

**March 4, 2026, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, March 2nd and Thursday, March 5th Submitted via
Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Eric Hondzinski, a new CTE teacher at Curie High School. I am having difficulty in attaining the proper step credit for my industry experience. Per the latest contract, CTE educators are entitled to up to 7 years of step credit for industry experience. However, in going through the step-adjustment process, I have been denied credit for any partial years of experience. For example, I worked for 2 years and 3 months in one role before taking a promotion at a new company. The boards perspective on this is that those three months do not count toward the seven years of step credit. Multiplying this problem across my career, I have been denied a total of 2 years of step credit due to changing jobs/positions at various points in the year.</p> <p>I find this policy absolutely inappropriate when applied to industrial experience as people routinely change jobs/take promotions at any given point in the calendar year. To say that I am very frustrated would be an understatement. I actually grieved the issue and was given the same response in the outcome of my hearing: Step credit can only be granted for complete years of work experience.</p> <p>It would seem there is not a specific process for step adjustment when it comes to evaluating the work experience of Career and Technical Educators. This is very frustrating. I feel mislead by the contract and the terms of my hire, and am seriously considering leaving the district due to the issue.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Eric Hondzinski</p>
2	<p>Haugan is here again. We are at these meetings to remind you of a simple, physical reality: we have a serious space crisis. We are asking the Board to take action, and if you wonder why we won't be quiet, it's because we've seen this movie before.</p> <p>Twenty years ago, this Board ignored a robust community advisory committee. You gave a new building to a charter school that—as predicted—ultimately failed. One of our current Haugan parents was a middle schooler back then. He remembers: "As a twelve-year-old, I could have told you on Day 1 that school would fail. It was poorly run. Our community knew what we needed."</p> <p>Today, the "Men in Suits" at the Central Office are repeating history. They've blocked Haugan's co-location proposal. They've quashed community surveys. They are making unilateral decisions for Albany Park without actually talking to Albany Park.</p> <p>Our neighbors don't want more lotteries; they want a strong neighborhood school. We see the growth patterns. We know the space is needed. We are asking this Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Insist on a formal community hearing and survey.-Listen to the wisdom of the people who actually live here.-Stop allowing Central Office to override the voices of our families. <p>Don't devastate another generation of Haugan children. We aren't going anywhere.</p>
3	<p>Haugan is filled. We need additional space. The students here are amazing and with some additional investments these students are capable of some miraculous achievements. Having additional space would allow us to focus on each of our students. We also need a green space. Some of these students are fantastic soccer players. They're obsessed. Investing in this school and this community is a grand investment in the future of Chicago.</p>

