability of young people. Moreover, police in schools only reproduce the racism that low-income people of color face every day outside of school. We know the numbers. In Illinois, a black girl is five times more likely to be arrested in school than a white girl. In school! Children. Arrested. In school. The fact that this is even a remote possibility, let alone a common occurrence, should horrify us as a society.

End the School to Prison Pipeline. Fund education, not repression. Fund systems that support Chicago's most vulnerable children. End CPS's contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Urge a yes vote on 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2

To the Chicago Board of Education:

On behalf of Illinois Families for Public Schools, I am writing to urge you to vote yes on the motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2 to end the contract between the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department and to explore alternatives to provide what children and schools need for real safe and secure environments in place of the school resource officer program.

Law enforcement agents do not belong in schools. Stationing police officers in schools harms the safety, security and the educational experience of students, in particular Black and Latinx students, low-income students and students with disabilities.

Surveillance of students and data collected on students by police working in schools are not covered by state or federal student privacy laws, leaving students and families with no protections of their right to privacy of their educational record and personal information. Such data can be shared directly with other government agencies, like immigration authorities, resulting in detention or even deportation pipeline for undocumented students. Students may be errantly added to Chicago's gang database without their or their parents' knowledge by a school resource officer, permanently damaging their ability to get a job or housing in the future.

In addition, police in schools can create hostile environments for students, contribute to the trauma that many students experience outside of school and are the starting point for the school-to-prison pipeline.

By ending this \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Public Schools can then reallocate those funds to support student's physical, mental and social-emotional health. Schools need to be fully staffed with nurses, counselors, social workers and psychologists trained to support students. CPS does not meet the recommended ratios of students-to-clinicians for any of these health professionals.

In the wake of a global pandemic, massive economic depression and social unrest stemming from the systemic oppression of Black people by the police, the only humane policy action right now is to defund police, remove them from our schools and provide for real safety for Chicago's children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Dear Board Member of the Chicago Public Schools system,

Tomorrow, you make an important vote, and I urge you to use your voice to echo the most important voices in our city - the youth. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

I have lived in Chicago for 6 years. I have spent 5 of those years working with black and brown youth from the south and west sides of Chicago, and 4 of those years in a school specifically. The high school I worked at, located in the Austin community, was a private school serving black and brown students from low income households. We had a security team trained in and dedicated to restorative justice. We did not have police officers stationed in our school at all times. Many of our students came from nearby suburbs and, while their parents often expressed fears about sending their children to high school in Austin, I also heard over and over and over again that they felt safe within our doors. We were not perfect and our work of adopting, practicing, and improving a truly restorative justice model was always ongoing. But our students felt safe within those walls.

Just this past week, I worked with a former student on updating her resume. I spoke with her about starting college in the fall and the strangeness but still-heartwarming feeling of her socially distant graduation ceremony. She shared her fears and insecurities, her hopes and excitements. She also shared the importance of her relationships with our school's counselors, who continue to support her through the summer as she unpacks current events and plans for the upcoming transition in her life.

The youth of this city need more of that. I don't mean to say that police cannot serve as mentors or supports in youth's lives. It is certainly possible and I can even cite specific examples from some of the youth I worked alongside. But the overwhelming reality is that the relationship between black and brown communities and the police in Chicago has long been broken. Incoming freshmen this fall were 6 years old when Trayvon Martin was killed at the hands of police. These youth haven't just been raised hearing about police violence and seeing it in their communities; they've been overwhelmed by media saturation of videos upon videos of black and brown men and women being killed at the hands of police, over and over again. It is beyond unreasonable to think that the presence of police in schools could possibly make students, particularly black and brown ones, feel safer.

Instead, this presence incites fear in our students and reminds them of the barriers they face rather than the opportunities their engagement in education could unlock, if only they could focus on it instead of the gun in the police officer's holster.

There is work to be done on so many fronts and in so many ways. Please choose to do work that brings us towards change, towards reparative and restorative education systems rather than punitive ones. Please remember the youth that inspired you to be in the position of power you're in. Do this for them.

Thank you.

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Public Written Comment

Greetings,

Please see my attached written letter for the board meeting. Thank you

[REDACTED]

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Divest from CPD, Invest in the Students

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a Chicago resident and member of the Chicago Tech community and I'm writing to urge you and the Chicago Public Schools do the right thing tomorrow and end the relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Our nation is facing a moment of reckoning and you uniquely have the power to choose between a dangerous and ineffective status quo or use \$33 million dollars in a way that can transform the lives of your students. Please choose to invest in your students. By reallocating these funds to pay for more counselors, nurses and librarians, you can start to strike at the systemic issues of inequality that plague our Black and brown communities. Choosing to invest this money in CPD presence will work to only exacerbate these ongoing problems.

Please make the right choice tomorrow and end the relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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CPD within CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or

mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown

students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Yes on motion to terminate CPD contract

To the Chicago Public School Board of Education:

I'm a Chicago Public School teacher and Golden Apple Winner this year. I am reaching out to go on official record to show my support and ask that the board members support your colleagues Elizabeth Todd Breland and Amy Rome in their motion to terminate the \$33 million police contract with CPS.

Decades of research and my personal work as an organizer to dismantle the school to prison pipeline demonstrate that SROs are a direct link to incarceration and criminalization for so many of our students, particularly those from historically marginalized communities.

The funds we are using to pay for CPD in schools can be diverted to harm reduction efforts. \$33 million can fund the supports our students desperately need, such as social workers, nurse, counselors, and smaller class sizes.

I implore you to support the motion to terminate our district's relationship with CPD and opt into the healing our communities need now.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS, replace with social worker, restorative justice, etc

Hello,

As a Chicago resident and parent of two CPS students, I ask you to move toward removing CPD from CPS schools and replacing them with social workers, mentors, restorative justice coordinators, and the like. Schools that currently enjoy having a police officer are lucky to have an officer who wants to do the positive work of supporting students, and are the exception due to the personal investment of those

particular officers, not the rule. Stop the school to prison pipeline and remove CPD from schools, replacing them with much-needed positive mentors who will help students feel safe and supported.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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We the people demand change

For starters,

Vote to remove CPD from CPS. End the school to prison pipeline and redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

[REDACTED]

Chicago citizen

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Do the right thing

To the Board,

I am writing to demand that you think of the children you are supposed to be serving and remove CPD from schools.

Take examples from Minnesota and Oregon. They have heard the demands of their citizens and have started their journeys on the correct path.

Do not follow our villainous mayor and listen to the people.

We are aware of how much money goes to CPD and the harm it causes. Those who were aware and only hoped for it to get better on its own will not wait any longer.

Take those millions and fund what is necessary: nurses, counselors, after school programs, art, substance abuse programs, social workers, and for the love of god, livable wages for the teachers!

WHY are the people who are actually in contact with students paying for supplies themselves while board members and administrators do nothing but fill their pockets and close schools???

WHY are children punished and their livelihoods threatened because you all can't get it together???

You know what you should be doing.

We are all watching. We will remember which side of history you stand on.

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## In Support of Ending Contract with Chicago Police

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a student at Northwestern University. I am emailing to express my support for ending the contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

During my last few years at Northwestern, Chicago has become one of my favorite places. I believe in the brilliance of Chicago's people, and the potential of Chicago's children. That is why I am urging you, the Board of Education, to support Chicago's youth and vote in favor of ending CPD's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Students of any age, particularly Black and Brown students, have the right to a comfortable, supportive learning environment in which they feel safe, respected, and able to focus on their education. When police have a presence in schools, even though they are there to supposedly help keep students safe, they are in fact doing the opposite. Due to the history of police brutality in this country, for many Black and Brown children, the police bring feelings of uneasiness, distrust, and fear. Those feelings have no place in an environment where children are meant to learn. Therefore, no matter the intention of having the police there, Black and Brown students cannot feel safe while the police are in their schools.

Furthermore, having police presence in schools can be dangerous for students of color, as they are more likely to be suspended due to profiling, or otherwise mistreated by officers. Because of this, students of color do not have the same opportunity as their white peers. Equal access to education is a fundamental right for all children, but that fact is that not all students have the same opportunity, particularly when police make harmful decisions that lead to dire consequences for children who deserve the chance to learn.

If the contract with the police is ended, funds that were previously allocated to the police could then be allocated to programs that actually help students thrive, ensuring every student has equal access to food, internet, technology, counselling, arts, extracurricular activities, and more, all of which will provide each child with the enriching, healthy education that they so fundamentally deserve.

Please, as a member of the Chicagoland community, I am urging you to take action tomorrow and stand up for Chicago's students. They are counting on you to make sure they are safe, cared for, and respected. That cannot happen unless CPS ends their contract with CPD and removes police from their schools. I am urging you to vote in favor of doing so, and to move towards a bright future in which every child feels safe at their school.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Tomorrow's BOE vote

I have lived and worked in the city of Chicago for ten years now. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove School Resource Officers from all of our schools. I have recently been made aware of research showing that the presence of police officers in schools corporates To unjustified criminalization of student of color.

Thanks you.

[REDACTED]

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Police out of CPS

Hello! We need to stop criminalizing children. Police do not make our schools safe, quite the opposite in fact. Cancel the contract with CPD and put those funds into counselors, nurses and art programs and you'll get better results.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I work as a school-based health center counselor at an elementary school in Rogers Park. As a mental health provider, and simply a supporter of children and humanity, I demand that Chicago Public Schools end their contract with the Chicago Police Department. Police have no place in a learning environment meant for young people to thrive and grow.



Aside from the clear racism and the absolute certainty that this is sustaining a culture of White Supremacy, it just makes learning impossible. No student can be at their best as a student when their anxiety levels and mental health are being adversely affected.

Instead of paying for the CPD, the money should be spent to help support and educate our students, specifically

--TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL

—PANDEMIC CASH ASSISTANCE

—SUPPORT FOR UNDOCUMENTED + STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY LIVING

We must invest in the students and their education, not spend CPS's money on the police.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Please Reduce CPD Contract with CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education -

Many of us are writing to you because we are extremely concerned with this city's relationship with police systems. It is dire that we take steps in reducing Chicago's reliance on police, in order for this city and its citizens to grow and come together. One step towards that is reducing police presence in the schools that our children attend. I am an artist who has performed in some of Chicago's public schools, including Chase, Solario and John Hope College Prep, and I have seen first hand what the presence of a police officer does to students. It created an uneasy feeling in me, as a visitor to the school. As a BIPOC, I did not feel safe. Imagine what these young people are going through walking through those doors every single day?

The district has said it believes in restorative justice and now it's time to prove it by reducing police presence in our community's schools and instead offering counseling, staffing schools with individuals trained and invested in de-escalation, and providing programs for relationship building and mentorship with struggling youth. Let's invest in our youth instead of punish them. Let's work harder to create equity in the schools and rebuild trust in our schools. Let's make them worthwhile to attend. Let's dismantle the punitive white supremacy that currently guides these choices.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be reallocated into resources (community intervention workers, librarians, social workers, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors in schools, just to name a few) that support marginalized students by addressing root causes, rather than relying on structures of intimidation and trauma. Police presence in schools reflects an American problem of investing in the criminal and juvenile justice system instead of schools and students.

This is a moment in history when we all as individuals and institutions have to make a choice. And we are calling on you to make the right one by choosing to follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who have ended the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of many citizens these past few weeks, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reduce CPS's contract with the CPD.

Invest meaningfully in students and schools.

Make our schools a place students want to be and belong.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Support for removing police from Chicago school systems

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to ask that you take into serious consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I work at a cultural arts institution on the south side of Chicago where we frequently host CPS students for arts education programs. I truly believe that the presence of police in schools detracts from students' ability to learn and grow in a safe and supportive community. Money used to fund police presence in schools could be much better allocated to support student advancement and success.

Police in schools harass students over minor infractions while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

Per NPR's investigative story, "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute, "the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" — as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence — a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings — the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD OUT OF CPS

Good evening,

I am emailing to demand that you vote the Chicago Police Department out of Chicago Public Schools. Our youth deserve an education without the oppression of the CPD and their batons, tasers, and pepper sprays walking alongside them in the hallways. Use that money (\$33 million I heard) to invest in our students - invest in food for them, transportation to school, curriculum development that sees students succeed far in life. Our schools need nurses, therapists, and social workers - the people who are ACTUALLY educated and trained to serve and protect our children.

There are so many things that the money could be used for that aren't a racist police system built to oppress Black and Brown bodies. Please do what's right. Now is the time.

In justice,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To Whom it May Concern,

It is vital that the contract with CPD be terminated. Police officers do not increase safety for students, they lead to the criminalization of school behavior, and disproportionately so among black and brown students. As a school social worker, I am acutely aware of how insufficiently staffed schools are to manage the mental health and social emotional needs and learning of students. Additionally, schools lack structures to implement true PBIS and restorative justice that would lead to behavioral improvement. Instead, students are met with a constant focus on compliance and consequences, much like our prison systems. Please take the first step to changing how our schools approach safety, discipline and structure for students of color.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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## Cops out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a resident of the 47th ward. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, and/or neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools, says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or

stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED]. As a graduate of a Chicago Public School, I am writing to ask you to vote to cut ties between CPS and the Chicago Police Department. In short, the funding used to keep police officers in this city's public schools should be used to increase teacher to student ratios, expand funding for guidance counselors and mental health professionals, and increase extracurricular funding (among many other necessities). Police in schools do not keep students safe. They perpetuate the school to prison pipeline and maintain rigid disciplinary policies that entirely ignore students' needs. Please make this step in the right direction. Please put this city's students and children first.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Police in Schools

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Chicago Board of Education to PLEASE remove Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools. Police only seek to further traumatize already traumatized youth. The solution to violence in schools is not more state-sanctioned violence and policing. That will only further traumatize youth and perpetuate a cycle of violence. Particularly for students of color, it will only continue to stigmatize them

and their skin color as violent and deviant. Please spend that money on things that will actually help children grow and learn, such as mental health services, social workers, well-trained counselors and educational resources and extracurricular activities.

Thank you,

██████████

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CPD in Public schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a former CPS student. I am writing to ask that the Board of education votes to remove armed police from our public schools as they create dangerous conditions for students that have led to the criminalization, mass incarceration, harassment, death, and heinous use of force against Brown and predominantly Black students. Black children account for 63% of school referrals to police. There is overwhelming evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. As we have seen through our city's continued protests over police brutality, we cannot allow CPD officers to maintain a presence in our schools at the expense of our students' safety and wellbeing. I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and development experts to help students succeed, rather than enable the school to prison pipeline.

Thank you,

██████████████████

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CPD out of CPS

I am writing you to demand that the Chicago police be removed from Chicago public schools and that the funding be used to support resources for children in CPS like social workers and counselors. It is disgraceful that school resources are used to police young children. Children who are in need of social services and up to date books. These resources would be more accessible if CPS would end it's 33 million dollar contract with Chicago police.

Sincerely,

██████████████████

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## Removing CPD From Our Public Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a constituent of Chicago's 26th ward. I'm messaging you today on the subject of the meeting the board of education will be holding tomorrow to discuss the Chicago police department being defunded, and removed from our public schools. I am encouraging the removal of all police involvement in schools, and begging you to please defund and distribute the enormously overfunded Chicago police budget. The public schools NEED more resources than police presence. Taxes we pay on mortgage by area to support the public schools in certain areas are extremely disproportionate. Chicago public schools should most definitely not be based this way. Systemic racism in America is STILL thriving by doing this. You have the means to redistribute wealth to the Chicago public school system, though that large police budget goes to new militarized gear for an already overfunded, and underqualified police regime. Please consider taking the police out of public schools and putting the money into the INCREDIBLY under-funded learning establishments in Chicago.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Here is a letter below typed by Chicago teachers and artists with links to look at and take into consideration.

Defund the police citywide and enact the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC).

Terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in advance of the CPS/CPD policy renewal deadline August 31, 2020.

As CPS Alumni for Abolition has noted, "In the district, almost 89% of the students are people of color, and around 36% of students are Black, who are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools...For every highly-visible example of police violence that occurs in schools, there are many others that are unreported. Last year, Chicago Police Department officers tased and dragged a 16-year-old student down the stairs. Across the country, we have seen the impact of policing in schools: students body-slammed, thrown across classrooms, and beaten."

Mayor Lightfoot said CPD's presence in public schools is minimized, but Law Professor Miranda Johnson writes in the Chicago Tribune, "When police walk the hallways of schools, the impact on children is not benign. Students who attend schools with police officers are more likely to be ticketed or referred to juvenile court for minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct or classroom disruption. They also are more

likely to be suspended or expelled from school. Regular adolescent misbehavior becomes criminalized when viewed through a police lens.”

Despite your claim of its limited presence, CPS alone currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. We stand with CPS Alumni for Abolition and #PoliceFreeSchools to demand that you terminate this contract and reallocate it to fund essential resources such as nurses, counselors, and transformative justice facilitators. These services, in addition to access to art and culture in schools, will support marginalized students by helping them to reflect upon and transform their situations, instead of continually relying upon punitive enforcement structures that disproportionately criminalize Black and Brown students.

Mayor Lightfoot ran to lead this city on a promise of dismantling structures that perpetuate racial violence in this city. You began your term by hanging the work of some of our most esteemed colleagues in your office, including Amanda Williams, Tony Fitzpatrick, Dawoud Bey, David Klamen, and Dan Devening, to show that art can lead the way.

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Vote to remove police in schools

Hello,

As a 4th grade teacher, I am writing to implore the board to vote to remove police from the Chicago public schools and end the contract with the Chicago police department.

Police do not have a place in schools, especially when they are often not held to the high standard that we want our students to strive to.

Let's keep our students safe and cared for by investing that contract money into the schools by providing more funding for after school programs, social workers, and counselors.

Thank you,



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Fund qualified therapists for safer schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a concerned Chicago resident. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Terminating CPS Contract with CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education:

I am writing to encourage the Board to vote YES on Motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2 tomorrow, to terminate CPS's contract with CPD.

I was a teacher at El Cuarto Año, the high school that President Miguel del Valle created at the Association House. It was from my students at ECA that I learned about the deeply harmful practices of CPD both in their former CPS schools and in our neighborhoods. As far back as 2008, my students unequivocally voiced their opinion that SROs and CPD do more harm than good for Chicago youth. Now, I'm a PhD candidate at UIC and am studying school pushout on a macro-level using evidence-based approaches, and CPD's presence in CPS is a major piece of the story. Its roots are in suppressing student movements of the 1960s, and it escalated during the mid-1990s as zero tolerance gained dominance. The SRO and FOP lobbyists have motivated the expansion of CPD in CPS, encouraged by decades-old white supremacist tropes of our youth as "superpredators" who need to be contained and punished. It's time to put an end to this destructive relationship.

Please, let us re-invest that \$33 million in real supports for our students' safety, including fully funded restorative justice programs and a nurse in every school.

Thank you,

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██████████  
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Police in schools.

The time has come to vote police OUT of schools. Children deserve to have school be a place where they learn without fear or intimidation. Fund social workers. Fund nurses. Fund raises for teachers, or new band instruments. Fund PE programs and art programs. But do NOT send our kids to a school where there are police. They are children, not criminals.

██████████, CPS parent

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Removing CPD from CPS: A Student Perspective

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

The fact that I am currently writing this email is beyond me, I cannot believe this is still a debate but here I am. My name is ██████████ and I've been a CPS student since I was four years old, I'm now 16 and a proud Jones College Prep student and a proud daughter of a CPS teacher.

I am well aware of how complicated your situation is in our school district, but I believe that the 33 million dollars from the CPD contract could be well spent fixing the problems that CPD is there for in the first place. For example CPS had more cops in their schools than they do school counselors, COUNSELORS. In fact they have almost DOUBLE the amount of police officers than they do counselors. Even just having the same amount of counselors that you do cops could decrease the "need" for policed schools drastically. Additionally, many credible studies have shown that the presence of cops in school is a large stressor to students (even I can attest to that) and that being said if you are forcing a stressor on your students you need to have the staff and resources to support them, you can't just create a problem like a stressor and leave your student defenseless. At present, if you do continue to fund this contract you will be telling your students that you believe having a untrained (for a school environment) armed cop in the building is more important than their mental health. THEIR MENTAL HEALTH, I don't think this situation gets any simpler. Mental health professionals such as counselors could stop the need for cops in general before the need even begins. It is up to you to tell your students that you believe their mental health is important and valuable and that can start by defunding CPD and making much better use of those funds.

I don't think there is ANY valid reason for 21,600 bullets to be brought into CPS hallways each day, when cops are working with children in a "safe place" why would there EVER be a NEED to shoot them. I would also like to know why so much money is being invested into a contract that does not true protect my classmates and I. The officers in our hallways receive little to no training specific to working in a school with children, as educators I'm sure you all understand how necessary this training is. Cops who aren't trained in child development, psychology or education and should not be placed in schools where they are supposed to protect children if they have not been given the tools to do so safely and effectively. As of now, these cops are not trained to protect your students and in turn they are a potential danger to them even if it is unintentional.

And of course the discussion of students of color, specifically Black students being targeted by the cops in CPS schools is unavoidable. The number of black students in CPS is incredibly disproportionate to the number of black CPS students who have been the subject of police notifications. At present 35.9% of CPS students are Black and yet 65.77% of police notifications (between 2011 and 2017) were against Black students. Over half of students that the police intervened with were Black but Black students make up a small percentage of the students you serve. Your Black students are unjustly targeted by the people who are there to “protect them” because of this contract, because of you. There is no denying the racial bias here, these stats speak louder than any words will. But Black students aren’t the only ones disproportionately affected. It is important to note that both Latino students and students with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the CPS cops as well. And it’s also important to note that Black and Latino students make up the majority of those served by CPS, by putting cops in CPS schools you, yes you as an educator and someone who is supposed to protect children and their education, is directly targeting the majority of your students when you put cops in their schools.

The final thing I would like to point out to you is the blatant hypocrisy of putting police in our schools. Our student code of conduct explicitly states that “School officials must not contact CPD merely to request removal of a disruptive student from the school in a non-emergency situation”, “In a non-emergency situation, administrators must make reasonable efforts to contact parents/guardians prior to contacting CPD” and that school staff do not have “the authority to decide whether a student will be arrested,” and police officers do not have “the authority to decide whether a student will receive interventions or consequences at school” and yet I know for a fact that this is not how all students in CPS are treated. Take for example Ryan’s story captured by The Youth and Police Project, research field notes fall quarter 2014:66:

“Dillion, a senior, took me next door to the in-school suspension room to meet a freshman – it’s the second week of school and the room is packed! The freshman, Ryan, came to the door at Dillion’s urging to tell me what happened. He’s very nervous and confused, and I have to ask a lot of clarifying questions. Ryan had left his new (expensive) jacket in his first period class, and when he arrived at his second period, he asked his teacher if he could run back and grab it. She said no. He decided to go anyway because he really didn’t want to lose the jacket & his ID (which he needs to enter his next class) is in the pocket anyway. By the time he gets back, the passing period ended and now the door to his classroom is locked. When he knocks on a door, a passing security guard sees him and tries

to take him to [a holding room for tardy kids], but he explains and the security guard tries to tell his teacher to let him in the class.

The security guard and the teacher argue through the glass window next to the classroom door, and the teacher calls the police. A police officer arrives and takes Ryan to 210, where the administrator who runs that room asks him what happens and tells him to wait. She tells the officer to take him back to class, so the officer walks him back and proceeds to argue with teacher through the glass. The teacher won’t let him in. The officer says “I know where I’ll put you,” and walks Ryan to [the in-school suspension room] and turns him over to the security guard who runs the room. It’s now eighth period, and Ryan has missed a whole day of school. I ask him to see his write-up paperwork and he looks at me blankly. No paperwork – will he be marked absent? Will they call his grandma? Is this suspension on his record? Five adults!”

Please explain to me how Ryan was protected by the police officer in his school and how he was protected by the CPS code of conduct because I just don’t see it and unfortunately this story is far too

common in our school district. What baffles me the most is that you haven't even asked your students what they think, while you'd send out surveys with vague questions I have never heard of any of you sitting down with students and asking them about how the cops make them feel in school. If you truly serve the students, I would think that you would go out of your way to have open discussions with them about how the police directly affect their learning. None of you are in a classroom on a daily basis where you witness this and it is heartbreaking to me that none of you have asked the students who are how they feel about it and quiet frankly I don't think it's fair that you are making this decision without those conversations.

I really do hope that this email can get you thinking about this situation with a new lens. I appreciate you taking the time to read it and I hope that you use your vote wisely tomorrow.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS!

Hello Board of Education,

CPD has no place in CPS! What we need is more support for all children and their families, particularly ones in disinvested communities. This support should take the form of mental health, social work, restoring community bonds, restorative justice, honoring black and brown cultures... We should also rid our society of institutional racism, where families are segregated, black-owned businesses are not supported, where black and brown families don't get paid as much and it's harder for them to find jobs, there is racism in our healthcare system, stop overpolicing our communities and putting black and brown people in jail. WE NEED TO DO BETTER BY OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

Spend \$33 million on the things above and we won't have as much crime!

In peace and justice,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Hello,

As an elementary school teacher in a Chicago school on the West Side, it is essential and necessary to take CPD out of CPS. Students deserve to feel safe at school and not attacked but the very people who should be protecting them. It has become clear that cops will not change. We do not want reform. We do not want more policy in place. We want them OUT of our schools so our Black and Brown students are given the same experience as their white counterparts in the suburban schools. Enough is enough and these cops have got to go!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD OUT OF CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a graduate of Jones College Prep and a resident of Chicago. I urge you to take action, seek justice that is overdue, and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department in advance of the CPS/CPD policy renewal.

Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities (data from CPS website), who are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools. Nationally, Black students are 2.3 times more likely to be referred to law enforcement or a school arrest than White students, even as evidence shows that students of color do not misbehave more than White students.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Instead, those funds could be reallocated into resources (community intervention workers, librarians, social workers, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and mental health counselors in schools) that support marginalized students by addressing root causes, rather than relying on structures of intimidation and trauma. We demand that you take steps to ensure Black, brown, and Indigenous students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and CPD—the power to add and remove officers lies with the principals and LSCs and we call on you to act accordingly and remove the police presence.

