

#CopsOutCPS

A report on why it's time for Chicago Public Schools to divest from the Chicago Police Department.

June 16th, 2020



SUMMARY:

As more and more school districts around the country are joining the movement to end the school-to-prison pipeline and remove police from inside of schools, we want to share more information about the realities of school-based policing in Chicago.

This report examines the disparities in who is impacted by school-based policing, the misconduct records of the CPD officers assigned to CPS, and the ways funds currently allocated towards policing could be re-invested. We found that:

- Even while police incidents overall have cut in half in the past decade, they continue to target Black students at 4 times the rate of white students in CPS.
- The 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors assigned to CPS have a combined total of at least 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.
- If re-allocated, the \$33 million currently allotted to 180 SROs in CPS could fund positions for 317 social workers, 314 school psychologists, or 322 nurses.

The time is now to invest in real safety for Chicago's youth, and that **begins** with cutting ties with the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

THE HARM TO STUDENTS:

The CPD's history of racism and violence is well-documented. The 2014 [We Charge Genocide report](#) to the United Nations Committee Against Torture documented police violence against youth of color, and the 2017 [Department of Justice Report](#) on the Chicago Police Department after the murder of Laquan McDonald declared a pattern & practice of racism and violence. While changes to training and equipment have occurred, widespread experiences of racism, harassment, and violence at the hands of police continue for young Black people and young people of color in Chicago today.

The following data regarding the impacts of CPD inside of CPS was drawn from Freedom of Information Act requests from Beyond Legal Aid to both CPS and CPD, in addition to data publicly available on the CPS website. Our findings reiterate what students have repeatedly made known for years:

Stationing CPD inside of CPS increases the risk of arrest for students for minor infractions, even if that is not the stated purpose of their presence. A review of the incidents which involved CPD over the past several years included many school disciplinary issues such as "Horseplay," "False Alarm Pull," "Demonstration," "Left Building," "Smoking (Tobacco)," and "Vandalism or Graffiti."¹

School-based policing is racist. Even as the number of police incidents has significantly decreased over the past decade, policing in Chicago Public Schools continues to disparately impact Black students and students of color. As the following chart shows:

Race	Police Incidents	Percentage
American Indian	15	0.18%
Asian	88	1.06%
Black, Non-Hispanic	5482	66.13%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	0.04%
Hispanic	2277	27.47%
Multi	85	1.03%
N/A	3	0.04%
White, Non-Hispanic	337	4.07%
Grand Total	8290	100.00%

- *More than 95% of police incidents in CPS involve students of color.*

- *Black students are subjected to police notifications at four times the rate of white students in Chicago;*

- *Black students currently make up 35.9% of all CPS students,² yet 65.77% were the subject of Police Notifications from 2011/12 to 2017/18.*

¹ Dataset from Chicago Public Schools per FOIA request provided May 20, 2020 - compiles all "event reasons" for all police incidents made in academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, and 2017/2018.

² Dataset from Chicago Public Schools per FOIA request made May 21, 2019 – compiles all police incidents made in academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, and 2017/2018

School-based policing disparately impacts students with diverse learning needs. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) make up only 15% of the CPS population, but over 30% of police incidents involve students with IEPS.³

Years	2011 -2012	2012 -2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 -2016	2016 -2017	2017- 2018	Grand Total
Police Notifications for Students with IEPS	1351	1487	1237	1092	995	817	766	7745
Total Police Incidents	5048	5189	4342	4173	3190	2597	2244	26783
Percentages of Police Notifications Involving Students with IEPS	27%	29%	28%	26%	31%	31%	34%	29%

Black women and girls* experience school-based policing at seven times the rate of white women and girls inside of CPS.⁴

Years	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Total Police Notifications per 100 Students	1.82	1.81	1.46	1.41	1.14	0.94	0.97
White Male	1.01	1.13	0.72	0.62	0.43	0.48	0.68
White Female	0.28	0.45	0.16	0.16	0.21	0.21	0.18
Black Male	3.94	4.21	3.24	3.35	2.71	2.37	2.26
Black Female	2.15	2.14	1.86	1.82	1.55	1.35	1.36
Hispanic Male	1.67	1.53	1.39	1.2	0.91	0.72	0.86
Hispanic Female	0.65	0.56	0.48	0.46	0.43	0.27	0.3