4	<p>who actually live here in Albany Park.</p> <p>Haugan Elementary is currently facing a critical capacity crisis. Having welcomed 300 additional students over the past three years without any facility expansion, we have exhausted all viable space. This has forced the conversion of administrative offices into classrooms and has necessitated the transition of our Art program to a mobile cart. Most concerning is the impact on our diverse learners; the lack of private space has relegated essential therapy and testing sessions to public hallways.</p> <p>While official CPS metrics may suggest the school is at manageable capacity, the lived reality is one of severe overcrowding. The nearby building at Leland and Hamlin offers an immediate, cost-effective solution to establish a dedicated middle school. Utilizing this local resource for neighborhood students is a logical and necessary step to alleviate the current strain. We urge CPS to grant Haugan overflow access for the upcoming school year to prioritize the families of Albany Park.</p>
5	<p>For too long Haugan has been subject to discrimination. We lose resources, spacing, and voice while other locations that are not community accepting institutions profit out of our loss. Haugan needs space for our community. We are forced to fill our classrooms to the brim. Leaving some teachers to teach in the Hallways or even lose their classrooms. Children's learning is impacted by the onslaught of having to learn in conditions where they are not supported and have to constantly review materials because students enter mid year and teachers are stretched too thin having to constantly adjust for our very diverse learning levels. I hope the board makes the correct decision to give us the space necessary to support our community and create a foundation of learning that addressing everyone's needs so that they may become successful and not be a byproduct of a corrupt system that only aims to benefit off of funding for selective enrollment schools.</p>
6	<p>Haugan is critically overcrowded, forcing the use of non-instructional spaces for core teaching. We are operating in closets and hallways while other facilities sit underutilized. The community's proposal, blocked by the Central Office, was a fiscally responsible solution that provided immediate relief.</p> <p>We are not just asking for space; we are demanding equity and respect for the education of our children. The Board has a moral obligation to act now before the next school year begins under impossible conditions.</p>
7	<p>We as a staff prioritize the achievement of our students. The success of our students is our number one priority. We are asking if at possible you can reconsider the colocation to North River 7th and 8th graders. We are currently in an environment that is very cramped. Our counselors, teachers, students are cramped in small rooms where space and confidentiality is being compromise on daily basis. Please take the time to address our situation here at Haugan. Many of the staff members and students have address complaints about the confidentiality of our students. We need our students have a comfortable learning environment where their privacy is not compromised. Haugan has a large student body and it is growing every year. Please consider in colocation for our 7th and 8th graders and provide a more functional learning environment for our students.</p>
8	<p>Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,</p> <p>I have been a Pre-K teacher at Haugan Elementary in Albany Park for the past 14 years. In that time, I have seen our neighborhood school grow immensely. I have taught multiple siblings, cousins, neighbors, and more. I have heard the stories told by families, more than a decade ago, of the impact of opening ASPIRA Haugan school, while our school at the time was bursting at 1,600 students.</p> <p>Today, despite the decades of disinvestment from bureaucratic decision makers, our school remains a bustling, thriving neighborhood school that serves the Albany Park community, including our most vulnerable populations: preschoolers, English Language Learners, and a large population of students with disabilities. However, as our school community members including</p>

teachers, staff, students, parents, neighbors and more have passionately expressed, we are reaching a breaking point.

Haugan is more than just a building; it is a community anchor. For decades, our local school community has been asking for CPS to listen to the needs of families and their children—to invest in our neighborhood, invest in our neighborhood schools, and ensure that all students have access to the resources they deserve. When we talk about "investment," we aren't just talking about numbers on a ledger. We are talking about adequate physical space where students are learning in classrooms and not converted closets or putting up temporary and useless accordion walls to split one small classroom into two tinier ones. We are talking about supporting the needs of our most vulnerable students - our 200 preschoolers, most of whom this is their first step in school; our specialized special education programs like cluster and resource and all of the necessary supports that go along with their development like social workers, speech pathologists, and more; and the safety and dignity of space for our counselors to provide support to grieving families, or children processing trauma, or anyone who wants to have a private conversation and not be subjected to a hallway, stairwell, or squished closet space.

While Haugan has shown incredible resilience, the "bursting" sensation families felt a decade ago is returning in new ways. As our programs for preschoolers, students with diverse learning needs, and English language learners expand, our physical footprint remains stagnant. We are attempting to provide 21st-century education in a facility that is being stretched beyond its intended capacity.

We see the District prioritizing new builds and selective enrollment initiatives, yet the "neighborhood school," the very place where siblings and neighbors grow up together, is often left to make do with less. This inequity is felt most deeply by the families I serve in Albany Park.

I am calling on this Board to move beyond acknowledgment and toward tangible investment. We need to both establish and listen to the voices and experiences of the people who have lived in this neighborhood for decades, and stop allowing data to be misrepresented by CPS officials who are insistent that we have plenty of space - but who would need to use our school scheduler to borrow time in one of our shared closet-sized rooms to have a meeting to express this message, like all other staff members do when they host families.

Our families have been asking for decades. They are the backbone of this city, and their children deserve a school that has the room to breathe, grow, and thrive. Please, listen to our community. Invest in Haugan. Invest in Albany Park.

****ATTACHMENTS****

Board, I'm requesting your help in getting FOIA Requests filled with the responsive documents from the CPS FOIA Office. Here's an email to them requesting the documents.

