

October 25, 2023 Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, October 23rd and Thursday, October 26th
Submitted via Written Comments Form

1	We need transportation for selective enrollment students if we are genuine about evening the playing field for all students. Without transportation out options are again limited and often times the local school is not the best fit for our child. Please do what you can to assist as this busing issue has added stress and hardship to our family.
2	Hi!! I am a volunteer at one of police ststions?and help out at some of the shelters. There are approximately 400+ children at the American Islam College shelter that are not enrolled at school bwcsuse there is no room at sny of the three schools nearby. We had called and I was personally advised that they would need to register next year because there?was no capacity.
3	Migrants' (kids) are not being enrolled in school at AIC. Why isn't there a dedicated person at each shelter ensuring that all kids are enrolled? Families are being told that there is no room.
4	I am writing to voice my concern that our district is not adequately providing bus service for the thousands of children who attend CPS schools. Busses have been historically a critical part of providing access to school alternatives and supporting families who work. The lack of bus options for the great majority of children in the district places a significant hardship on our families, especially those without the means to provide safe, affordable transportation. While the apparent reason for the lack of busses is a driver shortage, there is also an assumed lack of funds to provide decent wages that will attract drivers. I encourage CPS to invest the necessary funds to, at a minimum, provide buses for those students who do not live in walking from their chosen school and can demonstrate the economic hardship of providing alternate transportation. If we intend to address historic inequities within CPS and provide families choices that allow their children opportunities to advance within the system, buses have to be a part of the solution, now and well into the future.
5	<p>Dear President Shi, Board Members, and CEO Martinez,</p> <p>My name is Jaqueline Vargas, mother of four children. Three of my children have been students at Solorio Academy High School. I am also active at the school, as the President and Parent Representative on Solorio's ALSC. I am submitting this letter to advocate for and thank the Board for the Academy for Urban School Leadership's Chicago Teacher Residency program at Solorio.</p> <p>Resident Teachers are very important in our schools. They are equipped to become successful educators AND leave an impact on our children.</p> <p>AUSL has trained more than 1,300 high-quality teachers and impacts the children of the south and west sides of Chicago. As a mother, I have seen and met the resident teachers and the work they have done in Solorio. 18 of Solorio's staff are graduates of AUSL's Chicago Teacher Residency. The teacher resident graduates at Solorio include award winning teachers like Greta Kringle (Science) and leaders who serve as Mentor Teachers for the teacher residency.</p> <p>I ask the Board today to renew AUSL's contract for the Chicago Teacher Residency so more schools like Solorio can train teachers for the district.</p>

Estimado presidente Shi, miembros de la junta directiva y director ejecutivo Martínez,

Mi nombre es Jaqueline Vargas, madre de cuatro hijos. Tres de mis hijos han sido estudiantes de la escuela secundaria Solorio Academy. También participo activamente en la escuela, como presidente y representante de padres en el ALSC de Solorio. Envío esta carta para defender y agradecer a la Junta por el programa de residencia docente de Chicago de la Academy for Urban School Leadership en Solorio.

Los profesores residentes son muy importantes en nuestras escuelas. Están equipados para convertirse en educadores exitosos Y dejar un impacto en nuestros niños.

AUSL ha capacitado a más de 1,300 maestros de alta calidad e impacta a los niños del sur y oeste de Chicago. Como madre he visto y conocido a los profesores residentes y el trabajo que han realizado en Solorio. 18 miembros del personal de Solorio son graduados de la Residencia de Maestros de Chicago de AUSL. Los docentes residentes graduados en Solorio incluyen maestros galardonados como Greta Kringle (Ciencias) y líderes que sirven como maestros mentores para la residencia docente.

Le pido hoy a la Junta que renueve el contrato de AUSL para la Residencia de Maestros de Chicago para que más escuelas como Solorio puedan capacitar maestros para el distrito.

6 To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to address some possible misunderstandings based on what I said today as Public Speaker #3 regarding the cancellation of busing for approximately 5,500 general education CPS students. Here is the exact quote (you can watch the video of the board meeting to confirm):

“We have more solutions, but we need CPS Transportation to work with us as well as provide evidence of a certain mandate that they are citing. We have repeatedly asked for evidence of the mandate that states that general education students cannot be on the bus for longer than one hour, and it has not been provided.”

