

December 14, 2023

AUTHORIZE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CURSIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION POLICY STARTING DECEMBER 15, 2023

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period from December 15, 2023 to January 15, 2024 for the Policy described in the disposition table below. Pursuant to Board Rule 2-6(c), the Board must authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period.

Current Policy Section/ Current Policy Title	New Policy Section/ New Policy Title	Description of Revision/Disposition
604.9 Cursive Writing Instruction	N/A	Amend Policy 604.9 This policy is being reviewed and revised as part of Board Rule 2-6's required biennial review.

Approved as to Legal Form: 

DocuSigned by:

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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

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Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

Policy/Board Rule Summary Form

Policy/Board Rule Being Amended/Created	Policy Manager(s)
Cursive Writing Instruction	Jane Fleming, Director of Literacy

1. Why is this policy/Board rule being amended, created, or rescinded now? (e.g., state legislation, compliance change, policy was out of date, biennial policy review, CEO/CEdO recommendation, etc.)

Biennial policy review

2. Please provide a high level summary of what policy/Board rule changes are being made, or created, and why.

Adjusting policy to require CPS elementary schools to offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing to students by grade 4. Provides some flexibility for schools that teach cursive writing in earlier grades (e.g., grade 3) and provides the ability for any schools that are found not in compliance in any given year to offer cursive writing in 5th grade to meet state mandate requirements.

3. Please provide any notable feedback from internal or external stakeholders, and how you addressed it or planned to address it in your policy/Board rule draft.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Impactful feedback to date (11.2.23):
Equity Office: Recommended review of last year’s cursive writing certification data to determine if any patterns of note with respect to schools certifying completion compared with those that did not that could alert us to any issues with equity of access to cursive writing instruction. Literacy will have this completed in Nov 2023 for report back to Equity.

ODLSS: Recommending additions to the Cursive Writing Guidance docs to include reference to students with disabilities. Recommended noting that IEP should always be followed. Provide example of potential accommodations (e.g., for students using tech-based communicative devices or who have keyboarding accommodations due to dysgraphia, teachers might have students switch to a cursive font for cursive writing instruction and practice)

4. Please provide any additional notes/considerations in the box below.

Additional stakeholder engagement with principals, teachers, parents, and students is ongoing through November 17.

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 18-0725-PO2
POLICY ON CURSIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board amend the Policy on Cursive Writing Instruction.

PURPOSE: This policy will ensure compliance with Public Act 100-0548 which requires, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year: (1) that a unit of cursive writing instruction be offered to elementary students prior to completion of grade 5; and (2) that the Board establish, by policy, the grade level(s) in which CPS elementary students shall be offered cursive writing instruction.

TEXT:

~~For the 2018-2019 School Year, CPS elementary schools shall offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing to students in grade 4 and grade 5. Thereafter, CPS elementary schools shall offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing to students in~~ by the end of grade 4.

The cursive writing instruction shall promote a student's fluency in both reading and writing cursive.

The Chief Education Officer or designee is authorized to issue curricular standards and instructional strategies to ensure the effective delivery of cursive writing instruction by CPS Elementary Schools.

LEGAL REFERENCES: 105 ILCS 5/27-20.7