Outstanding CPS FOIA Requests – Immediate Production Date Requested

From:

To: amason19@cps.edu

Cc: apdiaz2@cps.edu; pmajchrowicz@cps.edu

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 03:14 PM CST

To: Andrew Mason amason19@cps.edu

Cc: Ana Diaz apdiaz2@cps.edu; Patricia Majchrowicz pmajchrowicz@cps.edu

Dear Mr. Mason,

I am writing to formally request a definitive production date for the responsive records associated with the following CPS FOIA requests:

CPS FOIA DELAY STATUS REPORT

(As of February 28, 2026)

FOIA	Business Days	Calendar Days	Status
N016753-012125	289	403	EXTREME
N017165-031925	248	346	EXTREME
N017565-060125	195	272	SEVERE
N018215-091025	123	171	SEVERE
N018216-091025	116	171	SEVERE
N018272-092125	108	160	PENDING

KEY FINDINGS:

2 FOIAs in **EXTREME** Delay (200+ business days)

3 FOIAs in **SEVERE** Delay

1 Pending (but nearing non-compliance)

→ 5 of 6 requests already overdue

→ All involve repeated CPS extensions followed by silence

These requests are now significantly overdue, with delays ranging from over 100 to nearly 289 business days beyond initial filing and, in several cases, well past CPS's own extended response deadlines.

Multiple extensions have already been granted, yet no final production or lawful denial has been issued.

Please provide, in writing, the specific date on which I will receive the requested responsive documents for each of the above-listed FOIA requests.

Additionally, please confirm whether I will receive the responsive documents for FOIA Request N018272-092125 on its current response due date of March 5, 2026.

For clarity and accountability, I request that any response include the name, title, and direct contact information of the individual responsible for the determination, rather than a general departmental reply.

I look forward to your prompt response. (see the below for more information)

Sincerely,

Walter Brzeski

. CPS FOIA DELAY STATUS REPORT

(As of February 28, 2026)

Legend:

- **Extreme Delay** = 200+ Business Days Past Filing
- **Severe Delay** = 100–199 Business Days
- **Moderate Delay** = 50–99 Business Days
- **Pending Deadline (Not Yet Missed)**

■ FOIA #1 — N016753-012125

Request: Investigation Unit reports — Paul Munoz & Kelly Tarrant (2023–24 & 2024–25)

- **289 Business Days Lapsed**
- **403 Calendar Days Lapsed**
- **4 CPS Extensions Granted**
 - 03/07/25
 - 03/21/25
 - 04/04/25
 - 04/18/25

★ **Final CPS Response Due:** 05/02/25

✗ **CPS Failed to Respond**

📄 **Status:** EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

■ FOIA #2 — N017165-031925

Request: Records responsive to 8 prior CPS FOIAs (1. N014194-091223, 2. N014563-120423, 3. N015230-050324, 4. N015374-060624, 5. N015415-061424, 6. N015701-062124 Date FOIA Request was narrowed: 07/23/24, 7. N016314-101424, & 8. N016753-012125)

- **248 Business Days Lapsed**
- **346 Calendar Days Lapsed**
- **1 CPS Extension**
 - 05/01/25

✗ **No Final Response Issued**

📄 **Status:** EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

■ FOIA #3 — N017565-060125

Request: Security video near Room 128 and adjacent hallway for Steinmetz College Prep on the dates 04/30/25 and 05/14/2025 from 5:15pm - 8:30pm. The only people in the vicinity of Room 128 and the hallway were to have been adult LSC members and principal arriving and departing their meetings on the aforementioned dates. NOTE: Please blur any students' faces in the area and utilize the best possible format for video footage in the CPS response.

