



We join the youth-led coalition for police free schools in denouncing both the proposed [resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement](#) between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department. Together, these proposals maintain a legacy of harm and unequal treatment of protected children; particularly Black, low income and those with specialized needs.

On Monday, we released a joint [letter](#), detailing the persistent oppression, opportunity gaps, research data and CPS stakeholder experiences as a result of CPD School Resource Officers. We stand with youth who call for the need for mental health and a safe haven supports, not armed police. We know 21 schools have safety plans that do not involve police inside the school, namely Brooks College Prep (Roseland) and Curie HS (Archer Heights)...they have not had SROs for up to five (5) and two (2) years respectively.

In Chicago, the district continues to see record decline in student enrollment. Resource-poor schools and communities are being pitted against each other with declining student enrollment, social spending austerity and less restorative practices. These trends cannot be separated from the continued dislocation and displacement of the Black community in Chicago. Destabilized and overpoliced schools foster an increasingly toxic climate—inside and outside the classroom—that pushes directly impacted families out.

To be clear, we believe the proposed resolution is vague and does not begin to meet the scope or burden. The Board should vote no and terminate the CPD SRO contract. Our assessments of the proposed resolution are:

Strengths:

- Acknowledges that CPD School Resource Officers are not the most effective option

Deltas and Unintended Consequences:

- Lacks an inclusive, community-driven process – involving parents, students, teachers, school administrators, student support staff, and other community partners for completing a revised District safety plan with strategies for enhancing student learning, safety, and well-being
- The resolution lacks specificity. We are unclear who defines this proposed process? Who facilitates this process? How do we ensure participatory decision-making with school and community stakeholders?
- The resolution never once mentions race, the burdens police in CPS schools have had on children and the mentions of community engagement are vague and potentially tokenizing.

- The resolution fails to mention there are twenty-one (21) district schools that operate with alternative safety plans, security guards, safe passage within Office of Safety & Security control
- The resolution fails to acknowledge the security measures available today. Because there is no alternative framework to SRO's articulated, this can mean no real strategic plan to transition away from SRO's, funding for professional development and implementation of a restorative/healing centered approach.
- We believe there must be more than discussing removal of CPD SROs. We must also transform how the city and district envision policing youth - often security and disciplinarians do their own form of policing that is detrimental to the safety of young people.
- The resolution discusses alternatives to SROs, but never frames this in terms of a positive or restorative vision. This could lead to a model in which SROs are largely replaced with other forms of security presence. This is why the district must implement an inclusive process going forward

Should the Board vote today to remove police...we join Chicago's students, school communities and LSCs calling to reallocate funds previously used for sworn police officers toward student support positions such as school-based social workers, psychologists, restorative justice practitioners, or other mental or behavioral health professionals, as the budget supports, to meet the needs of students. With schools closed for virtual remote learning through the first quarter, there is sufficient time to implement safety protocols in place at the 21 schools who do not have police presence.

Thank you for your service and dedication to Chicago's youth, our future leaders and educators.