



Chicago Board of Education OIG Performance Review

NWEA Administration

February 26, 2020

Objective & Agenda

Objective: To provide a status update on CPS response to OIG Performance Review.

- Overview and Background
- Inspector General Performance Review
- Recommendations and Status Updates

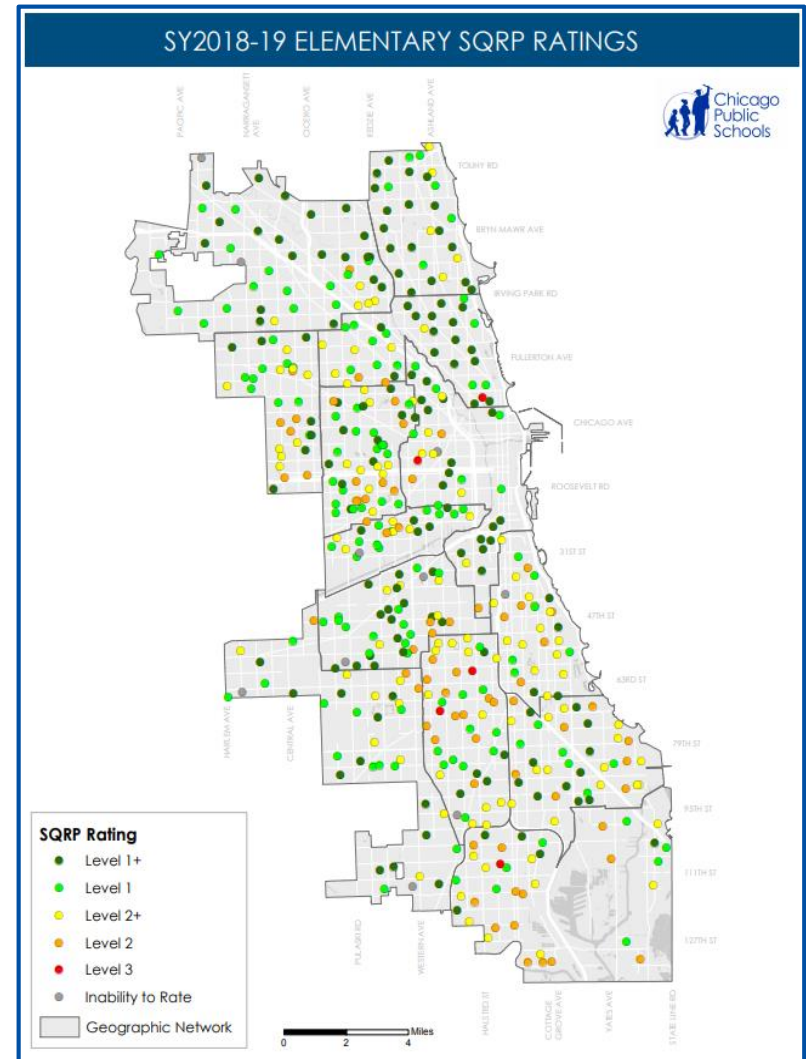
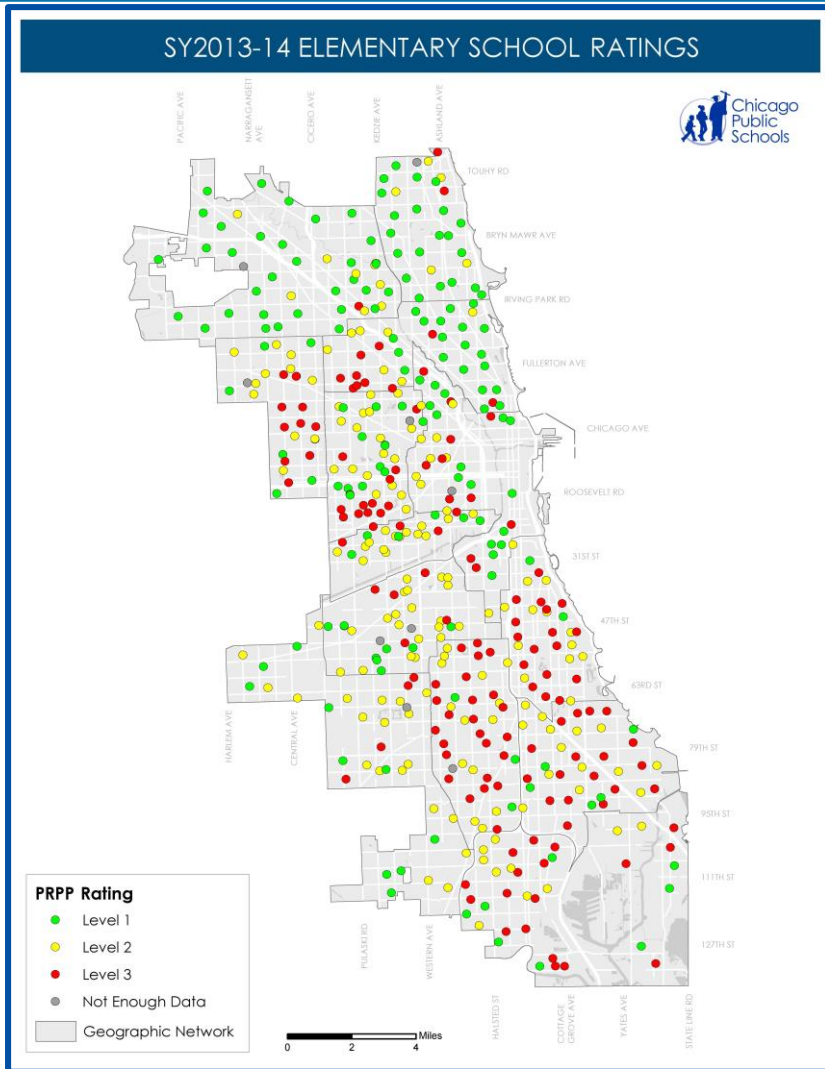
CPS - District on the Rise