I am deeply frightened at the ways that the police have threatened Black, brown, and Indigenous students both inside and outside the classroom and I fear for future CPS students that might experience violence at the hands of officers stationed in their schools. Every student deserves a safe learning environment. Every student deserves access to college counselors, nurses, mental health counselors, and other resources that are greatly underfunded in many CPS schools. To ensure that all CPS students can get

access to the education that they deserve, we MUST reallocate funding from CPS's contract with the CPD to programs that will actually help them succeed.

Police presence in schools reflects an American problem of investing in the criminal and juvenile justice system instead of schools and students. Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who are working towards ending the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our youth and law enforcement, tensions that have surely increased as a result of the police department's treatment of protestors, and increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



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A Collection of Data and Narratives (Students from 6/22 Office Hours) - Invitation to view

Greetings,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us on Monday, June 22. We appreciate the time you took to hear what we have to say about the current situation. But because of how limited the time was, we were unable to share all of our data, personal experiences, and critical findings. I am sharing a finalized version of our notes. We put a lot of time and effort into this document, so I am hoping that you would have the opportunity to review our work and that you may find this information useful. Again, we are grateful for your commitment to our education and safety.

With respect,

CPS students

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Remove police from CPS schools

To whom it may concern,

As a former CPS teacher, mentor, coach, CPS mom, principal, and current concerned and engaged citizen, I am in full support of removing police from Chicago public schools and the CPS budget.

The funds can and should be allocated to enhance our students' learning environment, including wrap-around supports, mental, social, physical and spiritual well-being, and the additional resources to ensure a more safe, more just, and more joyful school climate.

Now is the time to truly take action and follow in the recent footsteps of other cities that are taking this justice-centered and humane approach to how we view our students, teachers, and the act of schooling, especially here in the nation's third largest school district of Chicago.

The data speaks for itself with the hard realities of the school-to-prison pipeline, lack of appropriate number of counselors and social workers and nurses for each child and each school, and the detrimental effects of criminalizing our children in THE place where they deserve to safe- their school.

This is a collective chance to act upon and dismantle a racist, classist, patriarchal system that has harmed, and continues to harm, generations of Chicago children.

Do not willingly choose to let their brilliance be dimmed by prioritizing policing within our childrens' education.

There are simply better options. Act on them.

Best,

██████████

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Terminate CPS's contract with CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am ██████████, an alumnus of Walter Payton College Prep ('13) and Edison Regional Gifted Center ('13). Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's

schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To whom it may concern,

It is time to take police officers out of schools. There is so much good that can be done to our schools with \$33 Million. Imagine all the counselors and nurses and psychologists you could pay for with \$33 million dollars. The good that that would do for the children that want a good future is enormous.

Kids deserve support, they deserve respect. Police offer neither of those things. They serve to threaten the disadvantaged in our schools. Its time to end it.

You have the power to help hundreds of thousands of children get the support and guidance they are definitely going to need. If you truly care about the education and well being of Chicago's youth, you will take the police out of schools. Or you will be hurting children across the city.

I hope you choose to help,

██████████

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Get CPD out of CPS!

To the Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a resident of Chicago. In advance of your meeting tomorrow, June 24th, I am writing to express my support that police be removed from public schools. They do not make schools safer, they only serve to continue the school to prison pipeline. They hurt and intimidate students, and schools with police officers see poorer student performance. Kids need counselors, social workers, and nurses, not cops. Please please please vote in favor of removing police from our public schools. Listen to the demands of the people.

Sincerely,

██████████

████████████████████

████████████████

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CPD out of CPS comment for vote tomorrow

Hello,

I am an artist and educator at the Museum of Contemporary Chicago who works with CPS students. I am writing to voice my support for CPS divesting from their contract with the Chicago Police Department. The exorbitant amount of money that is spent to keep police in schools could instead be used for books and materials, supplies and technology for classrooms, therapists and counselors, transformative justice programs, after school programs, anti racist trainings for teachers, and fixing the crumbling infrastructure of many Chicago Public Schools.

Cops do not keep students in CPS safe. In fact, they endanger the lives of these students and create an environment of fear and control. Police traumatize and harm students and could easily be replaced with restorative justice workers, trained conflict mediators, and therapists and healers. Students seek to learn in an environment where they are safe to be themselves and can be loved and accepted as who they are. The majority of CPS students are Black and Brown and the police exist as a daily reminder that it is not safe to be who they are and that their lives and needs are not valued.

Defunding the police and removing them from our schools provides CPS with a tremendous opportunity to re-imagine what listening to the voices of our young people and truly prioritizing their safety could look like. Our students and young people are speaking loud and clear and we must listen to them. We do not need to pretend that this is normal that there are people with guns roaming the hallways where our children learn. It is deplorable, heartbreaking and horrifying. This is a chance to create a future where we can all thrive.

I reiterate my support for the demands of youth organizers: 1) CPS to break their contract with CPD and remove all police from Chicago Public Schools. 2) For CPS to give no additional funding to CPD 3) To defund the Chicago Police Department entirely 4) to fund mental health clinics and after school centers for students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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(no subject)

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a college student in the Richmond area who volunteers with kids in schools in lower income areas and have done extensive research on the subject. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward

Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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URGENT: Proposal to end contract with CPD

Good evening;

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a recent graduate from the Chicago Public School system. I graduated from Walter Payton College Prep in 2017. Before entering a selective enrollment high school in the Gold Coast neighborhood, I attended an under-resourced elementary/middle school closer to home. I have witnessed, and lived, the inequitable distribution, or lack thereof, of resources in the Chicago Public Schools system. It is disheartening that 30 million+ dollars of Chicago's education budget is allocated to a contract with the Chicago Police Department, given that many schools struggle to fund adequate educational resources, and many teachers even purchase tissue paper and sanitizing wipes out of their own pockets.

It is also important to consider how the presence of police in schools helps to sustain the School-to-Prison pipeline among Black and Brown students, which upholds the systemic racism at the core of this country. Police in schools continue to criminalize our city's most vulnerable students. Imagine if 30 million dollars could be used instead to bring more nurses, counselors, after school programs, art programs, etc. to all public schools in Chicago, not just those in wealthy neighborhoods who receive outside donations. Students from ALL Chicago neighborhoods deserve restorative justice through such mental and physical health and wellness resources that our schools are currently lacking.

I am calling for the Board of Education to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Please terminate the CPS-CPD contract, and reallocate those funds to Chicago's most under-resourced schools such as those on the South and West sides of Chicago. This is the time to reimagine schooling and provide adequate, equitable resources that schools desperately need in order to give all students the opportunities to excel from a public education.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Concerned community member

I am writing to demand that CPS gets CPD out of our schools immediately by ending the contract which spends \$33 million dollars on police when we could instead be helping out students with transportation, counseling, extra curricular activities and so much more. It's such a shame that our city is failing Black and Brown youth by refusing to invest in their futures. I do urge you to vote in favor of ending the contract with CPD and show us that you stand with the people. We demand a better world for our kids and this is step number one. No student should ever be faced with a police officer when they step into a place that is meant for learning, nurture, and growth.

I hope you make the right decision tomorrow. The whole city will be watching.

[REDACTED]  
Humboldt park resident

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Fwd: End The School To Prison Pipeline!

Board of Education,

As a current resident of Chicago, living in Humboldt Park - Ward 1, I urge you to take action and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. These funds could instead go towards ensuring students and staff can safely return in the Fall amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds could also be allocated into resources such as social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatize them.

We demand you all take the steps to ensure black and brown students feel safe in their schooling environment, in part by recognizing and mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. This is an important step to end the school to prison pipeline. Do not criminalize black and brown students!

Follow the lead of your counterparts at the Minneapolis Board of Education, who are working towards ending the school district's contract with the Minneapolis Police Department. Doing so will reduce tensions that exist between our minority youth and law enforcement. It has been shown that the CPD does not promote de-escalation, but rather violence on its citizens.

Please leverage your power and voice within CPS and with the CPD- and call for the removal of armed officers in our schools. Increase the resources our city and students will need in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic by reallocating funds away from the CPD and towards health resources for students.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD Contract Vote- Thoughts from a Taft Academic Center Teacher

Hi Mr. Sotelo,

I had the pleasure of being [REDACTED]. I hope Ino and your whole family are doing well. I'm sure you are busy and have a very full email inbox, but I felt the need to share my thoughts before you vote on the CPD contract with CPS tomorrow at the Chicago Board of Education meeting. I'm not sure you will see this email, but I will send it along anyways!

As a CPS teacher for 10 years, I honestly have had very little interaction with the police officers in our buildings at Taft. We now have 4 officers across our 2 campuses. At the same time, we have 2 (maybe 2.5?) social workers total for our 3,600 students. For the most part, our officers at TFA seem fine, but they mostly hang out in their office on the 3rd floor and get paid more than I do to teach 5 sections of classes. So here's my main point: no matter anyone's personal opinions about the officers themselves, it's clear that the 33 million spent on the CPD contract could be put to better use in our schools. We have much more pressing needs; our students need access to better support systems from individuals who are trained to do that work.

I am also worried about the Board of Ed deciding to shy away from this issue and leaving the decision in the hands of the LSCs. This is problematic for several reasons, but mostly because the LSCs have no power over the 33 million dollar contract with CPD. So, the LSCs would be given a false "choice" between no additional resources for their school or keeping their SROs. Schools should be given the opportunity to

use that money for positions like restorative justice coordinators, social workers, and counselors. Otherwise, how can you say that the LSCs really have a choice at all?

There's plenty of data to support removing police from our schools and I'm sure many others have already shared this information (if not, I can send plenty along!). But mainly, there's very clear data that shows that students of color and students with disabilities are adversely affected by having police officers in our buildings. Chicago students have been organizing around these concerns for years and I hope that their voices are heard by those in power.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I hope we cross paths again someday. Please tell [REDACTED] that I say hello!

Best,

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What's Worth \$33 Million Dollars?

To the Chicago Board of Education:

Hi, I'd like you to support removing police from Chicago School systems. I am [REDACTED], I live in ward 32. I am asking you to terminate the \$33 million contract with CPD and redistribute those funds to have a greater positive impact on students, teachers, and staff.

14,000-20,000 police officers work in schools nationwide (according to NPR), starting mainly after Columbine. Since then, their presence not only doesn't make school safer, their presence actively add hostility to the learning environment, especially to those students of low-income, Black, and Hispanic students. There is a direct inverse correlation between police funding and those vulnerable student's likelihood of going to college, let alone graduating high school.

We could be making such a bigger impact in these student's (and teachers and staff) lives by introducing qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to aid in the deescalation that police aren't trained to handle. Or more free lunches. Or additional funding for COVID prevention. Or technology access.

The \$33 million dollars could be infinitely more impactful, especially to those 70 schools that it was once thought a good idea to try staffing police at. Divvied up, that would be \$471,000 per school. I can't help but think that impact would be far greater than that of continuing to work with, and employing, the Chicago Police Department.

Thank you for your time, and thank you to members Elizabeth Todd-Breland and Amy Rome for already leading this effort.

all the best,

██████████

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CPD Decision Tomorrow

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello and thank you for your time.

I am a Chicago resident, writing to you regarding the school board vote on the Chicago Police Department in Chicago Public Schools. Thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure. I urge you to vote against the presence of CPD in our school system. We are funneling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

We are spending \$33 Million dollars for police who are not properly trained to work with kids but teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and nurses (many of which still have not been provided). End the School to Prison Pipeline. It starts with you. Please vote accordingly to begin the work of defunding the police and supporting Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

██████████████████

Chicago Resident

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(no subject)

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [insert information here, including if you are CPS alum]. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black

and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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COPS OUT CPS

Hello,

The big vote is tomorrow. Do not let your city, your kids, and the future of Chicago down. Be on the right side of history with this. Vote to terminate the contract between CPS and CPD. Defund the police in schools and reinvest in restorative justice programs. And maybe hire back the numerous layoffs CPS did to teachers this year.

With frustration and love for our kids,


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CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I can only hope that this is one of many such emails you have received over the past days and weeks, but regardless, I feel an obligation to add my voice to the chorus. By now, the shape of the argument against police in schools is probably clear: firstly, there is little to no evidence that police presence in schools makes them safer, but rather is a significant waste of money with little real effect. Secondly, police presence in schools is actively harmful to students, particularly low-income Black and Hispanic students who already occupy a vulnerable place in the education system. Exposure to police officers on a consistent daily basis is often a source of trauma, fear, stress, and anxiety, which have the combined effect of reducing student performance and fostering a disconnect between student and school. Thirdly and finally, for those who worry about violence in schools, the solution cannot be to bring in individuals with access to state-sanctioned violence as a preventative measure. Rather, a focus on addressing students' needs in such a way as to preempt any problems and bringing in people with the tools to help deescalate any situations that do arise would ultimately be much more productive. To put it simply, in CPS as in the US more broadly, we need to accept that the solution to violence is not retributive legal violence, and that in fact that sort of approach does nothing but promoting a cycle of violence in the long run.

This is not a complicated demand, but I recognize that its simplicity belies what will I'm sure be a complicated execution. That being said, though, it's clear that the current system isn't doing CPS students any favors. I urge you then to commit to removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools, and to start work on

a plan to fill the void they leave behind with something that will genuinely help your students. Listen to the community. I won't pretend to have solutions, but I know there are thousands of people with ideas for how you can make this right, and none of them can work if you don't get rid of CPD.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

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#### End CPS contract w/CPD

I'm writing in support of ending the CPS contract with the CPD. In 20 years of teaching sexual health education across the country and most recently in Chicago, I have never needed police back up. What I have needed is more support for my students. What I have needed is smaller class sizes, more school based health centers, more support staff, more school counselors, more science labs and art classes and playgrounds. It's time to invest in our students and families, instead of reproducing cycles of violence and trauma.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all our students, families and communities.

With gratitude,

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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#### CPS and CPD

Dear Board Members,

Hello! I am reaching out to encourage you to end ties with the Chicago Police Department. There doesn't have to be a police officer in a school for it to be and feel safe. Placing emphasis on other roles like counseling, social workers, etc. can protect schools and make them feel much safer than having an officer on campus. Your decision about whether or not you maintain a relationship with the CPD speaks volumes and sets a precedent for other school districts to follow. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,



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Removal of Police from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems.

Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police are used to silence and attack disabled students. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and demean students from Black and Brown communities, students who may behavior needs due to various reasons. There is empirical data that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and

anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



Sped Parent

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Please remove SROs from our schools

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am reaching out as a parent asking you to please remove SROs from CPS schools and to reallocate the \$33 million spent on on them toward support services such as restorative justice practitioners, counselors, nurses, increased access to supplies/technology and other unfunded essential support services that our school communities need and deserve.

Please interrupt the school to prison pipeline that is funneling so many of our students, particularly students of color, into the criminal justice system and reallocate these funds to supporting our students safety and positive development.

The students in our schools are asking for our support in creating environments where they will learn and thrive (not be criminalized). Please listen to them tomorrow and vote to remove SROs from CPS schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

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Please Terminate CPD's contract in Chicago Public Schools

Hello,

I'm a resident of the 47th ward writing with regards to your vote tomorrow. Please vote to protect the children of CPS by removing the police in their schools. Racist policing has a history of promoting the school-to-prison pipeline, not to mention traumatizing Black and Brown students. The vital resources CPS currently uses on CPD's contract could be better used in promoting learning, and providing in school counselors and nurses. The students themselves have said that they do not feel safer in a school with police officers patrolling.

I care very much about Chicago's kids, and I know you do too. Please protect them by voting to end CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department tomorrow.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Police Free Public Schools

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident and teacher. I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the renewal of the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

I myself am a product of CPS. I have also taught in Chicago Public Schools. What the students need is support from social workers, counselors, and nurses. Police presence in schools is harmful and in no way aligns with best practices in education.

Children do not need police officers in schools. They need people to love and care for them, not people who perform acts of violence in the name of intervention.

- [REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

hello,

I'm reaching out tonight to voice a personal opinion that I believe that CPD has no business being in any Chicago Public School.

This is psychologically damaging because it harms students safety while in a learning environment.

I encourage CPS to consider re-distributing the funds that would typically go into the CPD budget. Re-distributing the funds to mental health workers, de-escalation professionals, food programs and more.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPS/ No to CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], a resident of Chicago in the 40th Ward ([REDACTED]). I'm writing in FAVOR of voting to remove CPD from Public Schools in order to make schools safer for Black students and all students of color.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Regarding the CPS contract with CPD

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today as a resident of Chicago for the past ten years. I have come to wholeheartedly embrace Chicago as my home, and I find it to be unparalleled in its vibrancy and sense of community. However, I believe that Chicago's true potential remains unfulfilled-- we are a city plagued by the crushing effects of poverty and segregation, and just because my experience of Chicago has been full of opportunities and mobility, it is not the case for everyone.

The events of the past several weeks have shone a spotlight on the need to divert money that is currently funneled senselessly into bolstering police programs. Our current system of over-policing is not working-- we have the second largest police department in the nation, and yet our communities are struggling to survive. The effects of structural racism within the police force and training that promotes violence and an "us-versus-them" mindset are exactly what we want to see purged out of schools.

Chicago's school-aged children deserve to have access to educational materials, counseling services, and resources targeted specifically towards supporting BIPOC-- not increased police presence. The location where a child resides or the income of their parents should not be a determining factor in how well-funded their school is-- these sorts of systems perpetuate poverty and create a city where only those with privilege have access to opportunities.

We are so much better than that, and the community is demanding a change. Please cancel your \$33 million contract with CPD and fund the workers and programs that make Chicago schools great: librarians, social workers, counselors, nurses, art classes, teaching materials, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,



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Support for Ending the Contract with the Chicago Police Department

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a concerned community member of Hyde Park and live in the vicinity of Kenwood Academy High School. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell Teens and Children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods.

There is evidence that police contribute little to a positive school experience. "While the number of officers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999... there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding [School Resource Officers] (SROs) actually results in safer schools," reveals Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer." "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for," says Schindler.

Academic articles, such as "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" by Emily K. Weisburst observe the opposite effect. "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college," writes Weisburst (20). Perhaps most starkly, this study points out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns as well as other weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, according to NPR, A SRO was on duty at the Parkland, Florida school during the shooting it suffered. However, as the Broward Sheriff revealed, the officer remained outside at the time of the shooting. This "defensive" response met with criticism and became part of the debate whether resource officers offer any sort of defence against these atrocious acts (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD Out of CPS

Dear CPS Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a Chicago resident. I believe that Chicago Police Officers have no place inside of Chicago Public Schools. I urge the Chicago Board of Education to terminate CPS's \$33 million contract with CPD and reallocate the money to fund resources such as school nurses, counselors, and librarians. Funding these resources would reap greater long-term benefits in marginalized communities than funding school resource officers.

Furthermore, I would like to ask what message you would like to send to children in CPS schools. When you allow the same officers who are currently using excessive force against them into their schools, it is clear that your own agenda is more of a priority than their safety and wellbeing. Countless students and teachers are showing their lack of support for the CPD. The Minneapolis Public Schools recently cut ties with the Minneapolis Police Department, and I believe that it would be a wise decision for CPS to do the same.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


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Police Presence in CPS

Hello,

I am the mother of a CPS student who will be entering into one of the city high schools soon. I am writing to ask that you vote to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove Resource Officers from all CPS schools.

The more that I look into the issue of police in schools, the more I am disturbed by the alarming statistics and absolute lack of transparency or oversight on the part of CPS. One article stated that a FOIA request revealed more than 8,000 alleged incidents involving a CPD officer and students in two years (2013-2015). The fact that children have been killed and beaten by Resource Officers is absolutely reprehensible. The fact that principals and parents have no control over which officers are stationed in schools and, seemingly, no way to intervene in or monitor officer interactions with students fosters situations in which abuse can fester and flourish.

As much as the physical harm from having police officers stationed at schools is cause for concern, so is the psychological harm. Studies show that Black, Latinx, and special needs children are more often the targets of officer aggression than other children. To think that children don't pick up on this fact, to think that they can learn and perform to the best of their ability while constantly under constant threat is, quite honestly, ludicrous. To think that if the School Board decides to do nothing, that students returning to school in the fall won't see the officers in their schools as the same people on the news and social media spraying protesters with tear gas, firing rubber bullets, or beating people is wishful thinking at best. Leaving officers in schools will inflict anxiety on students, degrade their trust in the institution, and provoke more conflicts.

It is my sincere hope that you will do what is best for all our students and end this failed experiment by voting to terminate the CPS contract with the police department and instead allocate the money towards solutions proven to work like social workers, nurses, Safe Passage, and after school programs.

Thank you,



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Comment for 6/24: Police Out of CPS

Police Out of Chicago Public Schools

To CPS BOE members,

I write to demand the end to the presence of Chicago police officers, or law enforcement officers of any kind, in Chicago Public Schools. Children should not be policed at school. Schools must be an entirely safe space for learning, caring and support of Chicago's children and youth.

The CPS contract with CPD is Fiscally Irresponsible

Schools are struggling to pay necessary teacher and staff salaries. At my children's school, we are combining a classroom and scraping funds together to pay a part-time teacher position. Our school is one of several that has a structurally-unsound temporary annex that has long since expired. We have been told that there are not enough funds to replace or repair these structures at schools. Next year, schools will be coping with the COVID-19 health pandemic and have an even more dire need for nurses and social workers to keep our children healthy and help them cope. How can CPS take \$33M from our school to give to the police department that receives 40% of our City's budget?

Police action is disproportionately enforced against Black children

Police and staff in schools take action against Black students far more frequently than against non-Black students. "Although Black children comprised approximately 40% of the CPS student population that school year, over 60% of CPS's law enforcement referrals and school-related arrests were of Black

children.” This disparity is true nation-wide: Black students are arrested or referred to law enforcement at double the rate of their enrollment, according to the latest Civil Rights Data Collection by the U.S. Department of Education. Thus, the over-policing of already under-resourced communities is continued in the over-policing of students in under-resourced schools.

Police officers in schools is harmful for all children

Being arrested is traumatic; being held in a detention room is traumatic; being handcuffed is traumatic; being subjected to physical force is traumatic; being accused of a crime is traumatic. At the City’s Police Accountability Task Force youth panels, “the stories shared by local youth were overwhelmingly negative and painted a dark view of police-youth interactions.”

Police officers in school criminalizes youth

Having police officers in schools escalates discipline or safety matters to criminal matters. The presence of police in school criminalizes common adolescent behavior issues.

Police officers in school take resources from our students

CPS is paying CPD \$33 million a year to install police officers in our school. The average salary for a CPS social worker is \$80,212. Average salaries for a CPS school counselor and psychologist are \$81,682 and \$86,583, respectively. The removal of police from schools would allow for the funding of the equivalent number of these crucial trained and educated support personnel. To keep our students safe, CPS can continue to employ school security staff (who are paid an average salary of \$36,685) without criminalizing our youth. CPS resources must be used to care for and support students. CPS funds must not be taken from our schools and children to fund CPD.

Your Community is Demanding #policefreeschools

At Goethe Elementary, the school my children attend, we do not have police officers in our school. But I write this letter for over-policed schools, in over-policed communities. I write this letter to support and protect Black students, students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ students, immigrant students and other vulnerable students that have been disproportionately policed, and otherwise mistreated or abused in schools. I write this letter in solidarity with the numerous other organizations and individuals demanding and campaigning for the removal of police from schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No more CPD in schools

Hi,

I hope this message finds you safe and well during this time!

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a former high school special education teacher in Chicago. After having taught for five years, I am writing with the sincere hope that you will remove school resource officers from CPS.

During my entire time teaching I have never felt more safe because of the SRO and I have never felt less safe without the SRO. I can confidently say all of my students feel the same way or they feel less safe with the SRO. If an emergency happens, we can call CPD like any other citizens can, but we do not need them there daily.

I am concerned that there is support for these people with stun guns, batons, and tasers in our school hallways. The money could be MUCH better spent staffing schools with counselors and other important staff who could prevent the concerns in the first place. Promoting the school to prison pipeline by involving officers in issues that could be handled by school staff is inappropriate, dangerous, and racist. Research repeatedly shows little to no evidence that the presence of officers makes schools safer; on the contrary, dramatic evidence shows that it increases the likelihood Black and Brown children become involved in the legal system early, often, and unnecessarily. Our students would be MUCH better served if CPD was not stationed in CPS. Please, as a responsible leader, you must cut ties between CPS and CPD for the safety of our students.

Please support the proposal to terminate the agreement between CPS and CPD and use the \$33 million you save to consider alternative restorative justice programs for school safety.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

Chicago Special Education Teacher

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Wednesday's Vote

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED], and as a former educator and lifelong Chicago resident, I am emailing you today to ask that you vote in favor of the proposal to remove Chicago Police Department officers from all Chicago Public Schools.

As a former educator of young people, I care very deeply about eliminating the negative effects that SRO's have on their learning environment. I believe students will be better served by the Chicago Public School system if those funds currently used to fund CPD officers were reallocated toward services like counselors and nurses. The \$33 million allocated to CPD in the CPS budget can also be redistributed so all CPS students have access to the same standards of technology no matter their zip code.

I urge you to vote to terminate CPS' contract with CPD for the safety and well-being of our students.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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40th Ward: vote on removing CPD from schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago resident in the 40th ward and an alumni of Proviso West High School in Hillside, IL. A high school with metal detectors and police onsite not unlike CPS. Never once did these things make school feel any safer. Never once did I see these police officers break up a fight or deescalate a student. My English teachers did that. My gym teachers did that. My French teacher and Dean did that. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. I did see these officers harassing students over being tardy. Over perceived dress code violations. Over “refusing” to go thru the metal detector though, as my friend has explained every day of his HS experience, he had a pacemaker and was not able to.

For example, in NPR’s “Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer,” “There’s no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country’s schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. “In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.””

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, FL. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

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END THE \$33 MILLION CONTRACT WITH CPD NOW!

