



Chicago Public Schools

Whole School Safety Update Presentation to the Board of Education

July 2026



Chicago
Public
Schools

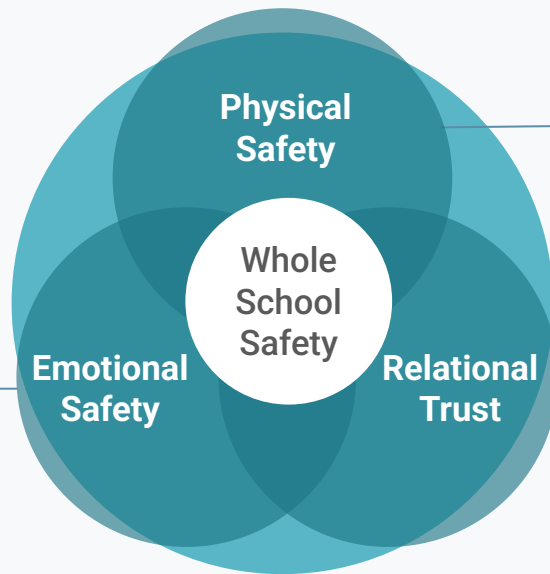
OSSS

School
Safety and
Security

Whole School Safety Highlights

This policy will guide all schools to adopt the comprehensive Whole School Safety Framework that addresses the following pivotal components:

Administrators, staff, and students feel safe to express emotions, are comfortable in their environment, feel secure about taking risks, and are challenged to try new things



Administrators understand how best to prevent and respond to threats of violence, neighborhood incidents, and emergencies to keep students and staff safe

Interpersonal relationships among administrators, students, teachers, and staff are built on mutual trust

Purpose of the Whole School Safety Policy

- Safety is everyone's responsibility and the Board is committed to supporting the holistic safety of all of our schools through policies and programs that holistically address the physical, behavioral, and social-emotional safety, health and well-being of every student.
- This Policy builds on the District's existing wellness and social-emotional learning policies and initiatives, and was developed to meet the needs of CPS communities.
- The District has and continues its strong partnership with the Mayor's Office and the Chicago Police Department, which have always, and will continue to, provide critical support for all of our schools.
- This Policy will guide school administrators, across the District to adopt the Whole School Safety Framework consistent with this policy.

Critical Components

Support to School Leaders and School Communities	Community Engagement	Success Tracking and Transparency	Sustainability
• Training will be a critical component of the implementation. • Schools will receive support throughout the implementation of the Policy. ◦ We plan to lift up exemplars of schools who have demonstrated best practices. • During rollout, schools will be advised on how to integrate with existing systems such as Culture and Climate Teams.	• To ensure ongoing collaboration, the cornerstone of this work centers around ensuring that there is ongoing community engagement and inclusion of the voices of those who are most affected by this policy, students. • Upon the request of students/parents who want to initiate the process in their schools, the District will support schools in establishing WSS committees.	• Each year, once established, the Whole School Safety Committee must present a Whole School Safety presentation to the school community (e.g. at a public Local School Council meeting) prior to the start of the annual school budgeting process. • As part of this structure, schools will have established a process for measuring, monitoring, and analyzing data aligned with positive culture and school climate on an ongoing basis.	• CPS Central Office Departments will integrate key components based on the WSS framework and the District's Healing-Centered Framework. • The WSS process will be integrated with the District's CIWP process already in schools.

Alignment with District Priorities

Connectedness and Well-being

Create robust support systems and align resources to meet students' diverse needs, ensuring a safe and supportive school community.

Students will feel supported from the moment they begin their educational journey at CPS, reducing the need for critical interventions later in their lives.

Resources:

Ensure schools have Whole School Safety plans that incorporate restorative justice practices and connect staff, students, families, and communities to social-emotional learning and mental health resources that address trauma and promote healing.

Conditions:

Engage families and community partners in developing safe and welcoming physical environments in schools. Provide schools with the resources needed to ensure they are spaces where students and staff feel safe, affirmed, and valued.