The district has exhibited real, sustained academic progress, as noted by numerous independent studies conducted at Stanford University by Sean Reardon and research from the University of Illinois at Chicago, all of which have come to conclusions using a variety of metrics and assessments other than NWEA.

NWEA Adoption and Use

- NWEA is an assessment that CPS schools have been required to administer in reading and math to 2nd – 8th grade students since SY12-13
- NWEA was adopted in response to the school accountability systems of the NCLB era, which:
 - Prompted schools to focus on “bubble students” near a state-assigned line of proficiency and produced school ratings that mirrored school zip codes
- NWEA is a norm-referenced test that allows CPS staff to:
 - Focus on the importance of the growth of *every* student
 - Incorporate growth into the CPS School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP), which allowed CPS to recognize schools for their remarkable progress and attainment, no matter the zip code
- Educators have valued NWEA because it provides them timely data about their students’ performance

Measuring Growth Offers More Complete Picture of Progress



CPS Proactive Audit of NWEA Testing Protocols

- CPS initiated an audit conducted by the Office of Internal Audit & Compliance that produced a report in April 2018 on NWEA Testing Protocol & Detection
 - CPS made several improvements to its testing procedures, including improvements to training and auditing more than 80 sites
 - 13 of the 17 recommendations were implemented, 4 were not due to operational challenges

NWEA Flexibility

- NWEA is an untimed assessment
 - NWEA has not set a time limit for test administration
 - NWEA released test duration norms for the first time in August of 2018
- NWEA is an adaptive assessment
 - As a protective feature, when the test is paused or timed out, students are given a new question upon resuming the test
 - Prior to this review NWEA had not supplied data on the frequency of pause usage or provided guidance on pause usage

