



Court, Teresa <tlcourt@cps.edu>

Our Commitment to Protect Students

1 message

Chicago Public Schools <info@cps.edu>
Reply-To: info@cps.edu
To: tlcourt@cps.edu

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August 17, 2018



Dear Parents and Families,

In the past several months, we have been following and building upon our comprehensive [Plan of Action](#) to protect our students. And to ensure we leave no stone unturned, we asked Maggie Hickey, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Illinois Executive Inspector General, to identify any gaps and provide recommendations to improve our policies and procedures.

We have taken several major steps to act on Ms. Hickey's earliest recommendations, including creating the district's first Office of Student Protections and Title IX (OSP). This 20-member team has a clear mandate to advocate for students, provide supports for survivors, and coordinate the district's response to any allegation of abuse, which includes referring allegations of adult-on-student abuse to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Earlier today, Ms. Hickey and her team released [a preliminary report](#) which will help us build upon the significant steps we've taken over the summer to strengthen safeguards for students. Our plan of action aligns to Ms. Hickey's comprehensive roadmap for a safer and stronger school district, and we have implemented many of the recommendations that Ms. Hickey outlined in her preliminary report.

In addition to forming OSP, we wanted to highlight additional steps we've taken this past summer:

- CPS' current background check process exceeded the requirements of state law, but we wanted to make sure that we could receive better information on current employees whose conduct might disqualify them after employment. We improved our centralized background check processes by re-checking the backgrounds of the tens of thousands of adults who come into contact with students.
- We've formed a new partnership with the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center to re-train employees to identify signs of abuse and ensure survivors receive the supports they need and deserve. Parents and community members will also be able to access these trainings at our 13 Parent University sites later this year.
- We're updating our sexual education curriculum and educational materials to better educate students on identifying inappropriate relationships and sexual abuse as part of our district-wide education and awareness campaign to help students, staff, and community members identify and report abuse.

We are committed to ensuring that CPS is free of sexual discrimination, harassment, and violence. The wellbeing of your children is our highest priority and we thank you for your continued support.

Janice K. Jackson, EdD
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Frank M. Clark
President
Chicago Board of Education

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