



Board of Education

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street
Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Board Report

24-1114-RS2 FINAL

Agenda Date: 11/14/2024

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE VALUES OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CEMENTING ITS STATUS AS A WELCOMING DISTRICT FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Chicago Board of Education (Board) wholeheartedly embraces its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students and staff; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Board to prohibit unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or sex (includes gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and pregnancy-related medical conditions), race or ethnicity, ethnic group identification, ancestry, nationality, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, age, immigration status, marital status, registered domestic partner status, genetic information, political belief or affiliation (not union-related), military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in the educational programs or activities the Board operates; and

WHEREAS, all CPS staff and students are entitled to their First Amendment right to free speech, but harassment, discrimination, and bias-based harm have no place in CPS school communities and will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, students and staff deserve a safe and supportive space to process, grieve, share, reflect, learn, and take action together. CPS encourages engagement with students to discuss difficult, controversial, or emotionally charged topics in a safe and productive manner. In doing so, CPS provides guidance and resources for supporting, managing, and reflecting on student civil discourse, civic learning, and civic engagement. This includes recognizing the factors that have shaped perspectives, including life experience, family, culture, and identity. The purpose is to provide space where young people generate questions, explore their curiosities, strengthen their civic skills, and analyze aspects of our society and government; and

WHEREAS, CPS' students, staff and their families originate from many different countries besides the United States, may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), may be undocumented and/or may live in mixed status households (meaning one or various members of the family can be

undocumented while others have some kind of temporary or permanent status); and

WHEREAS, CPS reflects the diverse population of the world, which the district celebrates in many ways through a student's daily experience; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Presidential Election may have caused fear, concern, confusion, sadness, anger, or anxiety in CPS staff, students, and their families; and

WHEREAS, CPS is committed to ensuring students have access to a high-quality, well-rounded, rigorous, and joyful education. To achieve this, CPS continuously works to ensure that students see themselves reflected in the curriculum by incorporating LGBTQIA+, disabled, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other historical figures into its lessons. CPS also follows State of Illinois mandates regarding curriculum to teach, among other items, LGBTQIA+ history, Asian American history, Black history, Disability Rights history, Holocaust and Genocide, history of the labor movement, Media Literacy, Native American history, and Women in history in its schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION, THAT:

1. CPS will work alongside its union partners and immigration advocates to provide training and support for students, staff and their families on immigrant rights, understanding various legal statuses, and the overall health and well-being of those affected.
2. CPS will provide multi-language resources for its students, staff, and their families in partnership with the City on legal assistance, immigrant rights, mental health care, and public safety.
3. CPS will include in its legislative agenda advocacy at the state and federal levels for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protective Status, and Refugee Settlement Programs, as well as oppose any legislation for the creation of a Muslim registry system or eroding civil rights protections upon our communities.
4. CPS will work alongside educators and elected officials committed to maintaining curriculum that reflects our students' identities and lived experiences and protecting our schools as spaces where our students feel safe, welcome, and valued for who they are.
5. CPS schools will always welcome all students, staff and their families regardless of legal status.
6. CPS will not provide assistance to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law. Therefore, ICE will not be permitted access to CPS facilities or personnel except in the rare instances in which CPS is provided with a criminal warrant.