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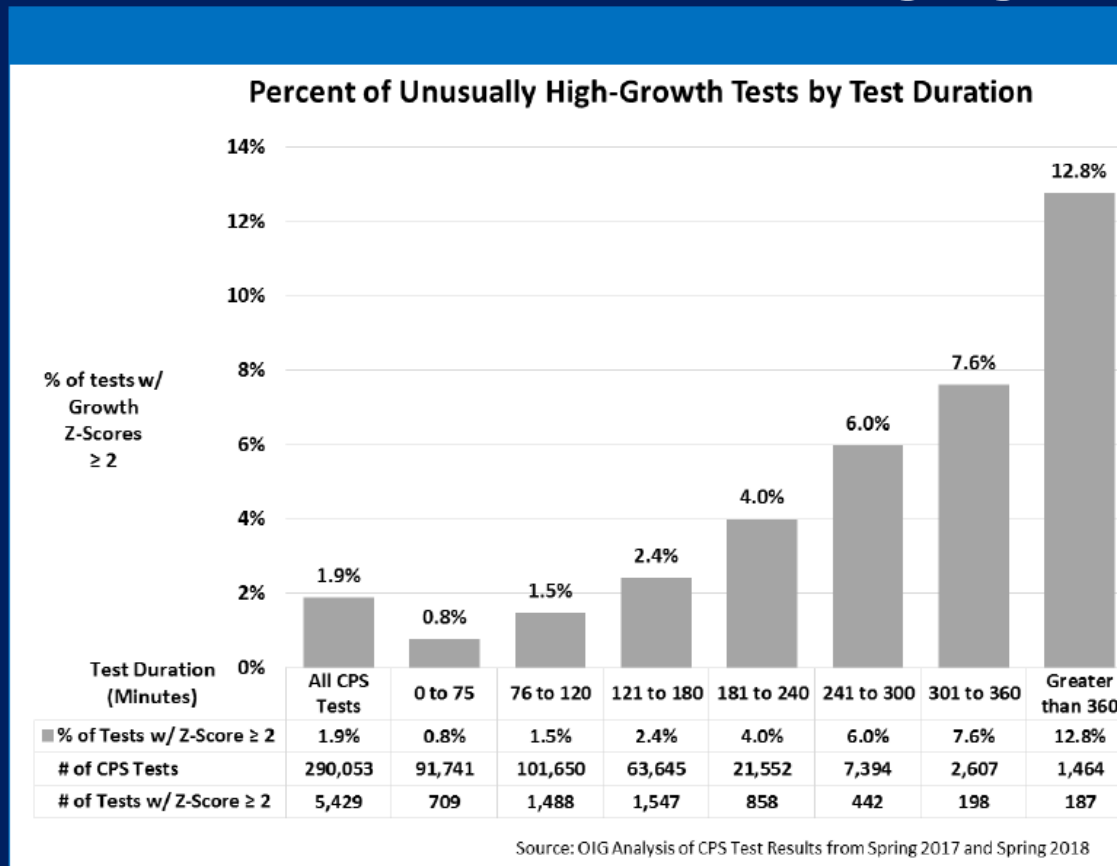
Summary of OIG Concerns

- The OIG report found that CPS students took longer to complete the NWEA than national norms with some students taking more than twice the national rate or higher
- Some CPS tests displayed unusually high pause counts
- Potential violations of test proctoring protocol occurred in a minority of cases
- The OIG identified the need to provide additional clarity for NWEA protocols and procedures.

The OIG did not identify or substantiate systemic or individual wrongdoing, nor did the OIG conclude that NWEA MAP results are invalid.

Data Review

There is no statistical correlation between duration and high gains



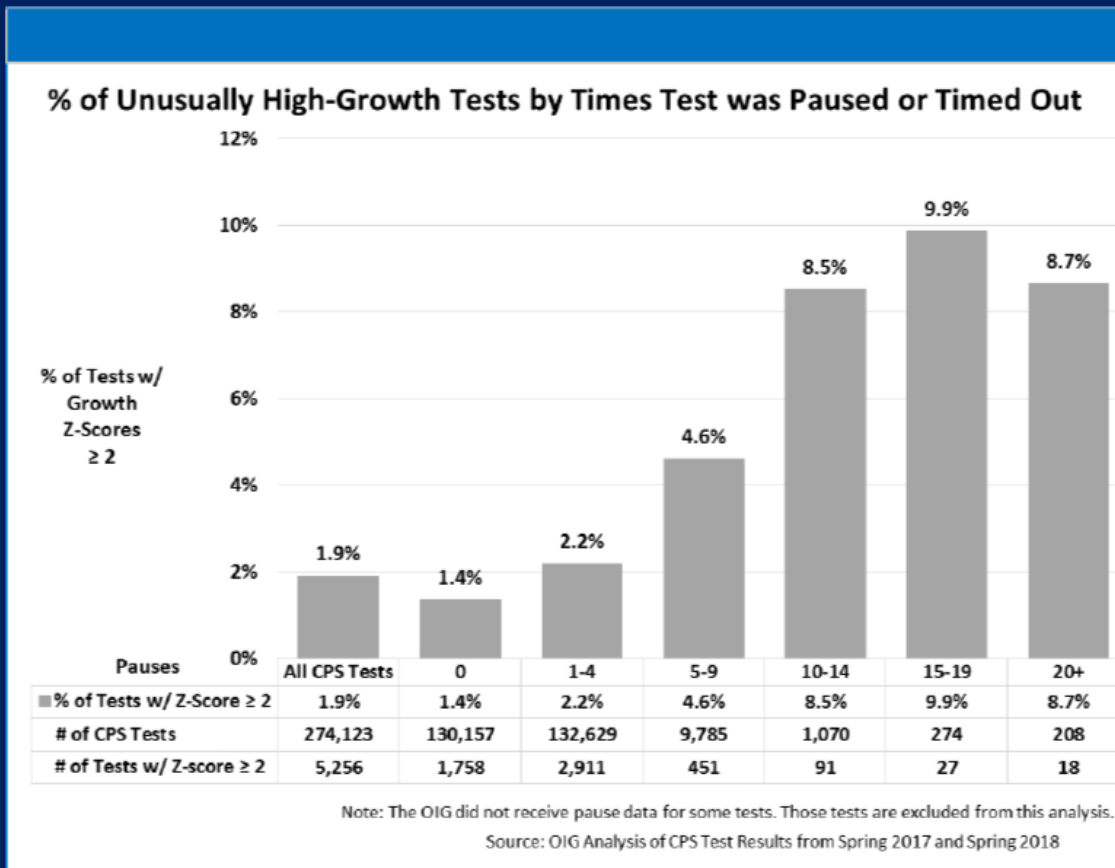
R (all students) =
.195 ($p \leq .0001$)