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a resident of Chicago in the 1st ward. I am a neighbor of Chase Elementary. I have friends who's children go to Burr. I am not from Chicago but I am a child of public schools. One day I might have children of my own in Chicago Public Schools. Because of everything mentioned, and because I am a believer in safe, equitable, anti-racist schooling for All, I am writing to you today to vote in favor of the proposal to end CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department.

It is in my experience that police, especially in a school setting, serve As nothing more than terror and stress for students, specifically and especially for Black and brown children. They do not address the root issues of problems that may lead a child to commit petty crimes, if any at all are committed. I am young myself, only 10 years removed from the last time I was in public school. I know of all the endless problems that my peers and I faced, not one of them was made better by the presence of police. CPD

gets an absolutely mind boggling FOUR MILLION DOLLARS A DAY to operate in our city and costs schools nearly ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY to have CPD on campuses. That amount of money is unconscionable to me and it should be to you, too. It is insane to suggest that that amount of money can be spent every single day and somehow that is ineffective, and the answer is to pour more money and resources into police in schools. Obviously throwing money at police does not work, and its time to seriously invest in children instead of putting a target on their back. I am begging you, vote in favor of the proposal to end CPS' contract with CPD. Instead we should divert that \$33 million dollars into arts programming, counseling services, mental health services for youth, job programs, music programs, better pay for our educators, more staffing, MORE SCHOOLS! These are not pie-in-the-sky ideas. These are children we are talking about. To deny them the tools that will allow them to flourish is criminal. Feeding them to the school-to-prison pipeline is criminal. Please, end the contract NOW! You do not want to be on the wrong side of history!

Signed,

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## NO COPS IN SCHOOLS

Hello Board of Education,

Thank you for voting on June 24th to end the contract with CPD. You have the opportunity to make history and move towards making whole communities safe and whole. I fully support divesting from policing and investing in life giving institutions that grow students and support families. I understand there will be a plan with multiple phases of transition, putting the necessary resources and crisis response system in place so cops and surveillance are able to be removed. You have a moral responsibility to take on this work, value community in the process, and prioritize Black voices. Chicago must join Minneapolis, Denver, Milwaukee, among others and take the first step to divest from policing. This decision is life or death for many Black, especially disabled and queer Black students.

Thank you,

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## CPD in CPS

To the Board of Education,

A couple weeks ago I graduated from Walter Payton College Prep. While I attended that school, I was privileged to have access to a number of resources that are denied to many neighborhood schools – from abundant counseling to well-funded extracurricular programs. Many students across Chicago lack these resources for no fault of their own. Instead of counselors they encounter armed officers. Instead of investing in programming that could break the school to prison pipeline cycle, the board allows a harmful contract with the CPD to meddle with our city's children.

But that can change now! I urge you as a CPS student and person who cares deeply about my city and peers: please vote YES to ending CPS' contract with the Chicago police department.

Best,

██████████

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POLICE FREE SCHOOLS NOW

Hello,

I strongly urge the Chicago Board of Education (CBOE) to vote in favor of 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2, removing police from Chicago Public Schools. We need to find ways to holistically support our students, not further criminalize them through the presence of law enforcement.

It is a civil rights crisis that young people are viewed as potential threats rather than as students. Black and Brown communities—including immigrant and refugee communities—are already heavily policed. Moreover, Black students in Chicago are four times more likely to be targeted by police officers than their white peers. Our students deserve support and nurturing, not suspicion and surveillance.

I rise with our KINETIC Youth Leaders in support of police-free schools. The \$33 million dollars spent on policing should be invested in resources that benefit and uplift ALL of our students.

Thank you.

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hi there,

My name is ██████████, and I am a former Cps student who graduated from Lincoln Park Highschool in 2015. Prior to that, I attended Alcott school and Agassiz school. I have personally witnessed police officers come into schools with the intent to "punish" students or make sure they were following rules. This always created a hostile environment and never offered the support to the students who needed it most. CPD officers were just authoritative figures that instilled fear and escalated situations; even small ones such as students listening to music in between periods. That is not ok. If your intent in educating is to support and uplift students, then why are these officers present? Why is the focus not put on programs that help kids find their passions and give them creative outlets? Or perhaps providing tutors or adequate counselors to students who seem to have a hard time? What place does a police officer have in education? What you are teaching kids is to be scared, you are not helping them become stronger,

smarter versions of themselves, you are putting them in a system that they may not be able to break free from, one that will only cause harm to everyone in our community. I urge you to cut ties with CPD and instead placing your focus on making a real difference in a child's life. They need to know they matter, no matter the color of their skin or socio economic background, everyone has a right to an education that will lead them to bright future, perhaps even one day causing them to change the world for the better. Don't you want success and happiness for your students?

Thanks,

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Demand to remove CPD!

To whom it may concern,

Hello! It is pertinent that CPS cut ties with the CPD to ensure the safety in our schools. Although this sounds counterintuitive, these diverted funds can go into funding mental health, after school, educational, nutritional and social work services to students in need.

Thank you for your consideration. Your support is needed.

From,

██████████████████

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Re: Whether to terminate the police contract

Hello, My name is ████████. I am a resident of Albany Park and I am writing in regard to the motion to defund the Chicago police contract with CPS

The goal of our school system is to provide an equitable, healthy and safe community for our children to learn and grow in. In contrast, the American police system is based on a principle of surveillance and punishment. I think it's important to dismantle the idea that police in the US are "public stewards" meant to protect communities. Based on statistics and evidence, that is wholly untrue.

There is no need to resolve this quote "divide between the police and communities of color". When the very existence of the police institution is systematically designed at discriminating against people of color.

Individual resource officers may be great people and may have done a lot for your school. It's difficult, but you have to disentangle them from what they represent and who they work for. With the \$33 million, you will access funds to promote resources which can have the same impact on our student's lives, without supporting an institution that is fundamentally broken and rife with misconduct, abuse, violence, and disregard of human dignity and Black life.

I strongly urge you to terminate the police contract.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Schools

Good Evening,

I am writing to plead that tomorrow you vote to remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools. I worked as a special education teacher and school case manager for ten years in CPS and not only did I never feel that the police in our schools made the students any safer, but they escalated minor issues constantly, often turning a school discipline behavior into a conflict with police. This was also happening more often with students who had identified emotional, behavioral, and/or mental disabilities.

The CPD does not support the safety of our children and do not enrich their academic experience. Instead it creates an atmosphere of fear and punishment where students should be learning to grow. Do not let this continue for our youth in Chicago.

Thank you,

██████████

██████████████████

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Remove CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am ██████████, a CPS alumni. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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Removal of CPD from CPS

Good afternoon,

I write to you today in support of removing the presence of CPD officers from CPS. Throughout my research regarding urban education, I've analyzed crime, education, and racial disparities specifically in the city of Chicago, and I would like to remind our officials of the school-to-prison pipeline. Increased police presence only introduces young individuals to crime at an earlier age and can make them feel like criminals. Research demonstrates the destruction that this has on the development of youth and that it makes them more likely to actually engage in criminal acts. I have seen the effects of this personally. Different resources would be more beneficial toward strengthening our schools and improving the lives of our students, such as allocating more money to nurses, social workers, librarians, etc. rather than the CPD. I believe in making the right decisions for our schools in order to ensure that our students grow up to be good, well-intentioned people, but this is only possible if the correct resources are put into place to help support them throughout their youth. Thank you for your time.

██████████

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Remove CPD from CPS!

To whom it may concern at the Board of Education,

As an educator of high school students, I am writing to urge you to VOTE TODAY TO REMOVE ALL POLICE FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

It is essential for the future of Black and Brown young people and for the future of our city and communities that you do this.

It is of utmost importance that we care for the safety -- physical, emotional, and mental -- of our young people. Funding and other resources (trainings, etc.) currently allocated to all kinds of police stationed in schools should be redirected to hire, train, and support social workers, therapists, crisis counselors, people trained in conflict de-escalation tactics, etc.

The exercising of surveillance, control, physical power or force, isolation, intimidation, fear and/or punishment tactics -- in short, the tactics utilized by CPD -- have no place in Chicago Public Schools. These tactics curb young people's emotional growth, focus, capacity for judgment, sense of self and sense of safety, and serve to further traumatize our young people.

Cops also do not stop school shootings, but do serve to sustain and grow the school-to-prison pipeline. The school-to-prison pipeline is racist and inhumane.

Terminate the CPS - CPD contract.

Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.

With concern,

██████████

Hyde Park, Chicago

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Action Required Remove Police From Public Schools

Hello Members of the CPS Board of Education.

I am writing you this morning asking you to make the decision today to end the relationship with CPD and CPS and redirect the \$33M contract to instead invest in establishing disability programs and education advancement opportunities for the youth that attend. This money could provide so much more to the well being and safety of the schools youth than what police presence does. Our schools should be places where our children have the opportunity to grow and learn, not to be threatened and hurt physically and psychologically by aggressive presence that police create. Police in schools add to the existing school-to-prison pipeline that cause early arrests that put children on the paths they cannot escape. This is especially true for those children with disabilities, which police are not trained to respond to or respect. This obviously puts these at risk kids in danger of being brutalized by police. Attached and linked are articles and studies that explain these detrimental effects policing in schools has caused. Please review and consider before making your decision. Your choices affect the citizens that are the next generation of working adults within our city. Please do not keep putting their bodies, their minds, and futures in harm's way.

Thank you.

Best,

████████████████████

<https://psmag.com/education/after-parkland-schools-upped-police-presence-has-it-made-students-safer>

<https://advancementproject.org/wecametolearn/>

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No more CPD in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I live in Ravenswood. This Wednesday, I demand that you listen to the people in the streets and vote to remove CPD Officers from Chicago Public Schools.

As a former substitute teacher, I have seen the fear that students experience when police officers are in their schools. Schools should be a safe and welcoming environment; time and again (especially in recent weeks) CPD has proven to be a violent and racist institution.

Police do not protect our students; they actively harm them (especially our Black and Brown students). Police presence makes children feel like criminals and only reinforces a school to prison pipeline.

Follow the example of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Listen to the people, and do it for the young people of Chicago. Vote to remove CPD Officers from CPS.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Please no Cops in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], I was born and raised in Evanston and I currently work as a foster care case worker in cook county with Jewish Children and Family Services. I'm writing to you because I was made aware that there will be a meeting to discuss police presence in public schools tomorrow. I have serious concerns about any continued presence of police officers in our schools and I would like to explain why. I work with a very vulnerable population—mostly black, low income families. Many of the children that we work with in our program also struggle with symptoms of trauma and mental health diagnoses. While the Black youth that I work with are already higher at risk for arrest/police encounters, those who have dark skin and suffer from any sort of mental illness are exponentially more so.

Recently, I read the story of Elijah McLain, a young man who was killed in Colorado while walking home after reports that he was "flailing his arms." Police did not keep this young man safe. This young man needed a safe escort home, or to just be left alone, but instead he was choked by police officers to his

death. I have witnessed children being in holds and restraints as a part of my work and I am disturbed every time. It is time for us to address underlying problems and stop using, threatening, or even allowing the presence of force in our schools. Furthermore, police can be traumatizing to children who have had prior police involvement in crises in their lives, for instance I think of a young man that I work with was injured at a young age by gunshot in addition to having a history of police presence in his home due to his biological father's gang involvement. Presence of police or guns in school act as a trigger for this young man's trauma, rather than protection.

There is a great deal more I have to say on this topic but I want my message to actually be read so I will end with this: schools need more nurses, counselors, and special education teaches among others. Our children are precious and we need to invest in THEM. Please do not spend another dime of our cities budget on keeping police in schools when schools so desperately need so much more.

Thank you for your time,

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Attaching a powerful statistic I saw today about youth with disabilities in schools. We need a provide more services to these children, not more law enforcement.

Thank you,

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(no subject)

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But

there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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## NO POLICE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████████ and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL. I am writing to you as a member of the Chicagoland community who is concerned about the history of police brutality, racism, the school to prison pipeline, and the role of police in the modern world. I urge you to vote in favor of removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools. It is paramount that the next generation of citizens can go to school and gain the vital education that they need in the world today in an environment that is warm, welcoming, and safe for ALL people. Thank you for doing what is right.

Respectfully,

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### Community, Not Cops

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I am a rising sophomore at Northwestern University. I have lived in Illinois my entire life and have family who have been part of the Chicago public school system and Evanston public school system, both as students and teachers. It is my understanding that the Board of Education will be discussing whether to cut ties with Chicago PD.

I urge you to dissolve your contract with CPD. The police have proven to be an institution which punishes, locks up, and violates community members, which is extremely detrimental to communities like those my family members are part of. We can and must do better for our families and communities, and that starts with taking cops out of schools. We can build a world where children feel safe to learn and grow at school, so that they become adults who love and care for others. The cops are a punitive institution that target Black and Brown communities at higher rates, which perpetuates racism in both covert and overtly violent ways. Taking the step to remove them from schools is the first step to building an education system that includes and protects Black and Brown students.

Thank you for your time,



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Removal of CPD from public schools

To whom it may concern at the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for your consideration of the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a teaching artist and an administrator at a nonprofit called Girls Rock! Chicago which serves hundreds of local students.

Police in schools are known to harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They bully and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to systemic injustices that affect their homes, health, and neighborhoods. Evidence shows that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

"Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" finds that "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study demonstrates that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's

educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

A majority of cases of in-school violence require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health. Teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings, the circumstances and reasons of such shootings are multifaceted and complex - however, reduced access to guns/weapons and reformed mental health practices would more reliably reduce school shootings. Police often fail to minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools as soon as possible, and to replace them with qualified counselors, restorative justice facilitators, and developmental experts representing students’ own communities and whom will help them succeed. This will especially make a difference for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, and other marginalized groups. This would be just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Sincerely,



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Remove CPD from CPS please

Hello,

I’m aware that you’re voting on whether or not to keep CPD in schools. I just want to voice my concern on this situation.. I’ll keep it short. I am a CPS alum (I went to Walter Payton college prep). Payton was lucky to not have too many cops in school. Police presence can be triggering and dangerous for many students of color. I do not think that there should be cops in schools before there are sufficient librarians, social workers, and nurses. Please, I beg you, vote to remove CPD from CPS to ensure the safety of students. I know you may think that’s twisted - “the cops do ensure the safety” you might say - but based on information I’ve received from my BIPOC friends as well as evidence from surfaced videos like the murder of Tamir Rice, police officers cannot be trusted to ensure the safety of innocent children. I would also like to add that even if a child does misbehave in school, they should not be arrested, they should be given the resources to improve themselves through counseling.

Thank you for your time. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS and help end the school to prison pipeline.

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End the Contract with CPD!!

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am a recent graduate of Whitney Young. In my time there, I've seen the privilege that comes with attending a school of such high status. Before Whitney Young, I attended a primarily Black elementary school where tensions were high and not properly addressed, especially following school closures in our immediate area. While I see the potential benefits of having police in our schools, such as stronger safety measures in response to emergency situations, I see a larger danger. Black students are and have always been policed more than their White counterparts. This process is actually cyclical as Black students who are frequently reprimanded by the police within their school building begin to internalize that they are bad and deserve to be punished as such. Instead, I firmly believe that this \$33 million could be put toward having more support staff that can get to the root of certain behaviors as opposed to condemning the student.

In light of recent events, I urge you all to consider your parts in this matter and how a lack of support in school automatically rids deserving students of many opportunities. The issues that we, as a society, are facing are systemic and they start in the schooling systems we have in place. We don't need more cops. We need more resources.

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Remove the Police in CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████. I live in the 26th ward. I am writing to ask you to remove the police from Chicago Public Schools. Children should not be criminalized in their learning environment. The school to prison pipeline needs to be stopped.

<https://southsideweekly.com/where-the-pipeline-begins-history-police-chicago-public-schools-cps/>

Instead of putting money towards police in schools, the money should be allocated for books, supplies, teacher's pay, nurses, and guidance counselors. Children do not need to be policed in schools.

I look forward to hearing back from you and what justification, if any, there is for continuing this harmful public practice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD and CPS

To whom it may concern,

I am a alum of CPS, from Agassiz elementary, Taft academic center, and Lincoln Park High School, '09. In every school, I have seen police arrest students, nearly all of them Black and Latino. A few things I will never forget: at Lincoln Park, we had a security guard for a substitute teacher, who took issue with a Black student not sitting in his assigned seat. Within minutes, the police came in and arrested the student. Another time there were rumors in our high school that the police had broken a students arm during an interrogation. I myself was interrogated by the police at age 13 without the consent or communication with my parents, and if it hadn't been for a savvy school counselor, I may have unwittingly put myself in a worse situation. Needless to say, the experience was traumatizing.

I feel very grateful for the education and experience of growing up in Chicago Public Schools, and am a proud alum, but if I could change one thing, it would be to end the contract with the CPD in our schools. Too many students have become numb to the strong arm of the law, which for many Black and Latino students, has pressed down on them from a very young age. Our students need us to believe in them, and to reallocate the resources spent on the police for more school counselors, text books, career services, and art programs. It is so important that the issue of policing in CPS is finally being addressed by concrete action by the Board of Education. I hope our schools will cancel their contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Although I am not from Chicago proper originally, I have the experience of growing up in a police free school in the suburbs that instead was well staffed with counsolers and other internal benefits in lieu of police at my schools. There is a history in Chicago and in other cities of police on campus being used to

silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy, and can cause traumas that if unaddressed, can cause a great deal of mental damage to these young people.

There are academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

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For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD Out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], Andrew Carnegie Alumnus c/o 2010 & Kenwood Academy Alumnus c/o 2014. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

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This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Oppose Police in Schools to Stop School to Prison Pipeline

To: CPS

From: OPPOSITION TO POLICE IN SCHOOLS

My name is [REDACTED]. I taught high school for many years after I practiced law defending indigent youth in the court system. The lack of education of the defendants was a common and disturbing evidence of the disparities in who commits crime, gets arrested, and gets convicted.

It is through real love and firm discipline provided in an environment that says students matter not just today when they fill a seat that keeps youth in school..

Setting young people on the course of college breaks the cycle of poverty, court involvement and host of other negative outcomes.

83% of colleges ask about suspension in high school. Black males are 10% of college Freshman classes and 38% prison population.

Since the One House Schoolhouse, Black people recognized the important of Education. Yet, the City of Chicago, with a bloody homicide rate, declining residency because people are scared and deserting the city of my birth, must actually ponder whether this harmful relationship should exist.

Are we here together watching George Floyd beg for his mother with our hearts closed? Because clearly our bodies work. Our eyes are wide open. Or glued shut by the fact that we lost our will to see the real world.

I want to end by not simply asking that CPS finally take all measures to remove police from our children's school, but to remind you that all eyes are watching.

Starting with the Lord. We wont be moved on this issue. If CPS does not see the problem, then they will be voted on next to leave the Black community.

Thank you very much. No police in schools. Born here in Chicago, I demand to be heard.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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resolution regarding CPS's contract with CPD - end it please

Hello Chicago Board of Education members: I encourage you to vote to sever Chicago Public School's contract with the Chicago Public Department.

I've mentored CPS kids in Humboldt Park and in Bridgeport. These kids need basic reading and math literacy, and school resources to overcome the effect of years of under-funded, overcrowded public schools. How will police presence help them gain reading and math literacy? How will police presence help them overcome systemic racism that affects where they live and how much \$\$ their schools receive? How will police presence help address what Bruce Baker, an education professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, who studies school finance systems, called 'one of the most inequitable funding systems in the country?' "I think Illinois is as big an outlier as it is, in part because the city of Chicago is such a large district with such concentrated poverty and has been poorly funded for decades now, and it's a very expensive problem to fix. (1). " ' How do you justify an investment in police presence in the face of that kind of resource-scarcity?

You don't. That \$33 million is sorely needed & much better spent on school nurses, librarians and counselors.

Most critically: Chicago schools should not be a place where children learn that conflict is resolved through the use of intimidating and overwhelming force. They need to be a place where children see other role models elevated - mentors who model empathy, compassion and de-escalation. None of these are the hallmark of CPD, who exist to sway behavior through the intimation of imminent violence. I have no doubt that some police placed in schools, or indeed on Chicago streets, are decent people. But the existence of decent actors in a deeply biased, unjust system doesn't justify the system itself or justify its use in public schools.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot, in a recent interview in the NYT: "What I've learned is that the cultural dysfunction in the Police Department is so deep that it's going to take enormous effort to disrupt it." (2)

You, the Board, have a chance to disrupt that system immediately, in service to our city's kids. Do the right thing.

I call for CPS to disinvest in CPD, and divert funds into resources we know uplift children.

Thank you.



Chicago Illinois

1 <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/10/1/20894476/illinois-money-matters-how-school-funding-inequities-affect-students-taxpayers>

2 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/22/magazine/lori-lightfoot-chicago-police.html>

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

- Talmud

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Defund CPD in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing as a Chicago resident. First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. There is ample evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience: they funnel resources away from school programs focused on mental health, they don't contribute to school safety (even in cases of active shooters), and are more likely to reduce students' educational aspirations. The police are enforcing a white supremacist, racist, and violent ideology every day on the streets, as we've seen with the murders of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey, Elijah McClain, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Philando Castille, Laquan McDonald, and so many countless other Black people murdered at the hands of police. These same police are enforcing that same white supremacist, racist, and violent ideology against low income students, Black and Latinx students, and students with disabilities when they are in schools. I demand that you remove police from CPS and re-allocate the \$33 million currently budgeted for police in CPS toward funding positions for therapists, psychologists, developmental experts, nurses, and educators who promote success, not punishment.

If you need further evidence that police in schools do not contribute to a positive school experience, look first to accounts from CPS students telling how police in their schools harass students over minor infractions like dress code while behaving aggressively towards minors. A combined total of 2,354 misconduct complaints have been filed against the 180 SROs and 21 School Liaison Supervisors working throughout CPS.

Think, then, about how "police contact can...erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma, and anxiety" (American Sociological Review, "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth"). The very presence of police in schools is a mirror of the racial violence police represent in students' home neighborhoods, and "[police funding has] the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (Weisburst, "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes," 29), much like marginalized communities are most impacted by the lethal violence demonstrated by police forces across the country.

This is not the way to invest resources in Black, Latinx, and low-income students. The funding that goes toward keeping police in schools is actively increasing their trauma, anxiety, and fear while reducing their likelihood of succeeding academically. The presence of police in schools "[creates] an adversarial school culture and [alters] the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20). By keeping police in schools, you are saying that you care more about traumatizing marginalized students than about providing them the support they need not only to achieve their educational goals, but be healthy in body and mind.

Beyond the individual student, there is also no evidence to show that police in schools make them safer. As NPR points out in "Do Police Officers in School Really Make Them Safer," the number of officers in schools started to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999, culminating in the 14,000-20,000 officers who are now stationed in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Quoted in the article, Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute, summarizes that "there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools...In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." For those of you concerned with in-school violence, consider that the majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health that police are fundamentally not equipped to provide like social workers, school, psychologists, nurses, and teachers can. Police training is militarized and aggressive, tactics that have no place around children, particularly when teachers are often called in to handle situations where police are unwilling to help de-escalate. The \$33 million currently funding police in Chicago's schools could fund 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, and 322 nurses, positions explicitly dedicated to supporting students' well-being, not disciplining them in the name of an imagined safety from any aggressor other than the police themselves.

I demand that you remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts who are especially qualified to help our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, our disabled students, and our low-income students succeed. Removing police from schools is the bare minimum acknowledgment that you care about Chicago students' well-being, that you believe their lives matter, and that you are committed to overseeing a school system that is a space for learning, growth, and achievement, and not for racism, punishment, and violence.

Thank you,



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CPD in schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am the mom of two CPS students come fall. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer," "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters.

In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2

Dear Chicago School Board members,

I am writing on behalf of my son, who will be starting kindergarten in a CPS school in the Fall, to express my support for Motions 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2. The practice of stationing police officers in schools is clearly the product of a time when politicians wanted to appear to be "tough on crime". At the very least, you must be aware that this kind of political thinking is no longer acceptable. I say this not to suggest that there was a time when police should have been in schools but to point out that it is no longer acceptable politically to use any variation of being "tough on crime" to justify placing armed police officers who are not specifically trained to deal with children into our schools. Therefore, you must vote to terminate the contract for having police in schools.

As citizens of Chicago who are obviously interested in doing what is best for Chicago children, you must be able to imagine the many ways that the funds used to pay for the School Resource Officers Program could be used to address the types of support and services that CPS students so desperately need and that would also ensure the students' safety. Motion 20-0624-MO2 gives you the opportunity and the responsibility to do so. Therefore, you must also vote to approve Motion 20-0624-MO2.

I trust that you will do the right thing for the children of Chicago.

Thank you,

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Cops Out of CPS

Good morning,

I'm a resident of Chicago and I encourage you to seriously consider cancelling your contract with CPD. We're looking to you to be the leaders of change in Chicago right now as Lori Lightfoot is not taking any steps to dismantle systematic racism in Chicago.

Black and brown children in our schools are disproportionately harmed by the police presence in CPS. They are also the student with less access to school counselors, supplies, and smaller class sizes. This money could be put towards breaking the school to prison pipeline.

The people of Chicago are looking to you to create change. Please take this seriously and cancel the contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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SRO Statement

Attached is a joint statement from RYH and CUE about why this is a Civil Rights issue and not a local control matter.

Best

[REDACTED]

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CPD in CPS

Hi Im [REDACTED]

Im a Parent Leader in my Englewood community and school.

I'm Local School Council [REDACTED]

Iam AGAINST CPD in our schools.

For many obvious reasons.

One, they are Trained to confront CRIMINALS, NOT our High School children.

Two, I witnessed an officer trying to talk to a girl at Harper High School.

Luckily I overheard the conversation and immediately intervened..

My daughter will be a freshman at Englewood Stem

If this is Passed to keep CPD

They need to walk the halls during classroom exchanges

And be visible when children are exiting school.

NOT sitting by the front door.

IAM AGAINST CPD in CPS

Concerned Father.