Note that I am specifically talking about GENERAL education students, not students with IEPs. I one hundred percent support the prioritization of these students and limiting their route to less than 60 minutes. I am asking that general education students be added to routes that are currently running with only a few students on a bus with a capacity of 50 or more. I am not asking to extend the time that these routes run. I am asking CPS to allow parents to drop their children off at pickup locations currently in use for students with IEPs, thus not impacting the current running time of the route.

I also inquired about the 60-minute rule for general education students because as a parent who is currently in the car for 3.5 hours per day transporting my child to and from school, I would gladly accept a 70-minute bus ride for my general education child, and I think that many parents in my situation would accept it as well.

It is very difficult to thoroughly explain all of the solutions that I am proposing in two minutes, which is why the group I am a part of, CPS Parents for Buses, is requesting a meeting with members of the CPS Transportation Department as well as the Board of

Education to discuss our ideas and collaborate on solutions. I believe that we can make changes that benefit everyone.

Thank you,

Erin Schubert

Speaker #3 and mother of a student at Skinner North.

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- 7 I would like to request that CPS provide financial stipends immediately and retroactively to ALL families that were promised busing when they made school choices. This includes families of general education students at Selective Enrollment and Magnet schools. I was disappointed that the Executive Director of Transportation did not address compensation at all during thier Transportation presentation at the Board Meeting yesterday even though so many working-class families desperately need it.
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- 8 CPS chose not to give stipends to Selective Enrollment and Magnet student despite taking away transportation that was promised. This suggest to me that CPS decided to exclude these groups from the budget right from the start.
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1. There should be no new taxation or budget increases without greater transparency and accountability over how our tax dollars are spent, particularly at the local school level.
 2. The recent rise in test scores does not necessarily reflect a rebound in learning. The opportunity gap is real and early celebrations are premature. I will submit more on this in the future.
 3. Sexual Health Education still does not include age-appropriate instruction on respecting boundaries, affirmative consent, and respect for body autonomy. Anyone who doesn't think this is a part of sex education doesn't know anything about sex. I was told the Office of Social and Emotional Learning was responsible for the lack of instruction and we should ask why.
 4. We need to address the migrant situation. The only reason CPS did not continue to lose students this year was because of the illegal busing of migrants. This is not sustainable or humane. Leaders should impound the buses of those engaged in illegal human trafficking.
 5. CPS bureaucrats have failed our students again. I'm glad they finally prioritized students with disabilities, as they are required by law, but we need to consider the needs of other student populations. I created a petition to restore busing and stipend options for all students with disabilities with an additional focus on low-income students, English language learners, and to address the opportunity gap that creates such high demand for busing. I created the petition in seven different languages and will share the results with you.
- I will continue trying to meet with you and advocating for our students because they are worth it.

Fair Busing Petition

We, the undersigned, ask that CPS implement fair busing.

We support CPS's decision to meet their legal obligation to provide transportation to students with special needs and those who are housing insecure.

We disagree with CPS's decision to cancel busing for thousands of magnet and selective enrollment students just before the start of the school year. The cancellation of

transportation disproportionately hurts low-income students and those in the most under-resourced parts of the city.

CPS should implement the following changes:

1. Restore transportation to the most vulnerable students by prioritizing those with low income, students with IEPs, and English language learners. This can be done by creating optimized routes and allowing students to be transported on existing underutilized routes.
2. Provide financial assistance until transportation can be restored, prioritizing those with the greatest need.
3. Allow students who test into selective enrollment schools to qualify for accelerated placement at their local school automatically. This will provide enriched learning opportunities for academically advanced students who are unable to commute.
4. Provide the opportunity for students displaced by transportation cuts to re-enroll in their school without requiring re-testing.
5. Commit to maintaining the diversity of selective enrollment and magnet schools by ensuring accessibility for all students.
6. Establish greater transparency between the CPS Board and families of students with unmet needs.

English: <https://forms.gle/yKnVesNezGhiVQkV9>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/aVNQSVk5MJ24BnsT8>

Polish: <https://forms.gle/33ihaFebCWsqstKs8>

Mandarin: <https://forms.gle/mzVdBXfrPQbXSRo9A>

Cantonese: <https://forms.gle/TvSVMBfJcUQvqKjC9>

Arabic: <https://forms.gle/4euKxQpw33Lc64S87>

Tagalog: <https://forms.gle/xGfB1UcQaR933aBv6>

Signed:

Dr. Angel Alvarez

ATTACHMENTS

Dr. Alvarez Public Comments October 25, 2023

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Cantonese: <https://forms.gle/TvSVMBfJcUQvqKjC9>

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Additional comments to share with CPS

Fair busing now!