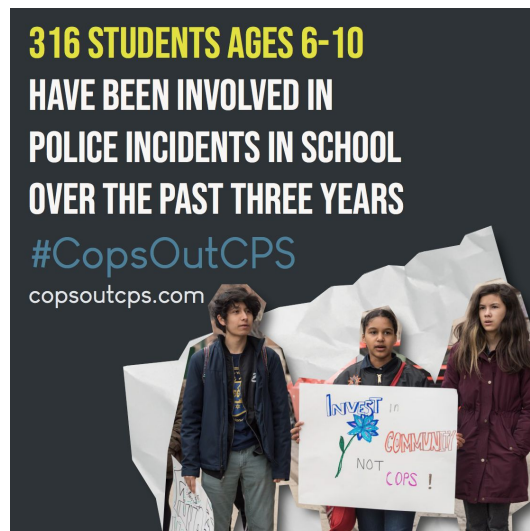
**We recognize that this use of binary language to discuss gender is insufficient, and are merely presenting here the data that CPS itself tracks and publishes.*

³ "Suspensions and Expulsions" Dataset, *Chicago Public Schools*
<https://cps.edu/SchoolData/Pages/SchoolData.aspx>

⁴ "Suspensions and Expulsions" Dataset, *Chicago Public Schools*
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Children as young as six years old are subject to Chicago Police Department actions as a result of school-based policing. In fact, students ages six-10 were the subject of more than 300 police incidents from 2015-2018.⁵

AGE	POLICE INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGES
6	21	0.25%
7	40	0.48%
8	61	0.74%
9	75	0.90%
10	119	1.44%
11	186	2.24%
12	306	3.69%
13	527	6.36%
14	829	10.00%
15	1273	15.36%
16	1618	19.52%
17	1560	18.82%
18	1123	13.55%
19	489	5.90%
20	58	0.70%
21	5	0.06%



Ultimately, we found that **police incidents have been decreasing significantly at Chicago Public Schools over the past nine years.**⁶

Years	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	Grand Total
Total Police Incidents	5048	5189	4342	4173	3190	2597	2244	26783

However, even as the rate of police notifications has cut in half, the racial disparities have remained consistent, as demonstrated above. This proves what we know to be true: **Policing puts Black students and students of color in danger.** We must continue to invest in restorative justice and expand our commitments to creating safe and supportive environments inside schools—and that can’t happen unless we get #CopsOutCPS.

⁵ Dataset from Chicago Public Schools per FOIA request made May 21, 2019 – compiles all police incidents made in academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, and 2017/2018

⁶ “Suspensions and Expulsions” Dataset, *Chicago Public Schools*
<https://cps.edu/SchoolData/Pages/SchoolData.aspx>

THE OFFICERS:

While we recognize that policing itself is the problem, not individual officers, we want to uplift the reality that Chicago students are at risk of harm simply based on who is currently assigned to the duty of School Resource Officer. In response to our FOIA request, CPD released the list of officers assigned to CPS for the '19-'20 school year. *An initial investigation into the misconduct records of these 180 School Resource Officers and 21 School Liaison Supervisors reveals that they have a combined total of 2,354 misconduct complaint records on file against them.* Further:

- 38 of the Officers assigned to CPS have **20 or more misconduct complaint records**, more than 79% of other CPD officers.⁷
- Five of the Officers assigned to Chicago Public Schools have **more than 50 misconduct complaint records each**, more than 96% of all other CPD officers.⁸
- Many of the officers have records that involve using extreme force against Black people in Chicago. *Below are just a handful of examples drawn from the list of names.*

Otis Watts #15226: *assigned to schools in the 17th district (which include Von Steuben, Roosevelt, Carl Schurz, and North Side Prep High Schools).*

Shot and killed 20 year old Devantae Young in 2012, and left him bleeding on the street without medical attention.