[REDACTED]

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[URGENT] Get CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police in CPS schools, I am a former teacher of Sullivan High School.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving aggressively towards minors who had no power over them or threatened them in anyway, the police are the antagonizers.

Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. I have seen restorative justice practices such as umoja be far more effective, students need a place to voice their concerns and learn from the mistakes, and not be treated as if they are threat or a criminal.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." Police have no legal obligation to keep people safe and frequently don't, look at what happened in the case of the officer at Park Land high school.

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact,

"The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. As well implement restorative justice programs and culturally competent mental health professionals in all CPS schools. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Removing CPD from CPS

To whom it may concern,

My name is █ and I am member of the greater Chicagoland community. I understand that today the CPS board of education is going to be voting on whether to remove CPD from schools or not. I am here to urge you to remove police presence from our schools. Doing so would allow for funds to be reallocated to services such as counseling (something many CPS schools are in desperate need of) and other extracurricular activities that would greatly benefit the students of the Chicago Public School District. We do not need police in our schools, we need counselors, nurses, better pay for our teachers and all of this is possible if we remove CPD. Please I urge you to make the right decision today, for these children's future.

Thank you,

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Remove police from CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am a former CPS teacher and instructional coach, a CPS parent, and now work for a national education nonprofit. I am writing to implore you to remove police from Chicago public schools and the CPS budget.

If this needs to happen in phases, so be it, but the shift must begin. The \$33 million dollars can and should be allocated to enhance our students' learning environment, including wrap-around supports, trauma-informed care, and additional resources to ensure a more safe and positive school climate. I am pleased to see that Restorative Practices are being adopted in many schools; please continue to build out this work rather than contribute to the pipeline to prison. If certain School Resource Officers want to be mentors to school children, invest in training those qualified SROs or prospective SROs to be trained mentors, using the proven tenets of Restorative Justice.

Now is the time to follow in the recent footsteps of other cities that are taking this justice-centered and humane approach to schooling, here in the nation's third largest school district of Chicago. Given the trauma caused by 50 school closings and the history of systemic racism and classism in our city, it is even more important that we join this movement on the right side of history.

The data speaks for itself with the hard realities of incarceration, lack of appropriate number of counselors and social workers and nurses for each child and each school, and the detrimental effects of criminalizing our children in their space of learning, a space that should feel safe and affirming.

This is a turning point to dismantle a racist, classist, patriarchal system that has harmed, and continues to harm, generations of Chicago children. Do not willingly choose to limit their potential by prioritizing policing in their education.

Sincerely,



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Remove CPS from CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Today you all have the opportunity to change the lives of Black, Indigenous, and other students of color for the better by voting to end the contract between the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Public Schools.

As a concerned citizen of this country, I have been working to stay informed about what is currently happening in cities across our country, particularly how police and law enforcement officers are interacting with other citizens, especially those belonging to the Black community and other communities of color. What I have seen has eroded what little trust I had in police and law enforcement officers to keep our cities and communities safe, and therefore I am writing to you today to express my support to end the \$33M police contract with Chicago Public Schools. When police and law enforcement officers fail to act in ways that actually serve and protect our citizens and our communities in the streets, when instead police and law enforcement officers escalate and instigate violence against our communities during peaceful protests, it is clear that those same officers will fail to keep our students safe in their schools, and will instead serve as agents of the school-to-prison pipeline. Our students should not have to fear for their safety when they go to school, nor should they be ticketed and face punitive measures for minor violations that are typical of young people, such as skipping class. The \$33M should instead be spent on what our students need: proper staffing levels of support resources, in the form of guidance counselors, social workers, and other emotional and mental health support positions. Police and law enforcement officers cannot, and have proven that they do not, provide the support students need and it is time to change that by ending the contracts between the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Public Schools system. Policing students does not equal safe schools, as cops do not stop school shootings; I believe we can create safe schools in Chicago, but that starts with listening to our students' expressions of their needs and fears, especially the students of color who are disproportionately arrested by police and law enforcement officers in their schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Please vote to remove CPD from CPS

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education -

I am a parent of two CPS students. I strongly support the proposal to remove police officers from Chicago schools. Many schools do not have nurses, do not have social workers, do not have adequate social and emotional support. I believe we should defund police in schools and increase spending for emotional support services.

Police in schools do not make schools safer.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Vote yes on ending police in cps

Please vote to end contract with CPD.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Schools Contract with Chicago Police Department

Dear Board Members:

Miguel del Valle

Sendhil Revuluri

Luisiana Melendez

Amy Rome

Lucino Sotelo

Elizabeth Todd-Breland

Dwayne Truss

I urge all of you to cancel the contract for Chicago Police Department personnel in Chicago Public Schools. As an educator and community member the \$33 million currently being spent to criminalize youth could be used for adequate social services like librarians, counselors, nurses, social workers and restorative justice.

Only in Chicago would it be considered normal to have a police presence stationed in front of a school on a daily basis, complete with the vehicles that symbolize an occupation. Reading in the press about a young woman dragged by her hair by a CPD employee should have been enough to end the police contract. Our children and young people deserve so much better.

Thank you,

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Take the CPD out of CPS!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is ██████ and I am writing to urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists and developmental experts to help students succeed - especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform.

Police in schools have been known to harass students, behave aggressively, and attack disabled and mentally unwell students. None of this is appropriate or healthy, leading to an unsafe environment for these children. CHILDREN. Police do not contribute to a positive school experience and do not make schools any safer.

By now I am sure you are well-educated on the various studies and findings supporting why police do not belong in schools. Below are just a few examples:

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and

anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

Thank you for your time,

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No Police in CPS!

Hello BOE,

My name is ██████████ and I am a former educator at two CPS schools: DRW College Prep and North Lawndale College Prep. Yesterday I attended a peaceful and beautifully organized protest that was led by a group of young Black women in high school. I heard them describe how unsafe they feel with SROs and CPD in their schools. I heard them share stories of pain, fear, hurt, anger, and injustice. I heard them ask for nurses, libraries, social workers, smaller class sizes. All of the things they want will make them safer than an officer in their school ever could. I've been marching against police brutalities and for the removal of CPD from schools since I was their age, and I only hope that when they become my age this is a distant memory. That they can celebrate that their communities finally have access to the same resources most suburban schools have- the resources that actually make a difference in someone's life. It's time to end this partnership, listen to the people, and invest in something better.

Thank you,

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Support for severing CPS/CPD contract

Dear Chicago BOE, I am a Chicago resident & registered voter, writing to express my support for the severance of your contract with the CPD. The presence of police in schools harms students' education and welfare. I encourage you to reinvest the money on counselors, nurses, and other non-disciplinary support staff.

All the best,

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Comment regarding CPS contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is ██████████ and I am a resident of Logan Square. I am writing to urge the Chicago Board of Education to vote to end the contract with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

I am a social worker and my partner is a teacher. I strongly believe that when you treat children like criminals, they internalize this treatment. We need the schools in our city to be places where students can heal, grow, and learn through restorative justice (rather than punitive criminal treatment) when they have caused harm. It is heartbreaking to see how the CPD in CPS is disproportionately directed to students of color and contributes to a school-to-prison pipeline. CPS should reinvest the money that has previously been spent on police presence to increase supportive services for students (social workers, counselors, nurses, more teachers).

Please vote to end the contract with CPD.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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CPD Contract

Good Morning,

I write to you to urge you to vote to end the CPS contract with CPD, ultimately removing cops from our schools. Having spent several years working in a public school on this city's West Side, I can assure you that what our students need is an increase in mental health services, not components of the carceral state in their schools. Studies show that regardless of how often a student interacts with their SRO, the presence of police officers, metal detectors, and cameras in school buildings creates adverse mental health effects for students and ultimately makes them feel less safe. Many of our communities, specifically our communities of color on the South and West sides have high rates of trauma, and need an increase in school social workers, counselors, and nurses. The budget used for school officers could easily be repurposed to meet this need.

When you vote today, I urge you to consider not just what I, and many fellow educators are asking, but more importantly that you remember the request being made by CPS students themselves; if our young people are advocating for counselors over cops, we need to honor that. I hope you make the right decision today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please do not renew CPS - CPD contract.

Hello,

We are dear friends of Chicago residents, a beautiful young family who deserves to raise their son in a safe and supportive environment focused on providing the best public school education to him and his classmates. For that reason we strongly oppose renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools. Police intervention in schools is counterintuitive and creates an unhealthy lifelong rivalry rather than a healthy and protective relationship between residents and their police force. A call to the police should be reserved only for situations that truly call for it. Please reallocate these funds to better support Chicago's children... Chicago's future.

Show compassion not force.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello, I am writing in regards to your vote to remove CPD from CPS. As a parent within the CPS system, I would much rather see those funds go towards the teachers, students, and educational programs that need support. Let's educate our young minds to prevent the need for police intervention.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Today's Decision, Police in Schools

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the Edgewater neighborhood in Chicago. I'm writing you this morning, as I understand that you'll be voting on a decision to either retain or remove members of the Chicago Police Department in Chicago Public Schools.

I understand that to some, the idea of having police in the form of School Resource Officers might increase a feeling of safety or security in dealing with difficult or disruptive students. What I urge you to consider, however, is the impact that the presence of these officers has on CPS students.

I was lucky enough to grow up somewhere where our schools were fully funded, appropriately staffed, and students had the resources that they needed to succeed academically and in extracurricular activities. That's not to say that kids weren't disruptive or that no one ever acted out in class. It happened, but we didn't have police or SROs to intervene in these scenarios.

What we did have were teachers who understood their students and how to talk to them and de-escalate a situation. When a young person is acting out and they're met with yelling and physical force, there's a

very small likelihood that their interaction with authority will go over positively. So my question to you is why should we continue spending money on punitive services masquerading as real conflict resolution?

Students deserve access to mental health counselors and resources because the behaviors that cause these students to act out at school are not isolated behaviors that happen in a vacuum. If a student can't focus in class because they didn't get a good night's rest, do they deserve to be ridiculed in front of their class? No, they deserve to have someone to talk to about why they weren't able to come to school ready to learn and participate. What about a student who acts out violently by yelling and knocking over their desk? Does that student deserve to be tackled to the floor and beaten by full-grown adults? Do they deserve further punishment for causing an issue in the first place? The answer is no. Students are children. They're still learning how to handle their own emotions and resolve conflicts with their peers and superiors. We have to consider what lessons we're teaching the youth of this city when they're aggressively punished for their decisions.

Kids are going to make mistakes, they're going to act out, and they're not going to understand their emotions better than anyone else if they aren't given the opportunity to better themselves. This requires a lot of work and a lot of patience and attention, but these are things that we can afford to give our students if we choose to disinvest in contracts that allow the presence of police in our schools.

Young people can act out for a variety of reasons, but to punish them for that behavior instead of seeking to understand its cause is nowhere near fair. If we want kids to go to school to learn and feel uplifted in realizing their potential, we need to treat them with the patience and respect that they deserve. We can do this most effectively when funding for schools goes into classroom supplies, arts education, mental health education, comprehensive sex education, and guidance counselors who can actually meet the needs of their students.

I urge you to give Chicago's youth a chance. I urge you to hear their voices when they tell you that they don't want police in their schools, and I urge you to hear the rest of the voices agreeing with them. We need to do better in supporting these young people. They are the future of this city and this country, and we only set them up for failure by keeping them in this cycle of crime and punishment. Stop vilifying the youth and try listening, try seeking to understand, try getting police out of Chicago Public Schools.

I'm hopeful that you'll stand on the right side of history and give Chicago's students the opportunities that they deserve.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPS and CPD

Hi there,

I hope you're having a lovely morning.

I'm here to advocate for ending the CPD contract with CPS! The money for that contract could go directly to the schools and directly help students. You know that the officers disproportionately target Black students and students of color. Help the students and help fund the schools and truly keep them safe by getting CPD out of there. Thank you!

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

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Mayoral Education Transition Team Statement

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

As co-chairs of the Mayor's Transition Team on Education, we came together last year with a team of education systems leaders to collectively write a vision for equity and transformation in our education systems. Today, one of the messages in our report is matched by the calls coming from young people, stated on page 50 of the Transition Report: "transform discipline in all school types and replace police presence with restorative justice, socio-emotional learning, and transition supports."

As such, we submit the attached letter reiterating the call originally published in our transition report at the Mayor's Inauguration last year, with individuals and organizations who have signed on since this letter was shared on Monday, June 22nd.

We hope your decisions today uplift the visioning effort captured in our Mayoral Transition Team Reports and the calls by young people most impacted by this issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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I vote for Cops Out.

To Whom It May Concern:

First, now is the time to stand for what is right at this monumental moment in history, which is shining a light (or camera) on the realities of policing in the US in black and brown communities, and of course, it is Black and Latinx communities that make up the majority of Chicago Public Schools' population, 35.9% and 46.6% respectively.

Secondly, wrap around services are what have proven to benefit economically disadvantaged students, which is 76.4% of the CPS population. I know it is not as simple as a chant, but less money for police, potentially equals more money for books, nurses, librarians, supplies, or counselors. CPS lays off 700 teachers and staff, but we have an uphill battle to get rid of police in the schools? For comparison, CPS spends 8.6 million on counselors, but \$33 million on the CPD contract,

Lastly, by voting to end the contract, the nature of a relationship between individual Chicago Public Schools and the police department will have been determined. There would be no potential repercussions to schools of withholding funds for staffing if an LSC were brave enough to end the relationship themselves between the police and the school's community. LSC's for all their good intentions, actually fall short of real power to make change, and a possible loss of funds in an already underfunded school setting, naturally leans the balance in favor of maintaining the status quo.

I stand with #copsoutofCPS and #policefreeschools and I hope you will too,

[REDACTED]

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CPD and Chicago schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Edgewater.

I understand that there will be a vote today amongst the Chicago Board of Education on whether or not to remove the CPD from schools. I urge you to vote in favor of removing the police from all public schools. There is more than enough evidence to show that there is no benefit to police presence in schools, and that such a presence also disproportionately harms Black and brown students. It also exacerbates the massive problem that is the school-to-prison pipeline.

Children should not be watched like hawks and treated like adults. They should be given a safe, supportive environment to learn and grow. Keeping the police in schools is directly opposed to that objective, and continuing to have them in schools is immoral.

Good day,

[REDACTED]

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No Cops in Schools

As a soon to be CPS parent, I'm writing in full support of removing CPD from CPS. This is necessary for the safety and flourishing of all students within CPS.

[REDACTED]

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Terminate the contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education,

I've sat before some of you in the past and I've worked with the BOE and CPS for over 8 years as an actively engaged LSC member for Waters Elementary school.

I am writing to support your motion to terminate the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department and instead come up with alternatives to the existing school resource officer program. CPD

has failed too many of our Black and Indigenous People of Color students (BIPOC). We need to use that money in ways that can offer genuine social and emotional resources, guidance, and mentorship by staff who do not wear a CPD uniform.

At our school, which does not have an SRO, we are still coming to grips with subtle but persistent forms of racism and humiliation of BIPOC students. There is significant anti-racism work for all COS schools to undertake And oftentimes more serious offenses in schools that reinforce a school-to-prison pipeline through the disproportionate suspension and discipline of BIPOC students. This work will require exceptional resources (training and staffing) and using the \$33 million for appropriate, non-CPD resources throughout the system will go much further to resolving these issues. I say this with a heavy heart because I know many individual officers in CPD who are trustworthy and upstanding, but now is not the time to be putting resources towards CPD SROs in our schools.

Thank you for taking action on this significant issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD Does Not Belong in Public Schools

Good morning,

I'm a college student from the Chicago area. I attended public schools; my friends attended public schools; my younger brother and sister attend public schools. We appreciate and benefit from all your hard work, and our education would not be the same without you.

That's why I feel I HAVE to reach out to let you know how we feel about CPD in CPS: police officers don't belong in public schools. We can find a better solution, a better safety net, a better conflict resolution strategy than this.

Vote to remove CPD in public schools today. You'll be listening-- actually listening --to the voice of millions of students in the Chicago area. You'll be serving those people who matter most for Chicago's future: our children.

All my best, and with all my hope,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

As a resident of Chicago, I urge you to vote today to terminate the Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department. Please -- no more CPD in CPS! Research overwhelmingly shows that police in schools harm Black & Brown kids as well as students with disabilities. In CPS, police incidents have targeted Black students at 4 times the rate of white students. Having police in school criminalizes children, places an enormous financial burden on cash-strapped institutions, and results in gross misconduct. The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. Those funds should be allocated for other resources -- librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools -- who actually support and benefit marginalized communities in the city rather than traumatizing them.

Minneapolis Public Schools has terminated its contract with the MPD. Seattle Public Schools suspended their partnership with SPD. I demand that the Board votes to cut ties with the CPD. Student activists and community organizers in Chicago have been calling for this change for years. Let's support them and see this through. Police do not belong in our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from our schools

Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposal to remove Chicago police from our public schools. Please use those funds instead to invest in supporting the health and wellbeing of students, such as school nurses, counselors, and other resources that help students learn and grow, not punishment.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Comments for Today's BOE Meeting, June 24, 2020

Hello,

I am strongly in favor of motions 20-06240-MO1 and 20-06240-MO2 that support the end of CPS's \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department and seek to find alternative solutions that create safe and supportive school environments.

Please include my comments in the record for today's meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from our schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Please vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from the Chicago Public School system. So many students fear our police and we as a city will not heal until this department, that continues to terrorize our youth, is divorced from our education system. Taking the SROs weapons away is not enough, they need to get out of our schools. Thank you for your time and looking forward to seeing the outcome of your voting.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please Terminate Contract with CPD

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended CPS schools for all thirteen years of my education. The presence of police officers in schools was confusing as a child, and now that I look back at my time in CPS, I realize that they were symbols of violence for my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling them that if they act out in school, they may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD.

The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

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(no subject)

Hello Board Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a CPS alumni. I attended Chicago's public schools K-12 grade and I graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in 2018.

I'm writing today to ask you to cancel your contract with the Chicago Police Department. The 33 million dollar funding for it would be better spent on already active resources such as social workers, nurses, counselors, school psychologists, and additional classroom teachers.

My high school not only had a multitude of security guards and police officers in the building, but it was also located directly next to the city's police academy. Police presence is constant at my former high school. This concerns me as I know many of the minority students at my school witness and personally experience trauma and brutality at the hands of the CPD.

I can also say that their presence was a burden on myself as a student. My school had only one social worker and one psychologist despite its 2000+ student population. I couldn't see either of these staff members when I was having a personal crisis in my senior year because they were too busy dealing with other students. The police officers in my school, however, almost never had anything to do. The only time I ever saw them enacting enforcement was when they were arresting students AT SCHOOL for possession of drugs.

Please explain to me how arresting children for not violent crimes in the place where they are supposed to be safest is good for their futures? Please explain to me how that situation could not be better handled by a school social worker or counselor? How is this preventing the school to prison pipeline?

And if you're going to make the argument that we need police presence in schools to protect against school shooters, then I would ask you why those threats can't be left to school security guards (who, by the way, actually go through training to be working in a child-centered environment, as they should).

Having an armed officer at my school, ready to shoot anything they personally deemed to be a threat didn't make me feel safer as a child, ever. I would, however, have felt much safer at school if there was a qualified staff member ready to help me during personal crisis. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

It is time for change.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Public Comment: End CPS Contract with Chicago Police Department

Hello -

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Lincoln Park in Chicago. I am writing this today to submit a public comment to today's meeting of the Chicago Board of Education. My public comment is that, I would like the board to vote to END the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) contract with the Chicago Police Department.

As a Chicago resident, I am well aware of Chicago's poor track record with public schooling in certain areas. Having police in school contributes to those problems. School police presence is shown to be incredibly harmful to children, especially Black students and other students of color. Ending the Chicago Police presence in schools - and replacing it with more counselors, teaching support staff, and other student support roles - would be much more effective at addressing the difficulties students face and vastly improve the learning environment.

Please do the right thing - for students, teachers, and the broader Chicago community - and END the contract!

Thank you for your time,

██████████

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CPD Vote

To the Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering removing the police presence from Chicago's public schools today. I am a Chicago resident living in Hyde Park, and I strongly urge you to terminate CPS's relationship with the CPD. I am convinced that the CPD's presence in our schools is neither safe nor healthy for the children and teenagers in our city, and I want to urge you to consider reallocating those resources elsewhere. CPS's schools suffer from a dearth of counselors, nurses, and librarians—all valuable resources for children and youth for positive development. We do not need police officers in our schools; the threat of violence and punishment do not help our youth, especially our youth who are at higher risk. We need other resources in our schools instead: therapists, psychologists, child development experts, staff who have been trained in de-escalation, who care about the safety and well-being of the youth with whose care they have been charged. CPD's presence in our schools is not working. I strongly encourage you to try something new instead.

Thank you,

████████████████████

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Contract

To the board,

My name is ██████████, I'm a licensed clinical social worker and Certified Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor in Chicago. I'm

Emailing regarding your vote to reevaluate your contract with CPS and CPD. I urge members to consider the benefits of ending that contract.

Through my work with Lurie Children's Hospital, I was able to be a part of a task force that re-evaluated policies around alcohol and other drug use on CPS campuses. Chicago has identified teen drug use as

one of the top threats to young people health — when trying to set up a student assistance program rather than just sending students home who were either under the influence or expelled for possession (often times to homes with no supervision where their use of substance could potentially continue) I was SHOCKED of the lack of resources available to schools to address this health issue. No school nurses, social workers, psychologist, psychiatrist available in communities that needed it the most — but plenty of police officers to disproportionately arrest Black and Brown students.

In order to end the disparities in Black and Brown communities we need to invest in social services that have been limited due to funding for far too long. This starts with ending your contract with CPD and a need assessment for each community to determine what to do with those funds.

You are a group of individuals who have committed to serving on the board of CPS — I hope you listen to the community and the voices of Black and Brown individuals who do not benefit from the over policing of their neighborhoods and schools. Do the right thing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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No cops in schools

Hi there,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am studying Social Policy, Environmental Planning, and Sustainable Energy at Northwestern University. I am emailing you today to demand that CPS does not continue to allow Chicago police in its public schools. The police insight fear in black and brown students, and the school to prison pipeline is absolutely horrific. I am disgusted with how long this has gone on.

Take care,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Ending Contract with CPD

Good Morning,

I'm writing in favor of ending the contract between CPS and CPD. I don't believe that police have a place in our schools and their presence is harmful to both students and teachers. I have two young children in CPS schools (Lowel and Pulaski) and hope that they can grow up in an environment that fosters education and community over fear.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

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**TERMINATE CPD RELATIONSHIP TODAY!**

Good morning Miguel, Sendhil, Amy, Dwayne, Elizabeth, Luisiana, Katie, Lucino, and all other Board members,

Today is an important day. You all have the power to protect our Black students by terminating the Chicago Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools' relationship with the Chicago Police Department.

There is no place for police in the education system, and I demand you follow the lead of Minneapolis and St. Paul and immediately cut ties with the Chicago Police Department. I recommend the funds be used for required anti-racism trainings for all CPS employees, more psychologists in schools, and other solutions the community has identified.

If you do not terminate the Board's relationship with the Chicago Police Department, you are not listening.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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remove police from schools

Dear board members,

I am a mom of two young children and a resident of Chicago. I am horrified by the behavior of police in our schools and ask that you vote to remove them and discontinue the SRO program today. Police do not promote a positive learning environment and research has shown that they have no benefits in terms of safety either:

<https://www.clccrul.org/blog/2020/6/23/research-sros>

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Schools Should Be Safe

To the Board and Its Members,

I'm sure you've been presented with much of the literature and evidence detailing all of the reasons that police should not be present in schools. I don't know whether you'll listen to it or not but I'm writing to implore you to take the time to seriously consider it.

As a parent of a young child who will almost certainly be attending Chicago Public Schools I wholeheartedly stand in solidarity with the Chicago Teacher's Union and other's demands to remove police from schools and to cancel all contracts with the CPD.

Ultimately, if your goal is to create a safe environment that can facilitate and foster the development of our city's children (as it should be!) then it is absolutely imperative that police be removed from schools and that the resources currently being allocated in that direction be redirected to more productive services such as libraries/librarians, nurses, social workers/services, etc.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

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Get the CPD out of CPS

There are so many other things gas like nurses and social workers that could be provided fit if the police did not eat up it's budget. I know some schools will want security guards . I believe they can hire them and train them better than the Chicago police

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPD

Please listen to the voices of Chicagoans and remove the Chicago Police Department from our Schools. They have not made our schools safe, they have put our children into harm's way and criminalized children to the detriment of their lives and our city. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS. Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Keep CPD out of CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am a long time Chicago resident and a parent of a CPS student. The Chicago Police Department officers have no place to be in Chicago Public Schools. It has been proven that stationing police officers in public schools increases race-based interactions with police officers which have long term negative effects on students who are already marginalized by systemic racism within the public school system and within Chicago. School must be a safe place where children can grow, be healthy and safe, and realized their best futures. Keep the CPD out of CPS.

Stay healthy and safe, and thank you for keeping Chicago's students health and safe!

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

To whom it may concern:

As a graduate of CPS (Burley Elementary, 2003-2012, Jones College Prep, 2012-2016), I am asking that the Board of Ed terminates the contract between CPD and CPS. We need to dismantle systems of

oppression that inhumanely and disproportionately affect Black students and low income students in CPS.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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CPD contract - cut ties

Hi,

Please terminate the millions of dollar contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

Police officers have no place in schools especially when they behave violently with students. Please be an example for the rest of the nation and ahead of the curve instead of following it maybe later on.

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove police from CPS

CPS Board of Education:

Please vote to remove police officers from Chicago Public Schools. These students need more counselors, more professionals trained in de-escalation, more resources in general, but not more cops. Research shows that police officers do not increase safety in schools; in fact, their presence can be harmful for students, particularly Black and Brown children. We all want safer schools for Chicago children, and the current system is not working. Please choose to fund programming that will provide real opportunities for students to thrive.