Core Values



Student
Centered



Whole Child



Equity



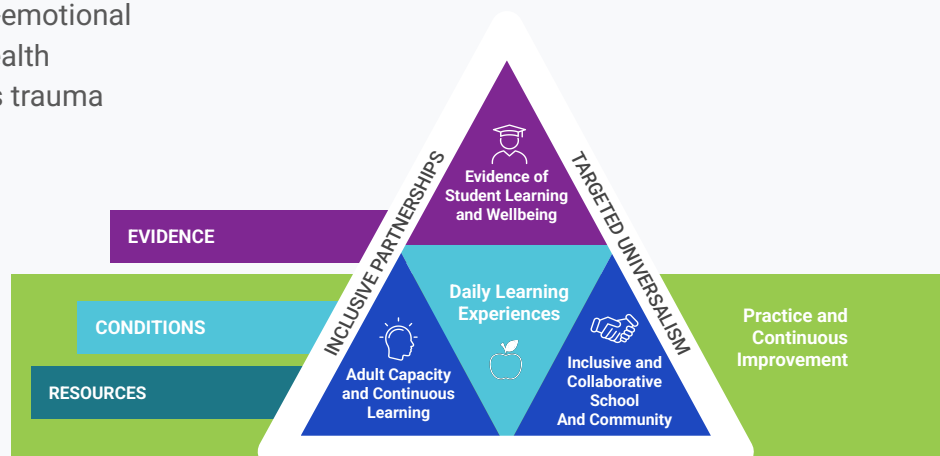
Academic
Excellence



Community
Partnership



Continuous
Learning



Framework Alignment – Connectedness & Well-Being

CPS Healing-Centered Framework



Protective Factors that Mitigate the Effects of Stress and Trauma



Safe, stable adult relationships

Numerous studies show that having one or more caring, "mentor-like" adults in a child's life significantly increases the likelihood to flourish¹



Safe and supportive school environments

School connectedness (feeling close to others at school and treated fairly by teachers) acts as a protective factor for youth against emotional distress, suicidality, and other youth risk behaviors²



Targeted resources, supports, and interventions

Targeted approaches to building strong social and emotional skills such as problem-solving, self-awareness, self-regulation, and relationship skills that can be supported in school settings can reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress and depression

STAKEHOLDERS

Four key pillars of the CPS community, in our roles as healers and as agents of our own healing

COMPONENTS

Five core dimensions of healing in our district that apply to each stakeholder group

EQUITY

A principle woven throughout the framework to ensure we all have access to the healing that meets our unique needs and goals

1. One such study: Murphy, et. al. "Caring Adults: Important for Positive Child Well-Being" (2013)

2. Resnick et. al. "Protecting Adolescents from Harm: National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health" (1997)

GOAL → To transform Chicago Public Schools into a more trauma-engaged, culturally-responsive school district.

Research Partnership



4 Research Briefs

The Removal of SROs

What are the trends of and outcomes associated with removal of SROs across CPS high schools?

Whole School Safety Field Scan

How do stakeholders understand and implement Whole School Safety?

*Content of Safety Plans

What is included in schools' plans? How have schools spent reinvestment funds?

Focus Groups

What are the experiences of school communities with Whole School Safety?

Stakeholder Recommendations for Whole School Safety Improvement



1. Increasing transparency and accountability by...

- **Sharing information and timely updates** about Whole School Safety (e.g. SRO decisions, safety plans and budgets, implementation progress, outcomes, best-practices) in a centralized location and accessible way
- **Elevating school success stories** in the Whole School Safety Process
- **Instituting improved progress monitoring and support structures** that measure the success of Whole School Safety (e.g. police notification / arrest data, perceptions of safety, etc.)

2. Improving collaboration through...

- **Increasing the involvement of students and community** in Whole School Safety decision-making and implementation processes
- **Encouraging collaboration and communication between schools** on Whole School Safety implementation best practices

3. Reflecting continuously by...

- **Expanding conversations about Whole School Safety** beyond schools involved in the SRO program
- **Regularly collecting community and student feedback** on school safety
- **Considering ways to ensure that CPS-CPD relationship and the role of SROs** in schools and the community at-large is as productive as possible

Aligning Frameworks, Policies and Strategy



The Healing-Centered Framework for Chicago Public Schools

Our Commitment to a Trauma-engaged and Culturally-responsive School District

Chicago Public Schools Policy

Comprehensive Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Section 704.13 Board Report 22-0323-P01 Date Adopted March 23, 2022

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education ("Board") adopt a new Comprehensive Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Policy. The policy was posted for public comment from January 24, 2022 to February 24, 2022.

PURPOSE: The Board is committed to supporting the Whole Child through policies and programs that holistically address the physical, mental, and social-emotional health and wellbeing of every student. This Policy builds on the District's wellness programming and social-emotional learning initiatives, and was developed to meet the needs of the CPS community and to comply with state law. Section 2-3.1666 of the Illinois School Code, referred to as AnnMarie's Law, requires that the Board establish a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention, intervention, reporting and response. This Policy establishes a comprehensive approach to mental health, suicide awareness, and prevention that is applied consistently throughout the District.

This Policy will include a multi-tiered system of support model that includes universal, targeted, and individualized student support. This is achieved through:

1. The development and implementation of prevention activities to create a safe and supportive school environment for all students;
2. The identification and implementation of healing-centered practices and strategies to help identify students at risk of suicide and other mental health issues; and
3. The creation and adherence to methods of intervention to address suicide-related incidents or other mental health crises that occur in schools.