R ($z \geq 2$ students) =
.041 ($p \leq .0001$)

* Correlation coefficients whose magnitude are less than 0.3 have little if any (linear) correlation.

Data Review

There is no statistical correlation between pauses and high gains



R (all students) =
.078 ($p \leq .0001$)

R ($z \geq 2$ students) =
.021 ($p = .023$)

* Correlation coefficients whose magnitude are less than 0.3 have little if any (linear) correlation.

CPS Response

- The NWEA test was intentionally designed to have flexibility as it is an untimed adaptive assessment
- The OIG Performance Review has revealed the NWEA assessment flexibility has resulted in long durations and inconsistent pause usage
- These findings illustrated the need for additional guidance, clearer policies, protocols and strengthened training
- To protect instructional time and strengthen the consistency of NWEA administration, CPS is adopting all of the OIG recommendations.
- CPS will continue evaluating the full assessment landscape and determine if opportunities exist to reduce testing time while ensuring actionable academic data to support our students.

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Status Update

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Hire a test security expert for help and guidance in addressing the OIG's recommendations and other OIG concerns.</p>	<p>CPS has hired Caveon, a test security firm, to help develop, institute, and implement recommendations.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Reduce durations, preferably by setting a time limit.</p>	<p>CPS is establishing a policy designed to reduce test durations. This policy and associated guidance will be included in the test administration manual, in test coordinator trainings, and in test proctor trainings beginning Spring 2020.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Action Plan
<p>Take concrete steps to limit pauses, including by providing clear instructions on the right and wrong way to use pauses.</p>	<p>CPS is establishing a policy to provide proctors with greater clarity of the proper use of pauses and the time-out function. This policy and associated guidance will be included in the test administration manual, in test coordinator trainings, and in test proctor trainings, beginning Spring 2020.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Prohibit teachers from being the sole proctors of their students if their evaluations are tied in part to their students' NWEA results.</p>	<p>CPS will implement a revised test proctor policy in Spring 2020 that takes into account the OIG recommendation.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Find an auditable way to record the proctor of each test taken so that analysts can look for trends among proctors.</p>	<p>CPS is working with NWEA to be able to obtain test proctor data. If needed, CPS will augment with additional procedures for capturing auditable proctor information.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Focus on auditing proctors, rather than grades and subjects, by using new proctor data.</p>	<p>This recommendation cannot be implemented as part of the SY19-20 proactive site visit audit plan because it would require a data file from SY18-19 that did not exist at the time.</p> <p>CPS is working with NWEA to be able to obtain test proctor data. The Spring 2020 test monitoring plan will include strategic follow up with particular proctors as needed based on proctor data availability and observed testing patterns.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Bolster training and the exit slip that must be passed for someone to proctor. Include guidance on improper pauses and long durations. During training, cite OIG as an office to be contacted with concerns about test irregularities.</p>	<p>CPS will implement required training for test coordinators and test proctors using the SafeSchools platform. This training will include all updated policies, test administration protocols, and a required quiz to confirm understanding. CPS will cite OIG as an office to be contacted with concerns about test irregularities.</p>

Status Update- Continued

Recommendation	CPS Status Update
<p>Add penalties for test cheating to the Test Security Agreement that all proctors must sign.</p>	<p>While the OIG did not substantiate systemic or individual wrongdoing, penalties for test cheating will be included in the Test Security Agreement for Spring 2020 NWEA Administration aligned to current district policy. All school personnel who support test administration are required to sign the test security agreement before the school is approved to begin testing.</p>