[REDACTED]

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Eliminating CPD in schools

Dear CPS Representative:

I am writing to encourage you to eliminate CPD in schools and use your Social Workers and Psychologists more to help students solve conflicts and to deal with the trauma many of them have endured. If criminal behavior occurs you can call CPD, but they tend to escalate situations and are sometimes more aggressive than warranted- especially with students of color. This is a good time to make these changes to show the community we care about justice in policing. They just don't belong in the schools.

Thank you for listening.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am requesting the Board of Education (BoE) to remove and resolve any contracts with the Chicago Police Department and any school resource officers (SROs). Our education system in Chicago is already underfunded and the money used to put police in our schools can be used in a more effective manner. Illinois as a whole has a ratio of 555 students to 1 student counselor (or social worker) and according to the School Social Work Association of America, the ratios should be 250:1. In just Chicago, the ratio is 865:1.

There has been no evidence that having police in our schools improves school safety. In fact, police presence can lead to a poorer school climate and greater criminalization of our students. The ACLU released a report how the lack of mental health staff is harming students. Please see the attachment.

I hope the BoE listens to this request and takes the actions to ensure that we are taking the correct and best actions to provide our students the best possible education, mentoring, and guidance we can provide.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chicago Resident

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CPD contract

Hello,

I am writing in support of terminating CPS' contract with CPD at the Board of Education meeting today.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police from Our Schools

To whom it may concern,

I'm a resident of Chicago and I would like to urge the board to terminate the contract with CPD. The money that is allocated for these officers could better serve our students elsewhere, with mental and physical healthcare, before/after school programs, technology, and other classroom resources.

Furthermore, the presence of police in schools can escalate normal behavioral issues that students have to a legal level that is unnecessary and damaging to these students lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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GET COPS OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I live in Lakeview.

This email is to demand that you vote to remove Chicago Police Officers from CPS. They do nothing but perpetuate a culture of policing that is counterproductive to learning, and does nothing to protect against school shootings.

Please be on the right side of history and vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Best,

[REDACTED]

---

Terminate CPS's contract with CPD

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to support your motion to terminate the \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department and instead come up with alternatives to the existing school resource officer program. I'm asking you to free that money to be invested in programs to address systemic issues that lead to the perceived need for SROs.

While I recognize that many principals and LSCs have indicated they feel safer with SROs, that doesn't change the fact that black students often do not feel safe around these police officers. And it doesn't change the fact that black students are more likely to be targeted by SROs for minor infractions such as profanity at a disproportionate rate.

We can provide security with security officers. We can provide civic education with educators. We do not need the police in our schools.

While Waters does not have SROs at our schools, we feed into schools with officers in the building. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure that, when our elementary school kids reach high school, they can all feel comfortable in school.

Please vote to cancel CPS's contract with CPD.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Support for 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2

I'm writing to urge the Chicago Board of Education (CBOE) to vote in favor of 20-0624-MO1 and 20-0624-MO2, removing police from Chicago Public Schools.

██████████

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Police in CPS

Hello,

I'm ██████████, and I am writing regarding the Board's vote tomorrow on the contract between CPS and CPD. I humbly request that the Board votes to end or greatly reduce the \$33 million contract and reinvest those funds in resources for students.

Police presence in schools perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harms students of color, the vast majority of students in CPS schools. All students have the right to feel safe in their schools, and police presence makes this impossible.

Instead, I encourage you all to use this \$33 million to improve ELL instruction, purchase new books, hire social workers, improve health services, and hire additional mental health counselors, among other initiatives.

There has never been a place for police officers in schools. Vote to end the contract with CPD.

Best,

██████████

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Police Free Schools Now

Good morning,

I am calling on the Board of Education to take a stand against state-sanctioned violence against Black and brown youth in our city and vote to terminate the CPS contract with CPD. It is our responsibility as

educators to amplify and support the powerful voices and the actions of young people of color who are leading the charge in this movement. Chicago Public School students walk through the doors of their schools every day to learn and not to be surveilled. The police in the hallways of our schools are the same police who are racially profiling, targeting, and enacting violence against Black and brown people across our city. We must remove police from our schools and terminate the \$33 million contract with CPD. This money should be spent on bolstering restorative/transformational justice practices in our schools and for creating a more just recovery from COVID for our students and our school families.

Thank you for your time.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Act Now: Terminate the Contract with CPD

Dear CBOE,

I am a Chicago resident living in the 46th ward. I am writing to urge you to terminate CPS's \$33 million contract with CPD and redistribute those funds to much needed social services. With this money, we could put school nurses, social workers, and librarians in every Chicago Public School.

Mayor Lightfoot and CEO Janice Jackson state that we should leave this decision about cops in schools to each LSC. I disagree. Doing so is like leaving Covid-19 Shelter In Place orders up to each State governor - the result of which has been fatal for many in America, but especially for vulnerable BIPOC. The Board of Education must act now for the safety of ALL children and especially Black and Latinx students most likely to experience violence from police.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the Hermosa neighborhood in Chicago, IL.

I understand that the Chicago Board of Education will vote tonight on whether to remove CPD from our public schools. I urge you to remove all police presence from public schools. Our community urges you to remove all police presence from public schools. Please do what you know to be right and vote in the interests of the children and families you serve.

Police are extremely dangerous thugs and have shown time and time again that they do not exist to serve and protect - they exist to uphold white supremacy, intimidate citizens especially Black ones, and are at their core violent and abhorrent. These are not the role models we want for kids. These are not the people who will keep kids or faculty and staff safe. We are putting Black and Brown children at tremendous risk by having CPD in CPS. Do your duty and remove them.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPD and CPS

To The Chicago Public School Board of Education:

I would like to share my opinion regarding the contract between the Chicago Public School and the Chicago Police Department. I do not believe it is wise nor helpful to the community at large to continue to fund police presence in any Chicago Public School. There is ample evidence showing that the police presence increases overall anxiety, and that is especially destructive in a learning environment. Police have also proven time and time again to act irrationally and with heavy biases against people of color. As the daughter of an immigrant family, I have first-hand experience with the frequency and potential violence of unwarranted attention from police officers due to nothing more than skin color.

I believe that a much more productive way to ensure the safety and well being of our children and youth would be to invest instead in mental health clinics and after school centers around Chicago. It would also be helpful to use some of the \$33 million to provide at-home-learning devices to make distance learning accessible to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. With more resources available to support individuals and connect them with their peers and community in a meaningful way, students, teachers,

and administrators can feel a sense of understanding amongst one another and feel safe in their schools to work hard and learn how to become the best versions of themselves for one another.

From my experience in schools both with police presence and without, I know that the benefits of having programming and resources that foster growth and learning greatly outweigh any possible reason for continuing police presence in schools.

I hope you can see the benefits of ending the contract with CPD and instead investing the \$33 Million in supportive programming for students and supplies to improve the quality of learning in school and throughout distance-learning.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

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Funding Education

Good Morning,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Edgewater in Chicago. As the school board works to create a budget, I encourage you to choose education. With more resources for young people in school, there will be less crime and therefore less need for police officers and law enforcement. Things like after school programs, psychiatrists in schools, better counseling for students, training for teachers on mental health, and many other things would enable students to make good choices and to feel worthy, safe and valued. As you create this budget, I urge you to choose students. Young people will change the world, and with the funding in education they deserve, you can enable that to happen. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove police from Chicago public schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

I am submitting this comment to urge you to please cancel your contract with the Chicago Police and remove them from our schools. It has been proven that the police do not have the safety of our citizens in mind, and having police in schools only hurts Black and brown children. Instead invest in ways to support the students who need it most through social workers and counselors.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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A request: Please remove CPD from CPS

Greetings,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ukrainian Village in the 2nd Ward. I come from a family of teachers—both my mother and grandmother were teachers in Chicago and the suburbs throughout their careers. My mom was a speech pathologist and worked with kids for her entire life before retiring a decade ago.

I am writing to the board this morning to demand that police be removed from CPS. It is unnecessary and harmful. I have heard from countless CPS teachers, some who are friends, that describe crumbling infrastructure, infestations, a lack of nurses, no librarians, and abhorrent discipline practices. How different are these schools than Cook County Jail? Why isn't more of the budget being spent on the arts?

These children don't need punishment and fear—they need resources, support, and community. I was lucky enough to attend a school where my strongest memories are of art class and creativity. I was met with kindness from teachers while experienced heartbreaking loss and mental illness. Can we say that students in CPS will be able to say the same? Let's make that a reality. It starts here. Change starts in this live stream meeting at 10:30 am. Will you be part of it?

I am requesting that this board remove CPD officers from CPS and use the funds to support arts programs, school facilities, at-risk families, librarians, and nurses.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS

Dear Board of Ed,

As a CPS alum (Von Steuben '06), a clinical psychologist in training, and a Sauganash resident (60646) who hopes to one day send my children to CPS schools, I implore you to end CPS' contract with CPD immediately. This is not a rash, impulsive decision, as it has been unfairly characterized in some media. Quite the opposite - there is a significant body of research documenting the harmful, racist, and traumatizing impacts of having police in schools. I did not benefit from the police that were in my high school, and do not want to send my children to militarized schools.

CPS is drastically underfunded, and the \$33 million contracted to the CPD could be much better spent. During my time as a CPS student, there were only two guidance counselors for 1600 students. I was shocked to get to college and hear of my suburban peers' regular meetings with designated college counselors. Also, we had a single (1) mental health provider, who we shared with several other high schools. This is unacceptable. I hope conditions have improved in the 14 years since I have graduated, but know that we could still do much better in providing for our city's students. Ending the CPD contract and reallocating resources to provide for the mental health needs of students is a great way to do so.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Police do NOT belong in schools

Today the Board of Education will make a decision on whether to terminate its \$33 million contract with the CPD. It is imperative that you do so. The police have no place in schools and do more harm than anything else, especially to Black students. Please, PLEASE use that \$33 million dollars on something that will actually help students, like paying teachers and staff, hiring nurses and counselors, or PPE for when schools reopen. If you're interested in what youth leaders are saying, and you should be, please take a look at this: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-george-floyd-chicago-police-schools-mental-health-cps-20200609-2reexackwzegjmtr3jyemokt34-story.html>

Do the right thing. Terminate the contract.

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[REDACTED]

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end funding of police in CPS please!

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Ed,

I am writing to ask you formally to vote yes on the 2 motions before you today that would end the \$33M CPS contract with CPD and have the district work with schools to identify and recommend alternatives to the School Resource Officer program.

I am a parent of a CPS student - about to go into 8th grade.

Please, there are so many better ways to serve our students and to protect them!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello again,

I am a resident of Pilsen, Chicago. I am writing to urge the Board of Education to cancel the contract with the Chicago Police Department at the board meeting on June 24th. Children should not be subject to biased police officers in their schools, and having CPD in schools helps support the school-to-prison pipeline. In light of recent events, CPD needs to stay away from our students. Please end the contract.

Thank you.

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Urgent Action Needed

To the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ravenswood. I understand today you are voting on whether to remove the Chicago Police Department from our public schools. I am urging you to please decide to do so.

The events of recent months have inspired me to become a teacher. As I have had this awakening to pursue a huge life goal, educating myself and others has been a monumental part of my activism. It has been proven time and time again that the police do not help keep our communities safe, which is precisely why they do not belong in our schools. They certainly do not protect them against the countless school shootings that happen every year. 14 million students in the US have cops in their school, but no counselors, nurses, psychologists, or social workers. That is not right.

If we remove CPD from our public schools, we can invest more money in the education of our students. We can provide them with more resources, give them effective help they need, ban lunch debt, and ensure teachers do not have to use their paychecks to purchase school supplies.

I urge you to vote yes on the decision to remove the Chicago Police Department in the city's public schools. It will bring a significant positive change to our communities.

Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Please remove CPD

Hello,

I'm ██████████, a CPS high school student, begging that we please remove CPD from CPS. There are plenty of alternatives that are not systematically racist, violent, and problematic, that many students would feel miles more comfortable with. This would make a much more safe, comfortable, and nurturing environment to learn. There are much better uses of the money that can help so many kids feel so much safer and learn so much more.

I hope that we have an outcome that will benefit all students, please remove CPD from CPS.

Thank you,

██████████

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Take CPD out of CPS

Good Morning,

Vote today to remove the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools. They are danger to students in every capacity. Thank you.

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Police Free Schools

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge you to end the CPS-CPD contract TODAY. As a former CPS student, I have seen firsthand how police presence in schools only increases anxiety (and the potential for violence, in the form of arrests) in schools, even at my selective enrollment school on the north side. Having to walk through a metal detector and get searched on the way into school felt very incongruous with entering the place I went to learn and to see my friends, and I know I am one of the former CPS students hurt least by these relationships. I have heard testimony and seen the data about how police presence in majority minority schools in the south and west sides have traumatized their students.

Students should not feel like criminals in their schools. Rather, students should be supported in their learning and development. By ending the \$33 million contract with CPD, CPS could provide over 300 nurses or social workers to schools. These services are vital presences in supporting students in schools, not police.

While we are accustomed to having police in schools at this point, if you take a step back, you can hopefully see that these services are not the most important. It does not make sense for a learning institution to have a police officer have to talk to the student that scraped their knee, because there is no nurse. It does not make sense for the same institution (the police department) who oversees violent crime to oversee students walking into their place of learning. It does not make sense to have police surveying a school while not having librarians, nurses, and social workers who can support students in that school. Even at my school, Northside, which was one of the most resourced in the district, our librarian was fired and our nurse was only part time, yet there was always a police presence. This is an abomination.

Please try to take a step back and think critically about why you think police are needed in schools, rather than just assuming that it is what is best for students based on the status quo. Please vote to end CPD's contract with CPS.

Thank you,



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CPD out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a long-time resident of Chicago and a local educator. Police in schools have harassed students over minor infractions while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods.

There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response

that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

No police in Chicago schools

Hello there,

We need to invest qualified school nurses and counselors not police. Children should not be punished like criminals, but instead taught and bettered by members of their own community.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Support the removal of cops from CPS

Hello,

I am a Chicago resident in the West Lakeview neighborhood ([REDACTED]), and I am writing to ask you to support the removal of police officers from Chicago Public Schools. As a proud Chicago resident who hopes to one day raise her children in the city, I see no need for CPS to have any relationship with the CPD, and I encourage you to instead allocate the enormous amount of funds currently dedicated to policing children to instead improve counseling and mental health services in schools, increase students' access to technology, provide resources to more wholly meet families basic needs, and support alternatives to police (such as transformative and community justice programs).

Schools are such an important locus of young people's lives. We should ensure that Chicago children feel safe, supported and valued in their school environments -- not targeted or policed.

Best,

██████████

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CPD our of CPS

Hello,

My name is ██████████, a resident of Wicker Park, and I'm reaching out to you today demanding that action be taken to cancel contracts with CPD(Chicago Police Department) and to remove their presence from all CPS. Their presence is a threat to the lives, education, and care of our students and you have the opportunity to change the course of their lives through fostering a safer environment. CPD has punished our children for far too long and we must instill change to see their safety in the most valuable learning environment.

Best,

██████████

██████████

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Police out of schools

Hi, my name is ██████████. I am a resident of Chicago in the 48th Ward writing to emphatically support the removal of SROs and all other police personnel from Chicago Public Schools, and use that funding to better prepare students to learn and thrive without being harassed and brutalized by police. Have a good day.

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Remove CPD from CPS

To the members of the Chicago Board of Education:

I will not mince words, as I recognize that you've received thousands of similar emails from my concerned friends and neighbors over the past few days.

I'm writing to voice my unequivocal support for the measure to remove police forces from Chicago schools. Our students need more than agents of violence stationed to catch them slipping up. I

understand your concern; how can we protect students from violence and disorder without police? But the truth is that police have no impact on school safety- all they do is shuttle students into the prison system.

You have the chance to stand on the right side of history. I deeply appreciate those of you who have already stated your intention to support us in standing for students and not officers. To those on the fence, please hear our plea and know that we will neither forgive nor forget when it comes time for your re-election should you choose wrong.

Thank you for the work that you do for our students and communities. You can make a difference.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote to end the CPD Contract

Hello:

I am a Chicago resident. I strongly encourage you to vote tomorrow to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and remove School Resource Officers from all of our schools. Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx children for behaviors and concerns that are better handled by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

Additionally, I am very concerned at the high rates of interaction between School Resource Officers and students with disabilities, which can lead to students to be physically harmed, disciplined, punished, and even criminally charged for challenges related to their disability.

You have the chance to listen to the voices of Black and Latinx youth and invest in their futures. Please make the right choice and end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Students need nurses, fully funded classrooms, and counselors. They do not need police in schools. They are our future and we should lift them up, not put them down.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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CPD in schools

Please vote to remove CPD from CPS. It contributes to an environment of assumed criminality of students. They cannot thrive under this and the presence of CPD creates unnecessary risk against our students.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No Police in CPD!

Hello,

Will keep this short and get to the point. As a resident of Lakeview, I am against having police presence in our public schools. Vote to remove CPS from our schools and use the funds towards more social services for schools and families.

[REDACTED]

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(no subject)

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a CPS alumni who has attended these schools from elementary through high school. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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No More CPD in CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

As a parent of two kids in a neighborhood public school, I am against having any law enforcement officers in our schools and being part of our education system. From recent reports, evidence from other schools with police officers have shown that there is an increase in confrontations between law-enforcement personnel and unarmed, underaged students, even for minor offenses. When police officers become more ingrained in our education system, the line between disciplinary and criminal matters has grown increasingly blurry. Schools are a place of nurture, learning, and where mistakes are allowed to be made. We should be advocating and putting in place policies for restorative justice practices in our school system and NOT more policing. Putting in place a system of school-to-prison pipeline should not be the goal of our public schools.

“The Southern Poverty Law Center study points out that students in schools where [police officers] are stationed are five times as likely to be arrested than students in schools without [police officers]. And these arrests frequently occur for minor infractions. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 260,000 students were referred to law enforcement during the 2011-2012 school year and 92,000 were subjected to school-based arrests.”\* Incarceration is not the goal of education.

My family is loudly against having police officers in our schools and we urge that BOE vote to remove the CPD contract with CPS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

\*[https://thebestschools.org/magazine/cops-schools-built-school-prison-pipeline/?fbclid=IwAR0Ga1cJekY3AaBpsHKcS-TTo\\_HdjcQiNuPUiaWhTXy4ag4l1Gc007Okza4](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/cops-schools-built-school-prison-pipeline/?fbclid=IwAR0Ga1cJekY3AaBpsHKcS-TTo_HdjcQiNuPUiaWhTXy4ag4l1Gc007Okza4)

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Director of the Broadway Youth Center here in Chicago. Caring for the health and wellbeing of young people age 12-24 who are LGBTQ, experiencing homelessness, and who are in the foster system is our specialty. At our center we are often caring for young people who have been experienced great harm from their contact with police at school and we believe that LGBTQ/homeless/foster-involved/ and youth of color are being disproportionately impacted in a violent way by Police presence in schools.

I am emailing you to encourage you to remove all CPD officers from Chicago Public Schools and replace with instead with supportive professionals including qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform.

There is a wealth of evidence that demonstrates that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience. These resources would be better spent on trauma-healing and supportive interventions for young people.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's

educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"I have come to believe over and over again, that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood.... My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you...."

-Audre Lorde

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Cut Ties with CPD

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. I am emailing to demand that Chicago Public Schools terminate the contract with Chicago Police. Chicago Police actively draw funds away from education and instead invest in the imprisonment of black and brown bodies across Chicago. Policing directly works against the ideals of education which are to create better lives for the future generations and open doors of opportunity. Our prison-industrial complex closes doors and ruins lives.

Your organization has the ability to create permanent change in Chicago. Please vote to cut all ties with Chicago PD and instead stand with the community and your students. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I am vigorously in favor of removing the Chicago Police Department from Chicago Public Schools and hope you will support today's proposal.. In addition to the brutality that Chicago Police officers enact on the streets, the amount of trauma that is done to students by having armed and dangerous officers roaming their halls is unthinkable. It has been proven time and again that teachers, aids, counselors, therapists, nurses, and leaders trained in restorative justice are unquestionably more effective at diffusing any heightened situation should one arise. We have dealt these CPS students a terrible hand by 1) taking away the funding for their school programs and 2) bringing in police who create dangerous situations and then use that as an excuse to punish students, often looping them directly into the school-to-prison-pipeline.

Please vote yes to remove CPD from CPS today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

P.S. The head of the Chicago Police Union, John Catanzara, met his current girlfriend while he was the hired security at her high school. She was a student.

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello -

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Chicago.

I am writing to implore the board to please remove police presence from schools and instead use the \$33M CPD contract budget for guidance counselors and social workers.

If CPS won't prioritize teaching our children how to rectify challenging situations without involving force, violence, or the law, then we have completely missed the point of what a school means to a community.

Please end CPD presence at our schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please End CPD Contract with CPS

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Hope you and your families are safe and well.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago resident. I am writing to ask that you vote to end CPD's contract with CPS today and instead re-allocate the \$33 million to safety alternatives and educational resources for students.

We are in the midst of a pandemic that has revealed deep educational inequality in our system. Working to get all kids the technology they need to participate in schoolwork (in pandemic and non-pandemic times) is a crucial need, one that has not yet been met. The CTU went on strike earlier this school year to ask, partially, for more nurses and counselors in schools - surely we should turn to our teachers, who

work with our students every day, to determine what these students need. A vast majority of CPS students are Black or brown - it is time to invest in safety alternatives that do not physically and psychologically harm these students.

To speak to the harm - a report from the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law shows that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent settling excessive force cases in schools in the last decade. Settled cases disproportionately harmed Black and disabled students. The report also shows that having SROs in schools produced negative psychological effects in students - including increased stress, decreased learning performance, and increased probability of future disciplinary problems. I am begging you to consider alternatives that do not put CPS students' safety and futures at risk.

I have attached the full Shriver report to this email (pages 9-17 speak most specifically to CPD's harm in CPS). Thank you so much for your time.

All Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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URGENT: CPD out of CPS NOW!

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a Lane Tech alumna. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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I urge you to remove CPD from CPS

Hello all,

As a former Chicago teacher and a longtime resident of Chicago, I urge you to take action and terminate the Chicago Public Schools district's contract with the Chicago Police Department. Almost 85% of the students in our district make up Indigenous, Black and brown communities (data from CPS website), who are disproportionately criminalized and traumatized by police presence in our public schools. Nationally, Black students are 2.3 times more likely to be referred to law enforcement or a school arrest than White students, even as evidence shows that students of color do not misbehave more than White students. Black and brown students have a rightful distrust of the police, based on years of overpolicing and violent police abuse in their neighborhoods. To put these same police who cause them and their communities pain and suffering is an affront to the goals of the education system. Simply put, a school cannot be a safe place to Black and brown students when there are police patrolling the halls.

CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the Chicago Police Department. This contract should be terminated and those funds could be reallocated into resources (community intervention workers, librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors in schools) that support marginalized students by addressing root causes, rather than relying on structures of intimidation and trauma. I demand that you take steps to ensure Black, brown, and Indigenous students feel safe and are safe in their schooling environment, in part by mitigating the trauma that student interactions with police can cause. Terminate the contract with CPD and stand with Chicago's students and teachers demanding justice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD Out of Schools TODAY

To the Board:

I am a parent of 3 black boys who attend school on the northside, and I also work with CPD to facilitate empathy training to new recruits.

I want Police Officers OUT of our schools.

It has been made clear time and again that social workers, counselors, and nurses are what create a safe and functioning school environment.

The racist terrorism and abuse by police that many black and brown students have experienced first hand and CONSTANTLY through the news is a direct conduit to feeling fear and anxiety around police. I feel this anxiety and fear, and I am a well established grown adult with no real physical abuse from police in my past. I would not have been the straight A full academic college scholarship student I was if there was a cop at the door of my school every day. I'm certain of it.

Data does not show that SRO's keep schools safe. In fact, data shows that the school to prison pipeline has been galvanized by this practice.

I rescind my permission for my tax dollars to be used to put cops in our kids' schools.

Remember Animal Farm. Sometimes the chief needs to be overruled.

With Great Concern~

[REDACTED]

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Letter from Chicago City Council Latino Caucus: Support Police Free Schools

Attached and below please find a letter from the Latino Caucus of the Chicago City Council to Board President Miguel Del Valle in support of terminating the \$33 million CPD-CPS contract and police free schools.

June 24, 2020

VIA U.S. MAIL & E-MAIL: BOE@cps.edu

Honorable Miguel del Valle

President, Chicago Board of Education

One North Dearborn, Suite 950

Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Police Free Schools

Dear President Del Valle:

We write to urge the Chicago Board of Education to terminate the contract between our Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

The research is clear: placing police officers in schools has a detrimental impact on our children, particularly Black and Brown children who are disproportionately targeted and criminalized by police officers in schools.

The presence of police officers in schools is linked to lower graduation rates, higher incarceration rates, lawsuits which have cost Chicago millions, and thousands of official misconduct complaints against CPD officers placed in CPS.

An April 2010 report by the Department of Justice found that police in schools does not increase school public safety. Studies have found that the best public safety strategy for schools is investing in social workers, counselors, and therapists that can provide a trauma-informed approach to intervening in school conflicts.

The CPD and CPS contract does not make our children safer. We need to protect our children and invest in proven public safety strategies. That is why we stand with the Police Free Schools coalition and urge you and the Chicago Board of Education to terminate the \$33 million per year contract and instead reinvest those CPS dollars in proven public safety programs for our children.

Respectfully,

Description: CRM,Signature

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to urge the Board of Education to remove CPD from CPS.

I first encountered police officers in schools in the late 90s, when I was a high school student in rural Missouri. Columbine had just happened, and it was clear that the officers were intended to protect us from mass shootings, or other acts of terror. The experience of the last 20 years has shown that the intended purpose of the officers was not successful. School shootings have become even more frequent, gunmen have not been deterred, and worst of all - the reason I'm writing to you today - schools are outsourcing disciplinary problems to police, which reinforces the School to Prison Pipeline.