- **195 Business Days Lapsed**
- **272 Calendar Days Lapsed**
- **3 CPS Extensions**

- 07/01/25
- 07/16/25
- 07/30/25

★ **Final CPS Response Due:** 08/13/25

✗ **CPS Failed to Respond**

📄 **Status:** SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #4 — N018215-091025

Request: CPS responses to 5 prior FOIAs

#1 - N016753-012125 (Investigation Unit reports from Paul Munoz and Kelly Tarrant for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years),

#2 - N017165-031925 (The requested documents to the following CPS FOIA Requests: 1. N014194-091223, 2. N014563-120423, 3. N015230-050324, 4. N015374-060624, 5. N015415-061424, 6. N015701-062124 (Date FOIA Request was narrowed: 07/23/24), 7. N016314-101424, & 8. N016753-012125),

#3 - N017565-060125 (Security video near Room 128 and adjacent hallway for Steinmetz College Prep on the dates 04/30/25 and 05/14/2025 from 5:15pm - 8:30pm. The only people in the vicinity of Room 128 and the hallway were to have been adult LSC members and principal arriving and departing their meetings on the aforementioned dates. NOTE: Please blur any students' faces in the area and utilize the best possible format for video footage in the CPS response.),

#4 - N017874-071125 (Please provide all records related to former Chicago Public Schools employees Ilda Villegas and Tanya Harvey, most recently employed at Steinmetz College Prep, including but not limited to the following: Investigative files, including any Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports involving or referencing either individual. Disciplinary records, including warning resolutions and investigative memoranda. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) pertaining to individual. Personnel files from initial date of hire through separation from CPS. Incident reports involving or referencing individual. Arbitrators' reports or decisions related to either employee. Resignation letters, if applicable. Do Not Hire (DNH) designations, if applicable. Most recent salary and employment/work history for each individual. Please include all responsive documents regardless of format or storage location. Let me know if you'd like to include a preferred date range or narrow the request further.), and

#5 - N018105-082125 (Records sufficient to show the following: 1. Membership in the DNH Committee 2. Agendas from the DNH committee meetings from January 1, 2025 - the date this FOIA is processed This request is made on behalf of The FOIA Bakery. Because this request is in the public interest for Illinois nonprofit The FOIA Bakery's work to advocate for public education, please waive any fees in accordance with 5 ILCS § 140/6(c). Feel free to contact me with any questions, or if clarification is needed.)

◦ **123 Business Days Lapsed**

◦ **171 Calendar Days Lapsed**

★ **Final CPS Response Due:** 01/27/26

✗ **CPS Failed to Respond**

📄 **Status:** SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #5 — N018216-091025

Request: Investigation Unit Reports (2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26)

◦ **116 Business Days Lapsed**

◦ **171 Calendar Days Lapsed**

◦ **6 CPS Extensions**

- 10/24/25
- 11/07/25
- 11/21/25
- 12/08/25

- 12/22/25
- 01/12/26

★ **Final CPS Response Due:** 01/27/26
 ✖ **CPS Failed to Respond**

➡ **Status:** SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

🟠 FOIA #6 — N018272-092125

Request: IHSCDEA Distracted Driving Program Records - (Records sufficient to show the following: 1. Membership in the DNH Committee 2. Agendas from the DNH committee meetings from January 1, 2025 - the date this FOIA is processed This request is made on behalf of The FOIA Bakery. Because this request is in the public interest for Illinois nonprofit The FOIA Bakery's work to advocate for public education, please waive any fees in accordance with 5 ILCS § 140/6(c). Feel free to contact me with any questions, or if clarification is needed.)

- **108 Business Days Lapsed**
- **160 Calendar Days Lapsed**
- **8 CPS Extensions**
 - 11/04/25
 - 11/18/25
 - 12/03/25
 - 12/17/25
 - 01/07/26
 - 01/22/26
 - 02/05/26
 - 02/19/26

★ **Final CPS Response Due:** 03/05/26
 ✔ **Deadline Not Yet Missed**

➡ **Status:** Pending — At Risk of Noncompliance

🚨 SUMMARY OF SYSTEMIC DELAY

Category	# of FOIAs
🔴 Extreme Delay (200+ Business Days)	2
🟠 Severe Delay (100–199 Business Days)	3
🟡 Pending Deadline	1

- ➡ **5 out of 6 requests are already overdue**
- ➡ **All involve multiple CPS extensions followed by non-respons**