More info: <https://projects.chicagoreporter.com/settlements/case/13-cv-5651/>

Alex Calatayud # 18664: *assigned to Washington High School, 94% Latinx Student Population.*

Faced 57 misconduct complaints, including one sustained, also has multiple Use of Force reports that involve use of a taser against Black children on school grounds.

More info: <https://cpdp.co/officer/3635/alexander-calatayud/>

Charles McDonald #7605: *assigned to Gage Park High School.*

One of his Conduct Unbecoming complaints alleges that he urinated on someone's face and called them a "n***** c*nt." More info:

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6602056/CRID-266726-CR.pdf>

Tracy Rogers #13702, *assigned to the 4th district, including Bowen and Washington High Schools.*

In 2015, he tased a 90-year-old black woman in a public school (<https://cpdp.co/trr/88753/>), and in 2014 he took a 5 day suspension for brandishing his weapon in an argument with his wife.

More info: <https://cpdp.co/complaint/1067614/>

Katherine Moses-Hughes #11824, *assigned to Corliss High School in Pullman.*

Suspended for three days in 2016 for an improper search, suspended in 2009 for neglecting the medical needs of an arrested person.

More info: <https://cpdp.co/complaint/1023369/>

⁷ Source: cpdp.co

⁸ Source: cpdp.co

THE MONEY:

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY20 BUDGET:

SCHOOL COUNSELING AND POSTSECONDARY ADVISING: \$8,673,444

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: \$33,000,000

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Mayor Lori Lightfoot pledged to add more social workers to Chicago schools. Under Mayor Lightfoot, CPS allocated just an additional \$10 million to add social workers to the City's public schools. The CPS Board of Education approved a \$33 million contract with CPD to keep police in schools, which was a \$12 million dollar increase over 2018-19.

With those \$33 million allotted to 180 SROs, CPS could replace police in schools with at least:

- 317 social workers
- 314 school psychologists
- 322 nurses.

We can't afford to keep investing in policing at the expense of Black students and students of Color. It's time to divest from policing, and invest in the support systems that will actually provide safety and care to Chicago's students.

BACKGROUND:

The Police Free Schools campaign is a nationwide campaign to remove School Resource Officers (SROs) from public schools, given their well-documented role in accelerating the school- to- prison pipeline. In Chicago, the #PoliceFreeSchools coalition is made up of students across the city involved in several community organizations.

These organizations include: Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Assata's Daughters, FYSH Youth - HANA Center, Southside Together Organizing for Power, KINETIC Youth - Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Enlace Chicago, American Friends Service Committee, Black Lives Matter Chicago, Chicago Teachers Union Latinx Caucus, and Beyond Legal Aid.

In 2017, members of this coalition won the demand for the Chicago Inspector General to conduct an audit on the SRO program in Chicago Public Schools. This audit found that: SROs had no training, no formal agreement existed between CPD and CPS, and neither CPD nor CPS knew which officers were placed in which schools.

In response to growing criticisms, CPS and CPD formalized their relationship with an MOU in the summer of 2019. However, instead of listening to the demands of #PoliceFreeSchools

student organizers and cutting ties with CPD, CPS **increased** the contract with the CPD for school policing from \$20 million per year to \$33 million per year.

This report seeks to support the calls to remove CPD from CPS, and shift resources away from policing and towards more supportive measures for keeping students safe inside of schools, including counselors, nurses, and restorative justice practitioners.

THE DEMANDS:

- > Immediately terminate the \$33 million dollar contract between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department.
- > Remove all School Resource Officers from Chicago Public Schools beginning in the '20-'21 school year.
- > Re-invest the \$33 million currently allocated for the CPD contract in non-police supportive services for Chicago students, including counselors, nurses, trauma-informed personnel and restorative justice hubs and practitioners.
- > Ensure all students have access to technology and internet for at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and when school begins.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police-Free Schools

<https://advancementproject.org/wecametolearn/>

By The Advancement Project

Handcuffs in Hallways: The State of Policing in Chicago Public Schools

<https://www.povertylaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/handcuffs-in-hallways-final.pdf>

By Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law