Please, please, please. Take the first step toward fixing this problem by voting to remove CPD from CPS. Unlike so many of us, you can actually make a big difference, you, specifically, today, with your votes. For so many of us, democracy is an exercise in making our voices as loud as possible so that we can convince someone like you to take a position that is just. Please, honor that responsibility and make the right choice.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sever Ties Between CPS and CPD

To the CPS Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Chicago and a student at Northwestern University.

At this time, it is imperative that CPS sever their ties with the Chicago Police Department. I believe there are better, safer, and more productive services such as social workers and nurses who should receive the funding CPS would be granting to CPD. I ask that you please consider this as you rethink the future of policing in your schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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We need police for our kids

Dear Board member,

I'm a parent of three CPS school children. They are in Jones College prep, national teachers academy and Brownsville classical school. I think CPS should keep police resource for the school and kids. First of all, without police protection, our schools will become the soft targets of campus shooting. Unfortunately, this kind of tragedy has been on the rise over the decades. No one knows when and where will it happen again. I don't want to take any chance when talking about my kids lives. Second, most police officers are hard working people and keep their oath to protect and serve. We can't let bad behaviors from some individuals represent the whole community. Third, police officers participate in lock down drills and other

educational events in school. These are valuable teachable moments for our kids. A safe community relies on strong relationships between community members and law enforcement. Without police involvement, our children will be bias and misled in our law system.

I know my opinion probably is not the trendy one in this climate. But I believe removing police resource from school won't benefit our school or children. As much as I teach them again racism, I don't want to teach them hatred agains first responders. By the end of the day, black lives and blue lives should NOT be on the opposite side.

Thanks for your time and attention!

A CPS parent

[REDACTED]

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Please Remove CPD from CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. Past and recent events have made it impossible to ignore that that reform is needed in how we allocate funds and use public and private sector resources to facilitate the wellbeing of everyone in our community.

As a current resident of Chicago, I urge you to remove the Chicago Police Department (CPD) from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Police presence in schools does NOT benefit our students or our community.

As abundantly detailed in the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's 2017 report Handcuffs in Hallways: The State of Policing in Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Police Officers operate with a paucity of training and lack of accountability and oversight which, as the report states, "... leads to poor outcomes for students, particularly students of color, impairing their ability to learn and develop, imperiling their civil rights, and increasing their likelihood of being swept into the criminal justice system." Almost 85% of CPS students

come from Indigenous, Black and Brown communities which are brutalized and traumatized by officers wearing the same uniform as those roaming CPS hallways. CPS students themselves have stated that having officers in schools makes them feel less safe and have advocated for an increase in social workers and nurses.

Next there is the very pertinent question of funds allocation. CPS currently has a \$33 million contract with the CPD. Additionally, it's been reported that officers assigned to CPS locations racked up \$2 million in misconduct settlements alone for actions that occurred on and off school grounds between 2012 and 2016. It is ludicrous that these funds are propping up a program that actively harms the population it's meant to protect, especially when those funds could instead be allocated toward resources that would support students' educational, mental, and emotional well being (librarians, social workers, nurses, and mental health counselors, etc). The ACLU's report 'Cops and Not Counselors' describes a chilling nationwide trend in which:

1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors

3 million students are in schools with police but no nurses

6 million students are in schools with police but no school psychologists

10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers

14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker

Chicago can do better than this - we as a community MUST do better than this to ensure that our youth can learn and thrive in safety. Please do the right thing for Chicago's youth and terminate the CPS contract with CPD.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Break CPS contract with CPD today!

Hello,

I am writing to you to demand you vote to terminate the CPS contract with CPD at today's CPS Board meeting. Why do Chicago public schools all have a cop but not all have a social worker? Police presence in school is not only traumatizing for black and brown students (the black boys, of which can expect 1 in 1,000 of them will grow up to be murdered by police) but is also counterproductive. Cops in schools ruin these kids' lives by charging them with petty crimes and do not stop any violence. If anything, literature tells us that more police = more violence. The students themselves are demanding CPD out of CPS.

Put the politics aside and do the right thing by our black and brown Chicago students. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Re: Break CPS contract with CPD today!

Hello, please review the attached PDF. We demand Cops out of CPS. Thank you.

Best,

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CPD out of CPS

Good morning Board Members!

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Chicago native and strong advocate for Chicago Public Schools. I attended Chicago Public Schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade and after graduating college, I have worked within CPS as a part of City Year Chicago and now as a Schuler Scholar Coach. I would like to request that at today's meeting, you vote to terminate CPS's contract with the Chicago Police Department and redirect those funds to other parts of CPS more in need of support. I have seen first hand the way policing of young students, especially students of color and Black students, contributes to racism in our city and negatively impacts the students' education, as well as the extreme lack of resources so many of our schools face. Terminating this contract will both help combat racist policing structures within our schools and help under-resourced schools that serve our most vulnerable populations. Please do the right thing today and take CPD out of CPS.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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CPD Out of CPS

Good morning,

I'm writing to you all today as a resident of Chicago, as well as the spouse of a CPS teacher. It is absolutely imperative that CPS severs its contract with CPD. In light of the recent Civil Rights movement, I think that it has become clear that CPD has no functional purpose within any Chicago schools, apart from intimidating and terrorizing students, particularly on the South side.

From the experiences I've seen my wife undergo as a CPS teacher and the impact of CPD's presence has on her students, there are a multitude of reasons to terminate CPS's contract with CPD. While it would not only be equitable to terminate this contract as a principle, there is also a large financial incentive to terminate the school contract with CPD. Approximately \$33 million of CPS's budget could go back into effectively serving the schools and communities of Chicago by hiring much needed auxiliary staff and counselors and social workers to assist within all schools.

No student should have to stress that if something goes wrong throughout the day that they may have to face the scrutiny of an overwhelmingly hostile and racist police force. If we want our school system to be equitable and to see progress, CPS must terminate their contract with CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD out of CPS

Dear CPS Board Members,

I am a parent in Chicago with two school-age children, and I strongly urge you to vote to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department. I believe the \$33 million currently spent annually on this contract would better serve students by paying for support services such as nurses, psychologists and counselors, and anti-racism training for teachers and students.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from Public Schools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. As such, I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. The opinions that are given by the community deserve to be treated with respect and I hope you will take into consideration all the voices that are speaking out. Thank you for doing what is right

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hi,

I am a rising senior at Northwestern and I am asking that today you vote to REMOVE CPD from CPS. CPD in schools is dangerous to many CPS students and voting for the removal supports Black Lives Matter, defunding of the police, and the safety of young BIPOC students. Not doing so would be a disgrace to the students you are supposed to serve. So please, vote for the removal of CPD in your schools. You have so much power and influence, please use it for the best!!!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Vote CPD out of schools.

Thank you for taking the time to vote on such an important measure. We do NOT need CPD in our schools. We are funneling money away from our children and into the pockets of officers on a second shift, to an already overpaid force, and to taxpayers who need to know their children are protected.

We have \$33 Million dollars for police who ARE NOT TRAINED to work with kids but teachers had to strike to ask for counselors, librarians, and NURSES (that we still do not have).

The idea that the schools would not receive the funding back is also a slap in the face to the teachers, students, and parents of CPS schools.

We need to do better for our children. End the School to Prison Pipeline. It starts with you.

Please vote to end CPS's contract with the CPD

Gratefully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from our schools

Dear members of the board,

I ask that you please vote to remove the Chicago Police Department from our schools.

Black and other students of color shouldn't have to live in fear of being harassed, assaulted, profiled and arrested in their schools. Schools should be a place of safety, learning and creativity, not a contributor to systemic racism and mass incarceration.

Many other major US cities have already pledged to remove the police from their schools. Let's be on the right side of history and do the right thing for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chicago resident,



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Police in schools

I am writing in strong opposition of renewing the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

Please re-allocate these funds to provide better social services and support to the students. CPD can be called if needed. Children need our love and support, as opposed to unnecessary shows of force and often violent intervention.

Sincerely, Concern Grandmother

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Defund CPD in CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing as a Chicago resident. First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. There is ample evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience: they funnel resources away from school programs focused on mental health, they don't contribute to school safety (even in cases of active shooters), and are more likely to reduce students' educational aspirations. The police are enforcing a white supremacist, racist, and violent ideology every day on the streets, as we've seen with the murders of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey, Elijah McClain, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Philando Castille, Laquan McDonald, and so many countless other Black people murdered at the hands of police. These same police are enforcing that same white supremacist, racist, and violent ideology against low income students, Black and Latinx students, and students with disabilities when they are in schools. I demand that you remove police from CPS and re-allocate the \$33 million currently budgeted for police in CPS toward funding positions for therapists, psychologists, developmental experts, nurses, and educators who promote success, not punishment.

If you need further evidence that police in schools do not contribute to a positive school experience, look first to accounts from CPS students telling how police in their schools harass students over minor infractions like dress code while behaving aggressively towards minors. A combined total of 2,354 misconduct complaints have been filed against the 180 SROs and 21 School Liaison Supervisors working throughout CPS.

I grew up in a rural area of Indiana in a majority white town. Although my hometown has a population of less than 10,000 and rare incidents of crime, we had a sheriff on my high school campus everyday and regular drug searches with police dogs. Because the student population was 99% white, one could argue the presence of the sheriff is not racially motivated. However, the 1% of minority students in the school were regularly harassed, singled out for random drug searches and punished for minor infractions. I routinely witnessed this harassment and rarely witnessed incidents in which white students were targeted or punished. I knew, despite my own apprehension around police, that I was able to walk the halls of my highschool without anxiety of being singled out by the sheriff because I am white.

Cracking down on crime is the reasoning my school corporation used for placing a sheriff in the high school. As I pointed out earlier, my entire town experienced little crime other than drunk driving. Why, then, would a sheriff be necessary on a high school campus? While the CPD is often singled out as being one of the most corrupt and racist police departments in the country, my childhood example demonstrates that the attitude toward police presence in schools is endemic to this country, no matter the area, level of crime, or density of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). This attitude is characterized by racial profiling (especially in drug-related incidents), harassment, and unnecessary punishment. Or, in a more candid sense, the reasoning for allowing police presence in schools is to criminalize and punish BIPOC students for their existence, regardless of their actions.

The CPD is not different in this regard. However, the City of Chicago and the CPD use crime and the threat of violence to oppress our communities of color by creating a hostile environment within CPS. How can a child learn when they are scared to walk down the hall, past police officers, for fear of being arbitrarily punished and harassed? How can a child feel safe in this type of environment? How can a child believe they are valued for their humanity when their existence is criminalized?

Investing in CPD presence in schools is not the way to invest resources in Black, Latinx, and low-income students. The funding that goes toward keeping police in schools is actively increasing their trauma, anxiety, and fear while reducing their likelihood of succeeding academically. The presence of police in schools "[creates] an adversarial school culture and [alters] the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20). By keeping police in schools, you are saying that you care more about traumatizing marginalized students than about providing them the support they need not only to achieve their educational goals, but be healthy in body and mind.

For those of you concerned with in-school violence, consider that the majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology and health that police are fundamentally not equipped to provide like social workers, school psychologists, nurses, and teachers can. Police training is militarized and aggressive, tactics that have no place around children, particularly when teachers are often called in to handle situations where police are unwilling to help de-escalate. The \$33 million currently funding police in Chicago's schools could fund 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, and 322 nurses, positions explicitly dedicated to supporting students' well-being, not disciplining them in the name of an imagined safety from any aggressor other than the police themselves.

I demand that you remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts who are especially qualified to help our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, our disabled students, and our low-income students succeed. Removing police from schools is the bare minimum acknowledgment that you care about Chicago students' well-being, that you believe their lives matter, and that you are committed to overseeing a school system that is a space for learning, growth, and achievement, and not for racism, punishment, and violence.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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CPD in schools

To whom it may concern,

I understand a very important vote is happening today. I have grown up just outside the city and lived in Chicago proper for the past 10 years. This issue is something I feel strongly about. CPD needs to be removed from schools and those funds reallocated. Our CPS are without mental health professionals/social workers nurses or there may be one person to serve a while school (an impossible task numberswise)

Police DO NOT have the proper training to address the issues children in school are faced with. I believe we need to take a proactive, not reactive approach. That starts with meeting our children where they are. Offering equal access to social workers and nurses (dealing with both mental and physical health) within our school system. If a child has behavioral issues, they need to be HEARD. They don't need a cop I'll equipped to deal with them.

I urge you to please vote out CPD. That money would better serve the community with other, proven more effective services in schools.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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Break ties with the CPD for the wellbeing of our youth

To Whom It May Concern,

As a former school social worker, I strongly encourage you to vote today to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department and to remove School Resource Officers from our schools.

Study after study has shown that the presence of school resource officers contributes to the criminalization of Black and Latinx students in situations that could be better supported by social workers, counselors, and restorative justice coordinators.

As a social worker, I work with students who've experienced significant trauma, live with disabilities, or come from communities that disproportionately experience the negative impacts of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Our schools should be built to help support their healing and growth, not exacerbate their existing hardships while reinforcing the school to prison pipeline.

You are privileged to have the opportunity today to advocate for and invest in the futures of Black and Latinx youth. I urge you to make the right choice and to end the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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CPS and CPD

Hello,

I am sending this email in hopes that you will end the Chicago Public Schools contract with the Chicago Police Department.

It is important that CPS gives their students the resources that they need to learn and grow, rather than spend millions of dollars putting cops in schools.

As a graduate of the Chicago Public Schools, I urge you to get CPD out of CPS and invest in resources that will positively affect our students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED] alumnus of Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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[REDACTED]

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Letter re: Removing Police from Schools

Hello,

Please see the attached letter in support of removing police from Chicago Public Schools.

Thanks,

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Today's motion to end CPD contract with CPS

Hello Board Members,

As a citizen, full time resident, and taxpayer in the City of Chicago I strongly urge you to cancel the multi million contract the Chicago Public Schools has with the Chicago Police Department. I believe that extraordinary sum would be put to better use with more counselors, more nurses, more social workers, more librarians, and more resources for BIPOC students.

The School to Prison pipeline has been well-researched and documented. Children who interact with law enforcement at school for infractions which could easily be resolved or avoided with other types of support from the roles mentioned above, are set upon a path beset with lifelong negative consequences. Children are cognitively different from adults, and having them treated as criminals in the classroom is unacceptable. This program actually makes students feel less safe, and more stressed. It's time to do something different.

Thank you for your consideration,

██████████  
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CPD MUST be removed from CPS

To whom it may concern:

Please consider when voting today the gravity of deciding to leave the Chicago Police Department in Chicago Public Schools. The Chicago Police Department does not just need to be reformed, but demolished and defunded. We must allocate funds that go towards the CPD to other areas of actual help, such as Mental Health programs at school. If you think that the CPD in public schools is increasing the safety within, THINK AGAIN. We MUST remove the CPD from our Chicago Public Schools and actively create a space where students can learn freely and cutting the police off from this form of payment is crucial in establishing the defunding process we so desperately need. No school should have cops policing their students, but rather the school should have well-funded departments that can help with wellness and health. Please vote to remove the CPD from CPS; you will be making a great step towards equality as well as helping our future leaders of America learn in an actually safe environment.

I am calling you to think on your decisions and understand their impacts. REMOVE THE CPD FROM CPS.

Thank you,

██████████

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Remove Police from CPS!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago resident and work with CPS teachers pursuing alternative licensure. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and

anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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!!Please get CPD out of schools!!

Hi,

My name is ██████████, I live in Logan Square. I am emailing to urge and ask that you vote to remove CPD from our schools in Chicago. While there may be a need for some sort of security in schools, there is NO need for it to be armed police officers. Children will not and can not feel safe around armed policemen, and it is frankly appalling to me as someone that did not grow up here that there are routinely armed officers in schools. I understand that there are times when a mediator is necessary. But that mediator should not be armed, not with a gun, and if that mediator is a police officer students will not feel safe or protected.

We don't trust CPD, we don't want them in our schools, we can't raise children around CPD officers while the department routinely assaults, harms, and harasses citizens.

I don't write these emails often. I haven't been as active about issues before, but this is something that I can't ignore and I really really hope that the board will be on the right side of history here.

Thank you for your time,

████████

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Concerned Citizen

Hi Team,

I am in full support of removing police officers from our Chicago school system.

I have been a resident of Pilsen for the past 6 years and believe in my community and that our children need the best learning environments. Having a militarized-esque force that has done little to provide safety is not part of a viable learning environment.

Please support removing police offers from the Chicago school systems.

Thank you and have a great day,

████████

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Renegotiations with CPD in our schools

Why would you do that? That's a terrible idea.

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**URGENT: remove CPD from CPS**

Hello,

I am the mother of 3 students and graduates of the CPD system. I am reaching out to demand that the Board of Education cut ties with the Chicago Police Department immediately. CPD has no place within the CPS system and perpetuates unjust violence majorly against Black and Brown students. By cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department, we can divert the money spent on funding the anti-black system that is CPD to actual resources and needs of the community, like social workers, librarians, and college counselors.

I demand the dissolution of CPS' contract with CPD immediately.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Remove cops from public schools in Chicago

Listen to the requests of the people of Chicago. Please help remove cops from public schools in Chicago and make sure all students have access to counselors.

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

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CPD Involvement with CPS

Hello,

I am writing as a former CPS student and concerned Chicago citizen, urging you to vote to remove the presence of Chicago Police from our public schools. As you may be aware, our children and students do not need policing in schools, they need trained staff in these professions: social work and crisis management, nurses for health needs, librarians for literacy and resource management and facilitation and most of all -- compassion.

Please consider removing CPD from our schools and saving children from potential antagonization from police, further alienation and normalization of policing in society, and save lives from potential police brutality and murder. Your decision affects thousands of young people and future generations of Chicago Public School students. Make the right decision and set a precedent for Chicago.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Get police out of schools!

Board of Ed,

I am a Chicago resident, I live in Uptown and I want to send my future kids to CPS.

Please do the right thing and get police presence out of schools! That money could be spent on actual services that support our students and teachers, improve their lives and education, and don't criminalize young kids of color. We want social workers, school nurses, arts curriculum, improved facilities, smaller class sizes, and more resources! We don't want police in the schools!

Do the right thing, we are all watching.

██████████

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(no subject)

Hello,

My name is ██████████, and I am a resident of East Lakeview and Chicago area social worker.

I urge you to promote racial and social justice in our city by supporting the ordinance to cancel Chicago Public Schools' \$33 million contract with CPD.

I joined many Chicagoans in recently urging CPS and CPD officials to cancel this contract. We have cited evidence that the current structures and accountability measures are not sufficiently protecting CPS students (especially Black, Brown, and disabled students) from harm at the hands of CPD. Alternative resources have demonstrated effectiveness to promote health and safety in schools.

Furthermore, CPS and Chicago leadership's orchestration of decision-making around this contract last year was unjust. Many Chicagoans, including CPS leader Jadine Chou, have said the city-wide Local School Council vote on this issue was rushed. Leaders did not consistently or adequately inform LSC and community members about alternatives to replace School Resource Officers, and they did not incorporate decision-making about reallocating SRO resources in the vote.

Mayor Lightfoot recently issued a statement refusing to consider changes to the CPS contract with CPD, despite this and much more evidence that indicate the need for urgent action.

I urge you to do all that is possible and just within your power to support CPS students, and call to cancel CPS' contract with CPD.

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/06/15/aldermen-to-introduce-ordinance-to-force-removal-of-police-officers-from-chicago-public-schools/>

Thank you for your time and work,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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In support of terminating CPD contract with CPS

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for your service. At this final hour I want to throw in my support of terminating the contract with CPD in favor of using those resources to provide alternative support to our students.

Please consider this carefully, and do what is right for the young people.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No more CPD IN CPS

Hello Chicago Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a lifelong Chicago resident and I attended CPS schools for 4 years of my education. The presence of police officers in schools was confusing when I was first exposed to it but now that I study law at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I realize that they are symbols of violence for me and my Black and brown classmates. Symbols telling us that if we act out in school, we may not be met with a guidance counselor, but rather a cop. I know you know the facts, the fact is we need to end criminalizing students, which means ending CPS's contract with CPD.

The desire to put cops in schools with children will never make sense to me. But what does make sense is to make the choice to remove cops from schools, especially since time and time again cops have proven what their purpose is and always was: to harm Black people. I know you believe in education, so believe in it and not cops. Believe in teachers, social workers, mental health clinicians, counselors to help students and not criminalize their behavior. Please vote to terminate CPS's contract with CPD and reinvest that 33 million in actual resources that will protect students.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Comment regarding the vote on whether to remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Uptown, Chicago. I am emailing today in support of the proposal to remove CPD from CPS. I am happy to hear that the Board has taken time to consider this important issue, and strongly urge you to remove CPD officers and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts who can help children succeed.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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BOE Public Comment

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public comment today. I was unable to finish my comments during the public comment period and would like to submit them in writing:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a proud CPS graduate, parent of a CPS Diverse Learner student, and a Local School Council Parent Representative. I am also the chairperson of our school's Parent Advisory Council, and I'm on the leadership team of an Equity Committee at the CPS high school I attended.

I urge the Board to terminate the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Chicago Police Department, and require District leaders to work with stakeholders on alternatives to the School Resource Officer program. These motions are strongly supported by data in the PoliceFreeSchools Coalition and the Handcuffs in the Hallways Reports, as well as the 2017 Department of Justice Investigation of CPD. The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights report I submitted via email confirms that SROs do NOT keep students safe, and that the presence of SROs leads to the criminalization of our youth, particularly youth of color and students with disabilities, and negatively effects educational outcomes. Conversely, the report shows that investment in social-emotional learning, mental health services, and restorative justice programs reduces arrests and disciplinary issues, and improves educational outcomes. As the parent of a Diverse Learner who often has behavioral challenges, I know firsthand that our children need counselors not cops.

CPS officials say these choices should be left to Local School Councils. However, the district did not give LSCs the time or support they needed to make informed decisions last year or consult their larger school communities, nor did they give schools the option to keep the money for SROs in their budget to put toward restorative practices or other alternatives to address behavioral issues. Even now, it's already summer and very difficult to get quorum. This is a disservice to LSCs and students because the district ALREADY has very clear alternatives laid out in current CPS policy that simply need to be fully enacted and fully funded. CPS has a 148-page Restorative Practice Guide and Toolkit. The Student Code of Conduct was updated to clearly direct behavioral interventions toward restorative solutions. What has been missing is monetary investment and comprehensive trainings by the district in executing the guidelines that already exist, as well as having adequate numbers of special education teachers, counselors, social workers, and nurses in every school. I urge the Board to allocate all \$33 million dollars toward restorative practices, special education, and tangible social, emotional, and medical supports for our children.

Finally, a heartbreaking example of what happens when we DON'T protect our students is the Marshall High School's Police Officers assault of Dnigma Howard, who is Black and a Diverse Learner and was just 16 years old at the time. SROs refused to follow her IEP or BIP, and instead violently assaulted her for having a cell phone out in class, and then lied about it. Her father has shared about how his daughter is still deeply traumatized. Yet she recently graduated from high school, which is an amazing achievement on her part considering how deeply CPS failed her and her family. This Board owes it to Miss Howard, her father, and countless others to do the right thing and get police out of our schools NOW and give students access to the equitable, restorative services they deserve. Thank you.

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## CPD Contract

My name is [REDACTED]. I've been a Chicago resident for 16 years. My husband and I welcomed our first baby in February and are planning to send her to Chicago Public Schools. We are obviously very concerned about the safety of all CPS students.

We urge the Board not to renew their contract with CPD. Police do not promote safe schools. Instead, they often escalate conflict and greatly increase the chances that Black and Brown students will go to jail. We urge you to redirect the funds that would be used for the CPD contract to resources that promote learning and the healthy development of kids.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## Terminate CPD Contract with CPS

Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED], and I live in the Ravenswood neighborhood. I teach at many different schools throughout Chicago as a teaching artist, and I need to demand that today you vote to terminate the 33 million dollar contract CPS has made with CPD. It is inflicting far more harm and fear for the students of Chicago than it is doing good, and 33 million dollars could go towards so many more positive influences in those students' neighborhoods. Here are some main points why it needs to be terminated:

1. End the school to prison pipeline.
2. Redirect the \$33M CPD contract for guidance counselors and social workers in schools that do not have them.
3. Cops do not stop school shootings, but they do arrest BIPOC disproportionately to white students.

The presence of cops in schools is HARMFUL to our young people. Please end it now.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Take Police out of CPS & Invest in Education

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you as a high school student in support of the movement to terminate the \$33 million contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.

Research has shown that the mere presence of police officers in schools increases the likelihood that students will be sent to law enforcement for adolescent behavior. School based arrests, which fall more harshly on students of color, put students in direct contact with the criminal justice system. Policing within schools therefore puts students on a fast track to the school-to-prison pipeline (Poverty Law Handcuffs in Hallways Report, 2017).

Cancelling the Chicago Police Department contract and investing that money in the community, which you have the authority to do, would benefit students immensely. Terminating this contract would free \$33 million to be invested into at least 300 counselors, restorative justice coordinators, and social workers for every school in the district (Chicago Teachers Union).

I urge you to put students and the community first by taking CPD out of schools and reinvesting that money in social services.

Sincerely,

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CPD out of CPS

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to you in regards of the proposal that will be voted on tomorrow by the BOE on removing CPD from public schools. As a graduate from Lane Tech, I have felt the pressures of police presence in schools. Regardless the circumstance, racial bias is deeply rooted in the police department and marginalized students are often left as easy targets. I have witnessed this first hand in school, watching my friends be stopped by police on our way to class while I, a white female, am let off to continue getting to the classroom. Police profile students from an early age, and at schools as big as Lane Tech, it is hard

for police to get to know every student and actually see the student as a person. This makes it much easier for them to select students based off of the way that they look. It makes students feel like less of a person, it enforces shame for how you look, and it is just down right degrading.

The \$33 million that goes towards police presence in public schools can be easily reallocated to other resources. I shared 1 college counselor with 70 other students. It was nearly impossible to make a strong relationship with her because of her focus being spread so thin between students. If schools had more counselors it would promote the bridge between high school to college. Counselors are also such good role models to have in schools because unlike police, their presence is solely to build the students up and hold their hand through the scary process of figuring out what's next after this stage of school.