Offer Hub locations where students can be picked up or dropped off for bus service as soon as possible.

I am very concerned that the lack of busing will intensify the segregation of CPS.

My daughters name is *** ** and she's in kindergarten -- *** **

Please solve the bus issue

Please restore busing to assist for easier travels in the morning and afternoon for students.

I would really want to have school bus back as soon as possible

Provide financial assistance to all SE kids until transportation can be restored. Accommodate Gen Ed students in already running bus routes for special ed kids

Provide financial assistance until transportation can be restored. Accommodate gen ed kids in already running bus routes for special ed kids.

The bus has never worked the same since the Covid shutdown.

School drop off round trip in the morning is 1.5 hrs, same in the afternoon. I have to drive for more than 2 hours in the morning including commutes to work, this is impacting my health due to the added stress and lack of sleeps. One of the families we carpoled with ran into a car accident since the husband has been sleeping only 4-5 hours since school started without bus service. They has no choice but pay for private bus service instead of risking the kids' safety and we have to look for new family to fill their spots but it has been extremely difficult to find one. There are lots of uncertainties that we have to manage due the lack of school buses.

Bus incentive of \$500/month should be an option for all SE and magnet students impacted by no bus services

I would rather students have the chance to get transportation to their schools. Otherwise this seems like an underhanded way to remove all magnet and selective programs or making sure that only the privileged students can attend those furthering inequity in our city and further segregating our city. One of the strengths of CPS is the choices within the system allowing students to focus on what they enjoy (arts, stem, academics, and more) at the elementary school level. The lack of promised transportation to these programs puts young children on public transportation to

places that are often poorly served by our existing infrastructure causing long times for anyone who does not have a car.

Skinner North has students coming from all over the city and the fact that there's no bus service provided is disheartening. Please listen to us parents.

The decision to eliminate bussing for select enrollment schools is hurting the most vulnerable students in these schools...precisely who these schools are designed to support. With a shortage of drivers, CPS should have considered consolidating bus stops to reduce drive time rather than disenfranchising thousands of CPS students and families.

Please consider the safety measures of our students who now have had to choose riding the CTA under very stressful and unsafe conditions

Gifted students ARE diverse learners too.

We need school bus

We denavded busing. Both my husband and u have a full time job . We had vee struggling to pick up my daughter from school.

We are in dire need of a solution

We can't not afford private transportation to take my son to Lenart. Please, provide school bus for all students.

We need busing service or financial support.

fair busing

Canceling buses just days before the start of the school year was a real disservice.

Please address the school bus issue ASAP!!!!!!

This is brave and worthwhile. Thanks for this

This year the lack of school buses was a big problem for me, and I lost my job because I had to take my kids to and from school

Gifted students are diverse learners!

My wife has had to give up working in order to transport our child to his school. To force parents to make a choice between quality education and finance is ridiculous.

Making busing a priority now!!

For my student, being in a gifted program is akin to an accommodation. She has adhd and would inevitably be bored and act out in our (excellent!) neighborhood school. This would send her down a different educational trajectory with a negative relationship toward school and education. She would draw resources such as teacher and interventionist time that could be spent on other kids in order to manage her behavior and support her academically. At Keller, she is challenged enough to stay engaged and keep her behavior under control. Kids don't just need SE programs for an advantage for test scores. For many kids, they would not be successful in their neighborhood schools.

You have no idea how this upended our lives...

I am the gifted coordinator at Pulaski and our families have found the current bussing situation very challenging. We have had 2 families leave our program, and there are nearly a dozen that are seriously considering finding a school that is more accessible.

Pulaski is one of 3 RGC-ELs and it is a vital part of the diverse mix of our school community. Pulaski will not be the same if the number of gifted families continues to dwindle. Please consider every possible solution (increasing bus driver pay, additional stipends for gifted families, etc.) to maintain bussing for our RGC and RGC-EL schools.

In partnership,
Chris De Bruyn
Gifted Coordinator
Pulaski International

This has become a huge hardship for my family.