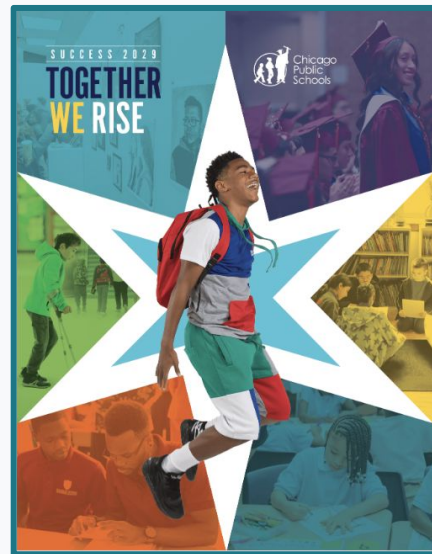
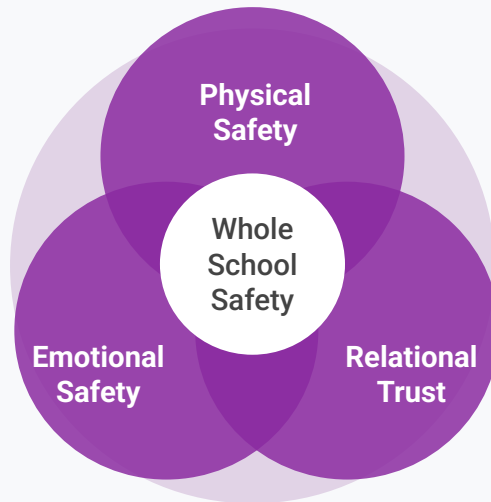
These procedures will reduce stigma and increase staff ability to recognize students who are at risk of or who exhibit warning signs of mental health issues such as depression and suicidality, in an effort to reduce the potential for a suicidal ideation, attempt, or death by suicide.

POLICY TEXT:

I. SCOPE

This Policy provides required responses and guidelines for all staff responding to all students in all schools regardless of age, grade level, or school governance. This Policy covers events that take place in the school, on school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles and at bus stops, and at school-sponsored out-of-school events where school staff are present, as well as situations that may occur out of school time (as outlined in Section VI.A of this Policy) or during remote or virtual learning. The entire school community, including educators, school and district staff, students, and volunteers are responsible for implementing this Policy.

CPS Policy | 704.13 | 1 of 10



Healing-Centered Framework → Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Policy → Whole School Safety Policy → Together We Rise

Initial Whole School Safety Implementation Plan

Year 0 SY24

SRO program will sunset for all CPS schools (39 remaining high schools) **effective June 30, 2024**

All applicable schools will transition to alternate WSS supports **by June 30, 2024** in time for Fall 2024

Total 72 high schools will have WSS plans by end of year (up from current 33 high schools with WSS plans)

Year 1 SY25

Review and refinement of existing WSS Plans

A baseline assessment will be conducted for each school

A tiered criteria for implementation will be used, based on each school's use of exclusionary disciplinary practices

High number of misconducts, including out-of-school suspensions and police notifications with a focus on the use of disproportionate application of these actions

Years 2-4* SY26-SY28

All schools will establish Whole School Safety Committees, based on the timeline, driven by the tiered criteria from their Year 1 assessment

SY29 Year 5

All schools will have established Whole School Safety Committees and have **developed and implemented a Whole School Safety Plan (WSSP)**

All High Schools will have a **Student Voice Committee** established

All school security officer allocations will be **budgeted through the Whole School Safety Framework implementation**

Whole School Safety 3 Year Implementation*

SY27

- **ALL** schools **establish a WSSC**
- Schools **complete existing various assessments/ checklists** aligned with Whole School Safety Pillars
 - **Physical Safety**
 - **Emotional Safety**
 - **Relational Trust**
- **WSSC identify supports/ resources** to address needs identified to be tracked and monitored in the **WSSP**

SY28

- **School convenes WSSC**
 - Reflect on previous years accomplishments
- Schools reassess school-wide practices via aligned **WSS assessments**
- **WSSC identify supports/ resources** to address needs identified to be tracked and monitored in the **WSSP**
- **WSSC will review and revise WSSP** with current areas of need

SY29

- **School convenes WSSC**
 - Reflect on previous years accomplishments
- Schools reassess school-wide practices via aligned **WSS assessments**
- **WSSC identify supports/ resources** to address needs identified to be tracked and monitored in the **WSSP**
- **WSSC will review and revise WSSP** with current areas of need

SY30

- **Full integration** of Whole School Safety Planning **will** be embedded in the school's CIWP
- All High Schools **will** have a **Student Voice Committee**
- Security officer allocations **will** be **budgeted based on WSS implementation**

Collaboration with Community Partners



In the coming school year, CBO partners in the Whole School Safety Steering Committee will support parents, students and community to engage in Whole School Safety at a local school level. Look forward to also engaging more education justice organizations in the city!

Speakers

- COFI / POWER-PAC IL Parent Leader
- Mikva Challenge Student Leader



Q&A