The money can also be allocated to increasing teacher salaries. Teachers are some of the most important people in our society, yet their pay does not reflect that. While the job should be celebrated, it is often undermined by their low pay which stops people from wanting to be teachers in the future.

After school programs can be expanded. Funding can go towards more sports, new gyms, playgrounds, cultural groups, gardens, etc. This would promote students from staying off of the streets and extended education. It can focus on educating students about matters that they don't learn through the school curriculum.

I can go on about how the funding can be used for new desks, projectors, clean facilities, and more, but the point I am trying to make is that CPS has been in need of an increase in a lot of resources. I had no idea that the city was funding that much money towards police in schools, and it just seems completely unbalanced between all of the other resources that we need in school.

Education is so important and the goal of the city should be to give students the best and most inclusive experience that they can, setting them up for a prosperous future. Police presence takes away from the joys of school and it exposes students to discrimination at very young ages.

Please listen to us, we are tired of living in fear by the people who are supposed to protect. If you go back to the 1950's and 60's, our number of incarcerated people in the United States was decreasing, we were on a path to a society with no prison systems at all. If we continue to have police in the schools, minority students will continue to be profiled, targeted, and not given an equal chance. We are all equal, give students the resources that they need to be successful, we are all in this together. Please vote to remove CPD from CPS.

Best,



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## Removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Hello all,

I am emailing to urge you to vote to remove CPD from CPS schools. There is no reason why police officers should be present in a place of learning. From personal experience, I insist that these officers are not a helpful resource in our public schools, but rather add to the race-based educational disparity that is evident across the CPS system and ultimately add to the systemic racism and violence against black people in our country as a whole.

As a graduate of the University of Chicago and a former health education teacher who worked in a variety of schools across the city, I have seen first hand how students are treated differently based on race and socioeconomic background. While schools on the city's South and West Sides struggle to get basic resources for their students, those in more affluent and predominantly white neighborhoods enjoy the newest books, technology, access to elective courses and so on. I will save my frustrations about the use of property taxes as an integral part of public school funding for another time.

Another notable difference between our schools is how students are treated by School Resource Officers. One of my close friends, an activist on the south side, relayed to me how her education was significantly hindered by having to constantly go through metal detectors and be frightened by CPS officers in her school hallways—that is, until her family moved her to a predominantly white suburb where her new public school did not have any metal detectors or officers. Needless to say, she was shocked. Why are our black students treated so differently? These are children we are talking about. Not criminals. They

deserve to learn in peace and without the fear of being shoved down the stairs or arrested on school grounds for a minor issue that could easily be dealt with by a competent teacher or administrator.

Please vote to remove CPS from all Chicago Public Schools. Law Enforcement cannot be trusted to act in the best interest of our students, especially black students, and they do not serve a purpose in our school's halls. And let's be honest, it is no small amount of these officers that are placed in schools as a punishment for misconduct in the field. This is absurd.

Thank you.

██████████

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CPD OUT OF CPS

PLEASE VOTE TO GET CPD OUT OF CPS!!!!!!!!!!

██████████

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THIS IS IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Hello,

My name is ██████████. I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO). The rise in SROs is due mostly to the perceived threats of violence following the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and many people - including President Trump - advocated for having officers in every school to best handle any potential safety threats at school. I personally find this reaction a bit puzzling, given that Stoneman Douglas High had an SRO on duty during the shooting and that officer remained outside the school in a defensive position at the time of the shooting. I believe this speaks to the larger issue that there is in fact no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research

([https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao?fbclid=IwAR2N1c-4zngMCHNEzrPU\\_FKsbngnhJfAbqBUT\\_Jph0CV4W2pBEQ\\_yd7cbYk](https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao?fbclid=IwAR2N1c-4zngMCHNEzrPU_FKsbngnhJfAbqBUT_Jph0CV4W2pBEQ_yd7cbYk)) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering. I am urging you join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD.

90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.

Thank you,



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Keep Police out of our Chicago schools

Hello Chicago leaders,

I write to you today as a parent, artist, and art administrator concerned about the future of our children. I am not alone. I am amongst over 1000 other folks in the art community (<https://www.chicagoartsforblacklives.com/>) here in Chicago who believe that the presence of Chicago police in public schools is detrimental to their mental health, their ability to learn, and their creativity.

Rather than making students feel safe, the presence of CPD in public schools has proven to create trauma and to be a pathway in the school-to-prison pipeline. There is no place for them in education. Our children, all of them, have the right to dream and to create a more beautiful world. Please consider these 1000+ voices in your community and vote against continuing the \$33 million city-wide CPD contract.

Hopefully this letter expresses the seriousness of the Chicago Arts Community's support for the youth of the city and the type of educational experience they deserve.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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CPD

I want CPD out of CPS. Schools need to be safe environments for all students and believe that the presence of CPD in schools disproportionately affects the safety and ability to thrive for black and brown students, many of which are already at a disadvantage due to circumstances caused by systemic racism.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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A Brighter Future

Good Afternoon,

As a CPS teacher and a member of the Chicago community, I am writing to urge you to end the contract with the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Public Schools and to remove officers from schools. Research has shown that police officers in schools do not make students safer and increase the likelihood that students are going to be involved in the legal system early and often. Funding should be directed to evidence-based alternatives such as restorative justice programs and having mental health counselors and support staff available to students to build trust between students and adults. These strategies make schools safer and more welcoming for all students. Districts across the country have moved in recent weeks to remove police officers from schools. I urge the Chicago Board of Education to be on the right side of history and commit to real action for racial justice in Chicago.

I included some follow up articles as well. I greatly appreciate the time each of you spend making Chicago Public Schools what it is today. As a proud educator of 9 years I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak openly on this sensitive topic.

Why Black Lives Matter Wants To Push Police Out of Schools

## Additional Resource Advocating for Alternatives

Thank you for your time.

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#PoliceFreeSchools

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a graduate of Chicago Public Schools. I went to Alexander Graham Bell School and Lane Tech High School. I believe it is time for a change. I grew up on the North Side. I am a white woman with so much privilege. The inequality and lack of resources in schools on the South and West Side is appalling. I believe that the \$33 million dollar contract with CPD reflects a complete lack of care for our students. Police disproportionately punish, target and kill black and brown people. Instead of continuing police presence in schools we should reinvest this money in school infrastructure, providing mental health resources (counselors and psychiatrists), paying for school nurses, school supplies, after school programming, arts education. It is time to end this contract and reinvest in our most marginalized communities. Students are in crises and in need of resources. Many students are homeless, many students do not have healthy food to eat in their homes. Students rely on schools but many schools do not have sufficient resources. In making this vote today I want you to ask yourself whose side are you on. I want you to critically think about the history of policing in America. I do not believe all cops are bad but the system is fundamentally not working. We need to protect our youth, access to mental health resources, healthy food, and high quality education must be prioritized.

This vote is historic. Make sure you are on the right side. Let's get CPD out of CPS. The school system in Chicago is a disgrace. It is time to change. It is time to reinvest in children, in black and brown youth.

End this contract.

From,

A passionate former CPS student who is ready for change.

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CPD Budget

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a resident of Chicago in the Ukrainian Village. With everything going on in our ever changing lives, I am very concerned about the safety of all CPS students.

I would like to urge the Board not to renew their contract with the Chicago Police Department. Police do not promote safe schools. Instead, they often escalate conflict and greatly increase the chances that BIPOC students will go to jail.

I would like to urge you to redirect the 33 million dollar contract to other resources that promote learning and the healthy development of kids.

All the best,

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Remove CPD From CPS

I'm emailing to urge you to remove CPD from our public schools.

You may have hesitations about this. Thinking about "good cops" or anecdotal instances where police in schools have been helpful/useful is harmful thinking right now. This is not about individual good or bad police officers. This is not about individuals who are racist or sexist. This is about a system of oppression that is starting for our black and brown friends and neighbors in their earliest years.

We can do better. You can lead this. Please use your voice to vote Yes and remove CPD from our schools.

Thank you,



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Defunding and Removing CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am writing today to demand that the Board of Education immediately remove CPD presence in Chicago Public Schools and to slash the Police Department budget to be immediately reallocated to reopening and funding Chicago Public Schools in need. The City of Chicago, as well as every other city in the United States, has been developed and is continuing to be sustained on the back of white supremacy. The reinforcement of our racist societal backbone is carried out largely by racist, brutal, and often murderous over-policing of black people paired with a systemic underfunding of black and brown communities, schools, and support systems. Today, the Chicago Board of Education has the opportunity to STOP gaslighting the oppression of its BIPOC population by deciding to completely cut ties with the Chicago Police Department. There is no reason for Police officers to be patrolling buildings who are meant to be a safe, compassionate space for children to learn and grow. Inaction on this decision is a

direct acknowledgement and dismissal of the school-to-prison pipeline that is actively operating through police involvement in public schools.

The public demands that CPD be REMOVED from CPS immediately! Defund CPD now and fund our communities!!

sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Please no cops in schools

Hello,

I know you are getting so many emails today, but please do not vote to renew the CPS contract.

I work with young folks, & youth in my work at a local children's hospital. I see the damage police presence has provided young folks, especially those most vulnerable to violence at the hands of police. Data continues to show rates of violence are much higher to students of color, & that much of this fear is used against young people in their education.

Students should be able to & encouraged to learn in environments that foster growth & creativity, not one in which they live in fear.

Nurses could be in every school. Health centers in every school. Adequate supplies in every school. LCSWs in every school. Mental health support in every school. Education for the staff at every school.

Please change the world. Support youth. Do not allow cops in school. Children really are our future. Show them a world can exist where they do not need to live in fear.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Keep CPD OUT of CPS

Let's be frank.

You all know which way the wind is blowing and you want to keep your jobs, right? But, if you still need reasons to keep the CPD out of schools, I'm happy to oblige.

The CPD has no place in our schools. It's traumatic and leads to school-to-prison pipelines, not to mention creeps like John Cantazara, head of the Chicago Police Union, who is currently dating a woman he met when he was the hired security at her high school, where she attended as a student.

Any of you think that's okay? Like how it's okay for cops to have sex with women they have in custody as long as it's "consensual"?

You're not children (like Cantazara's girlfriend was when they met), and you know right from wrong. Teachers, counselors, nurses, that's what children need, not armed cops looking to arrest them and/or sleep with them.

Do not allow this to continue or you'll be hurting yourselves in the eyes of the public, not to mention your own conscience, which should be screaming at you over the John Cantazara thing, if nothing else. Don't enable this to continue. Do better or find yourselves abandoned by everyone around you, because they know to do the right thing.

Do you?

Regards,



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Contract with Chicago Police Department

Dear Chicago Board of Education:

I am a Chicago resident writing to urge you to not renew the Chicago Public Schools' contract with the Chicago Police Department. Police presence in schools does not promise safer schools for our students, but instead promotes student-police encounters, arrests, and suspensions or expulsions of CPD students with collateral consequences that can destroy lives.

Instead of continuing this pattern, I urge CPS to use the millions of dollars previously allocated to the CPD contract to establish other ways of ensuring the safety of all students, including alternative forms of conflict resolution, extracurricular activities, and mental health and other support services for students.

Sincerely,

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

I am writing to you to strongly encourage you consider removing police presence from Chicago Public Schools. I am sure by now you have heard of the research behind the school to prison pipeline and the implications of policing and racially unjust punishments in school based of the color of students' skin. Whether you acknowledge this or not, we demand the allocation of funds to other areas of the school to provide resources to students, not policing and preparation for a life of imprisonment for Black and Brown children. If you truly cared for them, you would understand this is in their best interest.

Thank you,

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How do we support our students?

Hi,

My name is ██████████. I grew up on the Northwest Side and went to Lane Tech for highschool. I am extremely proud of my city and fortunate to have gotten the education that I did in CPS. As I look back on the 12+ years I spent in the Chicago Public Schools System, I reflect fondly on the friends that I made and the amazing teachers I had. I truly think the education I got in CPS, and at Lane Tech helped get me where I am today. But then when I do some more reminiscing, I think about having to walk through a metal detector every day. I think about randomly having my bag searched as I'm coming into the building. I think about cops walking down the hallway while I am trying to learn. And I think about the traumatic experiences my friends and fellow students had with police officers, memories of which are triggered by police officers in our schools. And as I reflect on that, I wonder how we could learn when we were being treated as criminals every single day. From the moment we walked in the building, to our last day of senior year, we were policed and our behavior, as children and young adults, was criminalized. How is a student supposed to learn when they have the constant threat of police violence walking down the hallways and meeting them the second they walk through the door?

It is for this reason, I ask that you take into consideration ending the CPS contract with CPD. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothing, IDs, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, or neighborhoods. There is evidence that police do not contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts, and guidance counselors to help students succeed. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

██████████

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Vote to remove CPD from CPS

My name is ██████████ and I am a Chicago resident in the 1st Ward, former teacher, and a future parent of public school students. I implore you to vote to remove CPD from our public schools.

Students deserve support and do not deserve to be treated as criminals. The Board has shown that they believe police are integral members of school staff, while counselors, social workers, nurses, and TEACHERS go by the wayside.

Remove CPD from CPS and prioritize funds to areas that actually support our students. Our students deserve our support and not the threat of a prison pipeline that funnels a disproportionate number of BIPOC students into jail.

Again, let me add to the swell of voices, remove CPD from CPS. Thanks for listening, hoping to see you act, stay healthy out there,

██████████

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Remove police officers from CPS schools - end the CPS contract with CPD

Dear Chicago Board of Education member,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Chicago resident, currently living in Andersonville. There is extensive evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

Studies show that the presence of police in schools harms the learning process and disproportionately harms the success of Black and Brown students.

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" — as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence — a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings — the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, and developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

██████████

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No CPD in CPS

My name is ██████████ and I'm a resident of the 44th ward in Chicago. I'm writing to you today to ask that you vote to remove Chicago Police from Chicago Public Schools.

Police have no place in a school. Evidence shows their presence leads to an increase in suspensions and arrests, but that there's no clear decrease in crime. This is just another case of the police force being completely ineffective at their intended purpose.

On top of having no positive impact on safety, police presence in schools leads to increased anxiety for all students and staff. It is difficult for students to focus on learning when they're in constant fear of police brutality. And much like bullies, it is often difficult to tell what will provoke a police officer.

Instead, funds should be directed to resources that are actually effective at making schools safer and improving education outcomes. That money should go to counselors to help students in need, additional teachers and increased pay for teachers to ensure small class sizes and teachers who can focus on class instead of how they're going to pay their next bill, food programs to ensure all students have access to meals, regularly updated learning materials like text books.

Cops **MUST** be removed from schools before students are allowed to return. It is the only way forward to ensure safety and quality education for our kids.

Sincerely,

██████████

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Education in Chicago

Hello ,

This email is inviting you to reconsider the budget for the Chicago police. Currently the stats show that the police budget is \$1.76 billion. The education budget is \$125 million. With you being in office, you control this and can affect the budget, you are responsible. I invite you to reconsider this budget. The gap between these budgets is upwards of 1 billion dollars.

There must be some room for negotiation. There needs to be a change. You are responsible and can make this change. Your reputation is already failing and by doing this deed of shifting money from police

to education, you wouldn't only be improving your relationship with the city, which you have claimed to be interested in helping, but the people of Chicago too.

You are able to help people but by ignoring this gap and unfair budgeting, you are hurting the people of Chicago. There are children who need better education. There are police murdering people. By ignoring this and supporting the police's behavior, you are showing that you are uninterested in doing your job for listening to the people of Chicago. Understand that this is not only what's happening now, but you will be remembered this way. Please reconsider this budget. There is something seriously wrong with this.

Until you do so, you are a part of the problem.

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Systems of Care over Policing

Hello,

I am writing this letter as a lifelong educator and activist. As an educator who works with CPS youth through Marwen, and as a professor at Northwestern University, I have witnessed and heard stories from my students about policing not only in our communities, but in our schools.

Policing does not work. It does not prevent violence, but further exacerbates it. Being married to a CPS teacher and volunteering at Northwest Middle School gave me insight into the relationships that students of color have with police. Our children should not be greeted with badges, guns, and metal detectors. They should be greeted with love and compassion by members of the community who can facilitate spaces of healing for our youth and our community at large. Punitive systems do not work. It reinforces the school to prison pipeline, along with many other intersecting issues.

The money from CPD needs to go to classroom aids, social workers and counselors trained in social justice, translators and language support for ESL students, and diversity training that addresses specifically anti-blackness within CPS for all CPS administrators, board members, staff, and teachers.

Take CPD out of CPS. Our students' lives depend on it. Our communities need it.

THE TIME IS NOW.

Respectfully,

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██████████  
██████████

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS!

Hello,

As a Chicagoan who spent K-12 in Skokie school districts 69 and 219, I am so thankful to have not had a strong (if any? at least not strong enough to recall...) police presence. I went to well-funded schools with a variety of options for conflict resolution or other issues, including counselors and nurses, as well as thriving arts programs that allowed for introspection, creativity, community building, and growth.

I now am part of the Albany Park community and I wish for these same opportunities and more for CPS schools. CPD needs to be removed from CPS immediately. Not only does the police presence mean less funding for much more important things that I highlighted above, but also the police presence criminalizes youth and is integral in the school-to-prison pipeline rather than focusing on the root cause of issues. While I was not as aware of this issue before the past few weeks, I am now aware of and learning more every day about the violence that police perpetuate and create. Police have no place in schools, period.

The spotlight is on you as a member of the school board. Removing CPD from CPS is something long overdue. Please listen to what the people have been saying for years and make this happen immediately.

Take care (of yourself and of the people you serve),

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Cut ties from police

Hello,

I'm writing to demand that Chicago Public Schools cut ties with the police. Children should not be treated as criminals. The money that goes toward the CPD should be going toward resources that can help address the root of the problems that occur in children who are disobedient, acting out, or even violent. Dumping a "problem" student on the police to have them arrested or sent to juvie does not solve the problem, and it certainly does not help the child. Please have more empathy than that. Imagine if it were your own child. This problem disproportionately affects black and brown students. They are treated with far less empathy and patience than white students are, and what the police do to them is more severe and has a lasting impact on them.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern in Evanston, IL, as well as a concerned, informed member of the Chicago community. I am writing to you today to vote in favor of removing the CPD from Chicago Public Schools. Thank you for doing what is right #BLM.

Warmly,

[REDACTED]

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Fwd: Concerned Parents of Orozco Academy

To be included in written comments for 6/24/2020 BOE meeting minutes.

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Remove CPD From Chicago Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a CPS student, currently in Northside College Prep.

Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study “Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth” (published by the American Sociological Review), states “Police contact can also erode children’s educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety” – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. We need cleaner schools, more nurses, and better resources instead of police. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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No cops in our schools!

Hello,

I am writing to demand that the Chicago Board of Education and CPS follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families. (policing is not a need)
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

Our students need opportunity! Not more cops.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Removing CPD from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Board Members,

I'd like to add my voice to the growing chorus of voices demanding that Chicago Public Schools terminate its contract with the Chicago Police Department, and withdraw CPD officers from our city's schools. The presence of police in our schools has been shown time and again to be detrimental to Black and Brown students, while not providing for the public safety asked of these officers. In addition, the presence of police in schools criminalizes matters of school discipline that would be better handled by professionally trained counselors and social workers. This disproportionately harms students of color and contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline. The CPD contract funds will be far more beneficial to students through hiring more support staff, social workers, and healthcare professionals in schools, de-escalating conflicts

and treating root causes. Children are excellent learners - let's teach them through support rather than suppress them through force.



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DEFUND CPD! They have NO place in CPS!

Hi,

I was a CPS student from age 10-18, in northside neighborhoods Albany Park & Ravenswood. I NEVER FELT "SAFER" with the presence of the CPD! Remove them from campuses and FUND programs that MATTER and will make a difference in the lives of these children.

FYI - I am an Asian American who "made it out" of CPS successfully and make a 6 figure salary in the tech industry - this is not a 1 in a million outcome. INVEST IN YOUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES! NOT THE POLICE.

Thanks.

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Written comment for next BOE meeting

Good afternoon,

I am a social worker living in Chicago. Although I'm not a parent yet, and I haven't attended or worked in any CPS schools, I care very deeply for the students of CPS. I believe unequivocally that all children deserve to feel a sense of safety at school, in addition to their right to basic education.

I know that the members of the Board share my concerns about children's right to education. I know this because you have dedicated a significant part of your life to making a positive impact on students' lives by joining the Board. Thank you for your service to our communities.

Now, no matter what your personal politics may be, I know you also share my concern for children's safety. If we were discussing a monster that eats some of our children every time they go to school, I know we would band together to eradicate this dangerous monster.

In this case, the dangerous monster is the racist violence perpetuated by an armed and militarized gang that is not held to the same moral, ethical, and legal standards that you or I are held to.

This is not about radicalizing you or changing your minds. This is about children being harmed. Children are not protected by police officers. You and I know this. I don't have to flood you with statistics to show you what is obvious to any rational and empathetic person.

It is our shared moral and ethical responsibility to sever the relationship between the Chicago Public School system and the Chicago Police department immediately. Any day we wait means another child is at risk of harm.

Thank you for reading and for taking the righteous stand. We will celebrate you for your historic actions if you choose to do so.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen of beloved Chicago (/a transplant who has chosen Chicago!)

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Remove CPD from CPS

Hi,

I am a resident of Tinley Park. I am writing to urge the Board of Education to cancel the contract with the Chicago Police Department at the board meeting on June 24th. Children should not be subject to biased police officers in their schools, and having CPD in schools helps support the school-to-prison pipeline. In light of recent events, CPD needs to stay away from our students. Please end the contract.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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(no subject)

To the Chicago Board of Education,

I am a future parent of a child who will attend CPS. I feel police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified transgender-competent therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school

shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

Thank you for considering and doing something courageous!

Thank you,

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Remove CPD from CPS

That’s all I need to say. Remove the CPD from CPS schools. Reallocate the absurd cost you give to the CPD back into the school so that kids have the support they deserve.

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Police out of CPS

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a Youth Worker. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled, queer, systems involved, or mental unwell Black and Brown TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR’s “Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer”, “There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise

— that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for.”

There are also academic works, like “Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes” which states “Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college” (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that “[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions” (29).

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I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with therapists, psychologists, developmental experts who are CULTURALLY appropriate to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police from CPS schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a 12-year resident of Chicago and am looking forward to having my daughter attend her local CPS school, Waters Elementary. I have significant concerns over the presence of police in CPS schools. A decision from you to maintain police in CPS schools would mean that our family would look elsewhere to send our daughter to school, because we are unwilling to support a schooling system that maintains a law enforcement presence.

As far as I am aware, police are not required at Water Elementarys, and I don't believe they have a place in other CPS schools either given their behavior, training, and adversarial, warrior-like culture. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. This bullying is also common for students with cognitive deficits or other psychological conditions. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

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This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects resulting in marginalization of low-income students and Black and Hispanic students.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of child and young adult psychology. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I demand that the Board vote today to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Police do not belong in our schools!

Hello,

I believe that we need to bring the process of removing police from our schools and use this funding to support the DEVELOPMENT of children, not the PUNISHMENT. Use these resources to fund after-school programs, nurses, psychologists, counselors, etc. We are setting our young Black and Brown students up for a lifetime of inequality and stints in prison.

This is unacceptable and the world is watching. DO THE RIGHT THING!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The importance of listening to students

Hello,

I own a home in Chicago and will have children in the CPS system in a couple of years. I am dismayed to hear that you aren't willing to listen to students that are asking for police to be taken out of their schools. As someone who has a choice whether to support charter, private, or CPS schools with my dollars I am much more inclined to have my children attend somewhere that there isn't a police presence. Studies have shown that police contact can erode a children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma, and anxiety. What can the money be spent on instead to safe-guard youth safety? Studies have shown that money spent on counselors, mental health support, and after-school activities increases school safety. Please listen to your constituents and the students you serve and try to imagine a world where money is invested back into the communities where your schools serve not into punitive services rooted in racial injustice. Chicago itself has shown that an increase in police presence does not equate a decrease in crime. Let's stop throwing badges and money at a problem, and start supporting evidenced based initiatives and consult your major client, students. I've linked to some articles that are crucial reading on the impact of police in schools, hopefully you can make informed decisions instead of maintaining status quo due to political pressure. Thank you in advance for reading.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XbO7qyNWB4Fz54nGXJuej-yRhvTa5kMF/view>

<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/rdchf/>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/08/591753884/do-police-officers-in-schools-really-make-them-safer>

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2019/2/14/21121037/new-studies-point-to-a-big-downside-for-schools-bringing-in-more-police>

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Kindly remove Chicago Police Department from public schools

On behalf of my daughter's safety, please discontinue paying for officers in schools and transfer those resources to counseling, mental health care and crisis support, which will actively make my daughter safer while harming no one.

We budget money on safety, not police. Please allocate resources to the most effective safety tools available, starting with the ones that do not carry weapons into classrooms.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Public Comments for 6/24/20 Board Meeting

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education:

Please accept the following comments from two caregivers of CPS students: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

These comments are in support of allocating funding to comprehensive sexual education in CPS. If you have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

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Urgent request to cut CPS ties with Chicago Police Department

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am [REDACTED], a proud alumna of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School - one of the best schools in the state.

Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But

there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with in school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons of school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and a reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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I support removing CPD from Chicago schools

Hi,

I'm writing to voice support for removing CPD from Chicago schools. I believe students would be better served by adding social workers, mental health resources, after school programs, nurses, additional training and other beneficial services.

In many circumstances, CPD escalates situations rather than helping resolve situations in a positive outcome. Please remove CPD from Chicago schools.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove and replace police in schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into serious consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a concerned Chicago parent who works within the City Colleges system. Police in schools harass students over minor infractions while behaving aggressively towards minors. Police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell teens and children.

This is not appropriate or healthy.

They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence (NPR "Do Police Officers in Schools Really Make them Safer?"; Weisburst "Patrolling Public Schools"; Legewie& Fagan "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth") that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

Stats you may have heard by now include:

-NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs actually results in safer schools "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for." Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute.

-"[police funding] have the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (Weisburst, 29).

- "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence (Geller et al. 2014; Golembeski and Fullilove 2005; Sugie and Turney 2017)

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with qualified therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students succeed. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, and any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you and with greatest sincerity,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Care not Cops!!

Hello,

I am contacting you today as an alumni of CPS, and a family member of many students in CPS. I urge you to vote in favor of the removal of CPD from public schools. If you are actually voting with the community and students in mind you will vote for the removal of cops in our schools.

We need care not cops. We need proper funding for our students, teachers, counselors, and programming. When I was in school I desired more adequate learning opportunities, not cops. Students need to feel that they are cared for, and cops do not create that environment. No child should have to be arrested in school. Children go to school to learn and grow, they should not fear going to school. The CTU is urging you, the students are too, so vote on the right side of history today.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove Police from Chicago Public Schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education,

Thank you for considering removing police from Chicago school systems. Based on all of the research I've done and reports I've read, police do not contribute to a positive school experience and their presence is particularly detrimental to children who come from Black and Brown communities that are regularly overpoliced. Multiple studies have concluded that police in schools actively harm the learning outcomes of marginalized students. It is clear that the money used to keep police in our schools would be much better spent on social workers, de-escalation experts, and other professionals who do not carry guns or harass children over minor infractions. The current system is not working: please consider the wellbeing of our entire Chicago community and remove police from our schools.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and your devotion to the children of Chicago.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Cops out of CPS!

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to ask you to vote to get CPD officers out of Chicago public schools. CPS gives the police department \$33 million per year that would be better spent on nurses, social workers, and updated books and equipment. Right now, if a school rejects hiring police officers, they lose that funding and cannot redirect it to something more useful. There is no evidence that school officers reduce violence or increase safety. There is lots of evidence that they engage in misconduct against children in school, some of the most vulnerable members of society. (For evidence of this, please see the Chicago Reporter's "Settling for Misconduct" series.)

Other cities like Minneapolis and Denver have already made the wise choice to end school-cop contracts. Please do the right thing and vote to get cops out of schools!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Please vote no to police in schools

Dear Chicago Board of Education members,

I have been a Chicago resident since 2013. I currently live in the Uptown neighborhood. Since I have been a resident, I have seen the Chicago Police Department budget increase by four billion dollars, while seeing mental health clinics across the city close.

Growing up I never went to a school with police officers; I always felt safe. There was an incident at my younger brother's school where there was a kid who brought a gun to school, intending to harm people. How was it handled? The teacher had been trained in how to deescalate the situation and talked to the student for several hours until he backed down.

I don't have to go work in an office where there are police and I work for a university. Children shouldn't have to either--they deserve increased access to mental health and drug treatment programs. Things that will keep them safe before things escalate. I am very concerned about the increasing police presence in our community.

All the best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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get CPD out of CPS!

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am an Illinois resident who benefited from no police presence in my education at a high school in Wheaton. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack

disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] has the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown

students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,



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CPS police presence

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a student at the University of Illinois College of Business that is from a Chicago suburb. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

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For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, “The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer” (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

This is your chance to make a difference in the lives of young black children everywhere. Please be on the right side of history, everyone in Illinois is counting on you.

Thank you,

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Good afternoon - Urging you to cancel the CPD contract

Hi, My name is ██████████ and I'm a Logan Square resident. I am writing to you in regard to the upcoming Board of Education vote regarding the CPS contract with Chicago Police Department for Student Resource Officers (SRO).

**There is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools. According to Marc Schindler, head of Justice Policy Institute, "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."**

In addition, many critics of SROs have pointed out the unintended consequences to having officers inside the schools like increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests that funnel students into the criminal justice system. **This effect is heightened especially for Black and Brown students.** Like others, I have read accounts from various CPS high school students who shared their interactions and perspectives about the SROs they have encountered in their own schools and a common theme I noted was that students are being told the SROs are there to build meaningful relationships with them, but their only interactions with the SROs come in the form of punishment. One student I heard speaking about this claimed that the only time he saw SROs interact with any student was to arrest them.

As we have all become increasingly aware of recently with the Justice for George Floyd movement, police brutality is a pervasive issue all over the country and it is an issue of racial justice. These issues are mirrored in our schools when it comes to police presence. There is a considerable body of research (<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>) showing that Black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school.

The concerns outlined in the report are not limited to arrests. A wave of high-profile incidents suggests that Black and Brown students are also more likely to face violence from school police. Advocates argue that adding more police to this dynamic will only make things more difficult for students from marginalized groups — those from Black and Latino communities, with LGBTQ identities, and with disabilities — who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. **The disparities in discipline rates also fuel concerns about the “school-to-prison pipeline,” a term describing the ways that school discipline and arrests push Black and Brown students out of classrooms and into the criminal justice system.**

I imagine that this upcoming vote is no doubt in response to the national attention that police contracts in schools is getting. In two weeks time, three school districts in our nation have severed their contracts with the city's police department to remove officers from schools – a move that at least a dozen other school districts are considering.

**I am urging you to join these school boards leading the nation and to vote to cancel the contract with CPD. 90% of CPS students are Black and Brown and deserve to feel safe at school, rather than targeted like they are on the streets. At a time when CPS is underfunded and making decisions about what cuts will need to be made; at a time when counselor to student ratios are 1 to 650; I urge you to choose investment in our children and education justice.**

Thank you,

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Plea to Vote to Remove CPD from CPS

ello Board of Education,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a parent in the City of Chicago. I would like you to remove CPD from Chicago's public schools, as I believe those funds can be used in more effective ways that help students actually reform by addressing their issues rather than criminalizing them. More counselors, nurses, therapists, and empathetic teachers are what our schools need, not police with guns looking at students as suspects.

Please do the right thing for our children. Their futures are directly tied to this.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Please remove CPD from CPS

Hi there,

Hope this finds you well. I'm reaching out as a concerned resident of Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood (40th ward), and I am asking that today, you take a historic stand and vote to remove CPD from our public schools.

I've always thought I chose to live in a progressive city when I moved to Chicago 12 years ago. I'd love to believe that we can rise to the moment and understand that heavily armed guards in the form of the CPD have no place in our schools, where children are being taught. The \$33 million being spent on police can truly transform our schools in so many positive ways that actually address the systemic causes behind the violence and isolation felt by so many students. The way to stop the school-to-prison pipeline is not to essentially replicate a prison by stationing armed guards throughout, but to provide students more services to deal with their hardships so they can avoid this cruel future.

Please follow the lead set by cities like Minneapolis, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle and vote to remove the CPD from CPS.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

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Terminate the IGA with City of Chicago for SROs

Dear Board of Education Members,

I am actively listening to the discussion regarding the termination of the IGA with the City/CPD for SROs in school

I think it is a diffusion of responsibility to leave this choice up to LSCs. LSC members do not have direct access to student disciplinary records and outside of Principal Evaluation regarding school safety, this is beyond the purview of LSCs. If you truly believe that "LSCs know their communities, we should let them decide what they need..." maybe you should listen to us when we say that we need full time nurses, social workers, and librarians? When we say that the privatization of school services (lunchroom workers, engineers, and custodians) has been to the detriment of our students and our school staff?

I think the choice of having a centrally funded SRO or a DIY security solution is a false choice.

I think the \$33 million dollars used to fund SROs could be much better spent to train security personnel already deployed in schools on restorative (or transformative! Thanks for raising that point, Tia) practices, de-escalation etc. Better yet, train the ENTIRE STAFF. This new student code of conduct has not been fully implemented across schools because it is yet another unfunded policy/mandate. It should be required annually like the sexual abuse and mandated reporter training.

SROs will not solve the problem of community violence.

Safe passage did not make schools safer. It was necessary because of the closure of 50+ schools.

I support the motion, because as Member Elizabeth Todd-Breland argued, it is your responsibility as a Board appointed to govern CPS "to dismantle not reform the school-to-prison pipeline." This is the moment to do it, and you should be on the right side of history.

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Take Police Out of Schools

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is [REDACTED] and I am an alumni of Wheaton North, while I do not belong to the CPS system I still had an on duty officer and on more than one occasion saw a level of violence with a minor that is completely unacceptable. THEY ARE MINORS!!! Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] has the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" – as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence – a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings – the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but

ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Urging you not to renew the CPS contract with CPD

To whom it may concern,

I am a longtime resident of Chicago and a mother who intends to send my daughter to a Chicago Public School in the coming years. I understand that the CPS Board of Education is currently considering whether to spend over 30 million dollars in taxpayer funds to renew its contract with the Chicago Police Department. I am writing to urge the Board not to renew its contract with CPD. As the recent wave of protests in Chicago and around the country starkly underscores, the police are all too often responsible for inflicting unnecessary life-threatening and sometimes life-ending violence, especially against people of color, rather than serving as a source of protection. Now is a critical time for change in the fight against systemic racism. CPS should follow in the footsteps of the numerous progressive educational institutions that have already terminated their contracts with their local police departments. There are countless school programs and initiatives that need better funding, especially in low-income communities, to help promote the education, health and well-being of our children. The funds that would otherwise go to the CPD contract should be redirected there.

Thank you for considering my position on this significant expenditure.

Sincerely,

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## Re-evaluating the use of CPD in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a proud Chicago resident whose majority of friends attended Chicago Public Schools for 5+ years. I am writing to demand that the Board of Education cut ties with the Chicago Police Department. My Black and Brown peers should not be forced to interact with a system of policing that treats them as a threat rather than as the incredible students and individuals that they are. The presence of police makes it impossible for Black and Brown students to feel safe in their schools, a place where students are meant to be nurtured, grow, and learn.

The presence of CPD in CPS schools is fundamentally disruptive and promotes the criminalization of young Black and Brown Chicagoans. Furthermore, in a city where some public schools lack access to basic resources including books, technology, and even soap, the \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used to support essential educational services. I urge you to follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relationships with the Chicago Police Department. Redirect the \$33 million allocated for SROs toward increasing access to technology and internet for all CPS students; providing assistance to students in temporary living situations; counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police; and investing in public schools on the South and West side that have long been ignored by the city.

You have an opportunity and a responsibility to make real change in our city. Do what is right. Invest in Chicago students and remove the police from our schools.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Remove CPD from CPS

To Chicago Board of Education members,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I'm [REDACTED], a CPS alum (West Park Academy '05, Lane Tech College Prep '09). Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mental unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down

students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to a positive school experience.

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Thank you

Dear Board Members,

I am a CPS parent with a 7 year old son. I want to thank you for voting to keep Chicago Police Officers in our schools.

One of my main concerns when my son became a grammar school student was having adequate security in the schools. My biggest fear is having another school shooting like Sandy Hook, Columbine, or Virginia Tech. In 2008 alone, there were 14 school shootings in this country.

I would not be able to sleep at night if we did not have some time of police presence in Chicago Public Schools. The thought of losing my only son in a school shooting just devastates me. Please continue to make the safety of our children your biggest priority.

Thank you,

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REMOVE CPD FROM CPS

Hello Chicago Board of Education Members,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of West Ridge Chicago. I am extremely concerned with the CPD's involvement and presence in CPS schools as well as the City of Chicago's inordinate investment in the Chicago Police Department (CPD) at the expense of critical youth, education, and health services. As demonstrated by ongoing peaceful protests and a 2019 Gallup poll, a majority of individuals living in Chicago view the police negatively. I implore you to please listen to the needs of your citizens and take immediate action to address their concerns.

If you genuinely care about the lives of Chicagoans and the safety in our city, then you will ACT accordingly and remove the CPD from CPS. They do not belong in our schools at all. Students should feel safe at school because for many students it is the only safe space they have and not only do they need it to remain a positive and helpful place, but it is the very place where they go to learn shouldn't contribute to the difficulty they have in learning in a comfortable environment. Bringing police into our schools makes students highly uncomfortable. Especially students of color who are often subject to racial profiling and racial bias by the very people who are paid to keep them safe. It should be no surprise to you that the police do not know how to do their jobs correctly. This is why people want to defund the police and redistribute their budget to mental health services (that support individuals of all identities not just wealthy, cis/het white people), schools (especially in Black and Brown communities that we all know do not receive funding due to what? oh yeah, racism!), after school programs, housing (again in Black and Brown communities that have dealt with gentrification, redlining, and other discriminatory actions), social and outreach workers, and more. Please do your job. Prove you care about this city and the people who live in it. Black Lives Matter! CPD out of CPS!!!!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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NO CPD in CPS

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a Chicago resident writing to express my solidarity with the CTU's position that there is no place for police in Chicago Public Schools. I urge you to vote to break the contract with CPD. Students in CPS are already facing too many obstacles to success in their education— many of which could be rectified with the \$33 million that's currently going to the CPD. No child should ever have to feel unsafe in school, and if you believe that police presence helps them to feel safe, you are not listening. The CPD's track record speaks for itself. Please, listen to teachers, listen to students, listen to your city, and get police out of our schools.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Concerning the role of police in the school

Thanks for taking the time to read this,

I'm writing to ask that you keep the police out of our schools. I'm an educator. I do not believe that the police have proven themselves an accountable partner. They are a deliberately opaque organization that has proven time and time again to be immune to reform. When incidents occur, which is inevitable given their long history of toxic culture and dangerous escalation, the bad actors of the Chicago police will do what they always do and shield their own from consequences. Their culture has learned this lesson over and over again and this lack of accountability affects their behavior system wide. This is why they can't be trusted in our schools. Because they operate outside of every system they participate in. Not because police are bad, but because their culture is sick. It poisons any institution it touches. Please, keep them out.

Thanks for reading, and thank you for all you do.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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NO COPS in SCHOOLS

Dear Board Members,

I urge you with my whole heart to vote YES on the motion to terminate the contract with the Chicago Police Department. Our childrens' lives, and the future of our city, depend on it.

With love,

██████

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CPD Out of CPS

Hello,

I live in Chicago's 28th ward. I am writing to demand your vote to cancel the Chicago Police Department's contract with Chicago Public Schools.

The \$33 million allocated to CPD SRO's should instead be used for:

- Staffing nurses, psychologists, social workers, librarians, and other transformative justice alternatives in every school
- Access to educational technology for every CPS student
- Cash assistance for families
- Undocumented employee relief funds
- Students in temporary living situations
- Funding for crucial arts education programs that have been cut

Point blank, we need to invest in our students, not in policing places of learning. Police presence only creates more violence for black and brown students who have not been given the education they deserve! Fund our kids! Cops out of CPS.

Thank you!

██████████

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CPD Contract

Good evening,

My name is ██████████ and I am a resident of Uptown. I am concerned with the City of Chicago's uneven investment in the Chicago Police Department (CPD) at the expense of critical youth, education, and health services.

I am writing to demand that tomorrow, each of you vote to reappropriate funds allocated to the CPD to support services such as city libraries and arts programs and essential frontline workers such as city libraries, fairer wages for nurses, educators, and social workers.

People are marching in the streets because they know that these actions will result in a healthier, more just society. I implore you to please listen to the needs of your constituents and take immediate action to address their concerns.

Thank you,

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

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FOR TOMORROWS DECISION

Hello,

According to Chicago Teachers Union, canceling the CPD contract and defunding the police, which either city or Chicago Board of Education has the authority to do, would free \$33 million to be reinvested in at least 300 counselors, restorative justice coordinators and social workers for every school in the district.

According to the Poverty Law Handcuffs in Hallways February 2017 report, research shows that the mere presence of police officers in school increases the likelihood that a student will be referred to law-enforcement for adolescent behavior. School-based arrests, which fall more harshly on students of color, put students in direct contact with the justice system. Poor policing within schools therefore put students on the fast track to the school to prison pipeline.

I urge the board to fund education instead of the police.

Best,

████████

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Fund Education Instead

Dear Board,

As the school board decides to whether or not to terminate it's contract between public schools and the police department, please keep in mind that ending this contract would free 33 million dollars. Money that could be reinvested to areas that will greatly improve our public school systems. More counselors, restorative justice coordinators, social workers for every school in the district.

The presence of police is not the solution to a a successful school. The presence of police increases the chances of adolescent behavior being met with law enforcement. School based arrests disproportionately effect our black and brown students and puts them in direct contact with the justice system. This therefore puts students on a fast track to the school-to-prison pipeline.

I deeply encourage this contract be terminated and funds be distributed to areas that will have a genuine effect on our students. We need a systems that nurtures and put our students first.

Thank You,

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The Removal of Police from Chicago School Systems

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. I am a graduated student of a high school in the Chicago suburbs. Police in schools would harass students over minor infractions (clothes, etc.) while behaving increasingly aggressively towards minors. Additionally, police on campus are used to silence and attack disabled or mentally unwell TEENS and CHILDREN. This is not appropriate or healthy. They engage in bullying and put down students from Black and Brown communities, students who may be acting out due to unstable homes, health, neighborhoods. There is evidence that police DO NOT contribute to positive school experiences.

For example, in NPR's "Do Police Officers In Schools Really Make Them Safer", "There's no official count but NASRO estimates there are between 14,000 and 20,000 officers in about 30 percent of the country's schools. Those numbers began to grow after the deadly Columbine High School shooting in 1999. But there is no evidence to show that expanding law enforcement by adding SROs results in safer schools says Marc Schindler, head of the Justice Policy Institute. "In fact, the data really shows otherwise — that this is largely a failed approach in devoting a significant amount of resources but not getting the outcome in school safety that we are all looking for."

There are also academic works, like "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-term Education Outcomes" which states "Police presence may create an adversarial school culture and alter the experience of attending school. Likewise, additional disciplinary actions could stigmatize disciplined students and reduce student confidence. Through these channels, school police have the potential to reduce student attachment to school and student educational aspirations. These channels could impact the likelihood of graduating from high school or enrolling in college" (Weisburst 20).

This study continues to point out that "[police funding] has the largest effects on low-income students and Black and Hispanic students. This finding is consistent with prior work that finds that these marginalized student groups are the most vulnerable to school discipline actions" (29).

Additionally, the in-depth study "Aggressive Policing and the Educational Performance of Minority Youth" (published by the American Sociological Review), states "Police contact can also erode children's educational performance through negative health consequences related to stress, fear, trauma and anxiety" — as long as the police force engage and protect racial violence, we cannot safely have them in our schools.

For those concerned with school violence — a majority of those cases require de-escalation and an understanding of CHILD AND YOUNG ADULT PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH. Additionally, teachers are often called in to handle this due to police being unwilling to help de-escalate. In regards to school shootings — the circumstances and reasons for school shootings are multifaceted and complex, but ultimately, less access to guns/weapons and reform of mental health practices would help us lessen or stop school shootings. Police have often failed to help minimize the violence of school shooters. In fact, "The school in Parkland, Fla. had a school resource officer on duty during the shooting. The Broward Sheriff said the officer remained outside in a defensive position at the time of the shooting - a response that was roundly criticized and is part of the debate over whether having resource officers make schools safer" (NPR).

I strongly urge you to remove police from schools and replace them with QUALIFIED therapists, psychologists, developmental experts to help students SUCCEED. Especially for our Black and Brown students, our immigrant students, or any other marginalized group. This is just one step towards educational reform. Please do what is best for the students.

Thank you,

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Remove Police Presence from CPD

To the Chicago Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for taking into consideration the removal of police from Chicago school systems. My name is ██████████, and I recently moved to Chicago this past fall. As I get to know the city's history of policing, police brutality, and the myriad ways in which the public school system has suffered (as a result of policing and otherwise), I am heartened to see the potential for swift reform regarding the use of police in the public school system. We have to start somewhere, I cannot think of a better place than here.

The data being shared in recent weeks spotlighting the gross over-allocation of school funding for police, while students go without proper nursing, counseling, and other mental health resources, is shocking. I'm sure you are no stranger to these statistics, but I find them alarming enough to warrant repeating: 1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors. • 3 million students are in schools with police but no nurses. • 6 million students are in schools with police but no school psychologists. • 10 million students are in schools with police but no social workers. • 14 million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker. (sourced from the ACLU's excellent report Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of Mental Health Staff is Harming Students)

Between 2013 to 2018, over 30,000 students under the age of ten were arrested. Under the age of ten! That is unconscionable! These are children! And more often than not, it is Black, Brown and other marginalized student groups who are the most vulnerable to these disciplinary actions. Police are not the answer when disciplinary action is required. Specialists trained in de-escalation, coupled with counseling and mental health resources are the support systems needed to get to the root of the issues that are so often viewed as "needing to be policed".

Think of all the truly necessary resources that could be afforded our public schools with the money that is currently funding this police presence. I don't need to tell you where the need truly lies, you already know. You all know.

Please make the right choice in Wednesday's School Board vote, and vote to remove police presence from Chicago Public Schools. The people of Chicago and the nation are watching.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Your vote

When you look back on history will you be proud of the way the community sees you? Will you be proud to share with your family and children of your vote. It's shameful and I hope you reflect before the next vote comes around and you chose appropriately. Please be better. Do better for your community.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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Kids need teachers not cops

Dear Board members,

I'm writing to demand you vote in July to remove cops from CPS schools. As a graduate of New York City public schools I have experienced firsthand how violent and unhelpful it is to have a police presence in school buildings. By doing so, you reinforce the school to prison pipeline and ignore students, parents and educators pleading to end cop involvement in education institutions. It is a waste of money and resources and only makes students more unsafe. I am furious that you refused to vote to remove cops the first time and I hope that in the next month you will educate yourself and have a change of heart. Police do not belong in schools.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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Your vote to maintain the contract with CPD

Dear BOE Members Del Valle, Truss, Sotelo, and Revuluri,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a student at Northwestern. As a psychology major, I am extremely concerned about the presence of police in the Chicago Public School system. I am writing today because

it is clear that yesterday you chose not to hear the many thousands of us who are demanding that you put students first and remove cops from Chicago Public Schools.

There is a wealth of data that exposes the dangers of having millions of students in schools that are occupied by police rather than using that money to fund nurses, counselors, and other programming. For Black students, the danger is paramount. Black girls are 5 times more likely than their white counterparts to get arrested, according to the ACLU. This risk increases with police presence in schools, because behaviors that otherwise might be addressed with compassionate care from a school psychologist are instead turned over to the police to criminalize. For Black boys, the risk is much higher. Disabled students are three times as likely to be arrested than non-disabled students. Putting cops in schools does not make schools safer for anyone--they make everyone less safe. I'm sure I need not remind you that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School school police officer in Parkland, Florida ran AWAY from the gunman, allowing harm to the students when the mass shooting began on February 14, 2018.

Illinois does not meet any of the federal Department of Education guidelines for the follow ratios: student-to-counselor, student-to-social worker, student-to-psychologist, or student-to-nurse. You have a chance to help Chicago ameliorate this issue by reinvesting the 33 million dollar contract in the people who matter the most: the students.

You are all on the Board of Education presumably because you care deeply about the children of the Chicago Public School system. The very best way you can protect them is to divest from the Chicago Police Department. Use the money to nurture and protect your students; not criminalize and jail them. We all have a responsibility to create safe and compassionate environments at school for ALL children.

All of us will be watching in July during the meeting--you know what the right decision is, and we will support you in the transition after you make it. This is a community effort, but you have to take the first step and divest from the CPD.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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end CPD contract at CPS

Dear Board,

I am writing as a parent who has regularly been disturbed by the way police officers inside CPS halls (Bret Harte and McDade Elementary) address children, because they are hailing the children as potential future convicts. I think it is actively harmful for our children to be addressed as future criminals (even when the officer says so in the negative - "Don't act like a criminal.") because it distracts from them imagining themselves as scientists, leaders, contributors to society.

I absolutely support ending CPD contracts with CPS. When we have community based forms of public officers, let us consider contracts with them.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

parent to 3 CPS children

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Vote to End CPS Contract with CPD

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Deerfield, IL. I am emailing to urge you to vote to end CPS' contract with CPD next month when the vote is up again. The board meeting Wednesday illuminated many reasons why this would not only be an extremely beneficial decision, but a necessary one. The historical and current conditions of this contract have made it detrimental to the students of Chicago Public Schools, and you have the power to change these circumstances. Students deserve to go to school without feeling endangered by people there to "protect" them.

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Student safety and happiness without CPD is not a dream, it is an achievable goal—but only with your action.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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Vote to end CPS's contract with CPD in July!

I am emailing to urge you to vote to end CPS's contract with CPD next month when the vote comes up again. I feel that the meeting on Wednesday provided much insight into why ending the contract is incredibly important and beneficial for the students. I understand that many schools are concerned with safety within the building, but police do NOT make schools safer. What will make schools safer are

mental and emotional health support and services for students, smaller class sizes, and well-supported teachers. You can be part of changing this now and you must. I hope your vote in the future reflects a true investment in student safety.

Thank you,

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CPD in CPS

The Chicago Board of Education,

I am writing to you because as a tax-paying resident of the Albany Park neighborhood in Chicago, I believe that CPD has no place in our schools. Our students at minimum, deserve to feel safe and free from the criminalization process that feeds into the school-to-prison pipeline. I am extremely concerned that schools in our neighborhoods on the South and West side have police, yet are missing programs and counselors that address real student needs like restorative justice programs and mental health care. Furthermore, **\$33 million is being used to fund police in our schools while our schools are falling apart.** That money must go toward building a learning environment that actually makes students feel safe so they have the best chance to succeed.

In my opinion, it would be wiser to hire psychologists to provide counseling and nurses to advise students on drugs and alcohol, instead of training police officers to do such tasks. The millions the county spends annually on school policing should be reallocated to mental health services, to treat the root causes of student behavioral problems. I believe that students need adequately resourced public schools that provide education, nurturing and support, not more police. We do not need police and discipline to make students "act right." Students need **smaller class sizes, counselors, social workers, mental health services, conflict resolution support, homeless coordinators, talking circles, restorative justice, enrichment opportunities, and mentors** to help them.

These are the qualities and services I would like to see CPS pivot to. Let's take a major step and invest that money in our students. It's high time we do right by our students, there's no excuse not to.

Thank you for your time,

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