We need bus

We need busses. Lack of busses creates a hardship on parents with limited resources and perhaps only one car in the household. Child is too young to use public transportation. Please reconsider.

CPS, do better.

The bus option saved us when my oldest was in kindergarten. Schools need school buses!

How come we had bus drivers in June of this year but by August they all quit? It doesn't make much sense unless its a funding issue.

I am a parent to 3 Cps students 2 of which are in grade school at Bell, my wife and I are both Cps educators. The lack of busing is having a negative impact on my production as a Cps employee.

Bussing for all who need it!

School zones were created in CPS in order to give high achieving students from lower income areas the opportunity to attend programs that meet their needs but are not in their neighborhood. Discontinuing Bussing from these areas, contradicts the goal to provide these opportunities to all students.

CPS is causing extreme hardship for families to get their back and forth to schools. If they were going to this they should have warn parents at least six months to a year so parents could try to get their children in other schools. It is traumatic for children to change schools

We have never had a school bus, more than one year in.

Lack of bussing and lack of notice is hurting families on a daily basis. We are longtime selective enrollment parents and took those spots to give our kids better opportunities and were counting on bussing. Many families in their classes, especially those who travel the farthest from low income neighborhoods, are also struggling.

my 13 year old is riding the bus everyday coming back from school. I dont feel safe that she is in a bus by herself with many strangers . We have been attending InterAMerican since my daughter was in Pre-k and the main reason why we agreed for her to go to school that far from our home, was because of transportation. The school offered transportation options and 2 weeks before school started CPS decided to cut down our services. We are spending over \$100 a week for my kid to get to school.

We want the school bus back. It is very inconvenient without school bus this fall. To transport my kid to her school every day have a big negative impact on my work and family life. Thank you for makin our voices heard.

If the diversity, equity, and inclusion agenda is a priority for CPS, how is de-prioritizing transportation aligned with that vision? Neighborhood schools will overcrowd, students with specific needs will go without, and choice will be a thing of the past.

I am struggling currently!

The lack of busing has really caused a lot of stress especially when we applied to selective enrollment counting on the bus service.

Thank you for considering the hardship that pulling buses has caused ALL CPS STUDENTS. Everyone deserves an opportunity to learn in an environment that is appropriate for their academic level and ability, regardless of where they live. The SE and regional gifted centers provide an amazing opportunity for the students who qualify for them and it is completely negligent for CPS to overlook providing these students an adequate way to get to and from school. At the very least, CPS should be providing a safe place for students who live outside of the neighborhood to go before

and after school. If this isn't feasible, then some sort of transportation stipend would go a long way to help defray the cost that many of us are absorbing to provide the necessity of after care for our students in SE programs.

Please do the right thing for students

Please help all student's to get to school

Please restore transportation to allow SE school to be able to maintain diversity.

Establish transparency of budget allocation for bussing, period. Who received, who didn't, and how are the funds directed to magnet and selective enrollment schools are being redistributed. Until my schools principal was asked about funds that could be allocated to morning/Aftercare it wasn't even a consideration. Question is did the schools even know that was an option?

Please put the student interest in the first.

I turned down a spot at a local magnet school so my child could attend a selective enrollment school much further away. Now I am struggling to get him to school. If I wanted him to attend the magnet school for next year, I shouldn't have to reapply. Make it make sense!

Losing bus service has had a big impact on my family. Making it hard for

This is unacceptable and super painful. We must get kids back in bus right now!

2 students in RGC program @ Beaubien

I currently have 2 kids at two different schools. McPherson RGC and Edison RGC. It makes it difficult to drive 2 places at the same time for drop off and pickup!

I have 2 kids at two separate schools. They start at the same time. I can't be in two places at once. One kid is always late. We need the bus! For 6 years My son had the bus and no issue.

It is unacceptable for CPS to have communicated that transportation will not be provided for this and the upcoming school year . This shows CPS's lack of commitment to its students, particularly to RGC and selective enrollment students. Lack of transportation is being utilized as yet another barrier to educational inequality.

The busing situation is an equity issue. By eliminating bus service, CPS is worsening the unequal education system. Many of the poorest performing schools are in Black and brown communities. While many white students served by CPS would receive a good education at their neighborhood schools, our property tax allocations, redlining and historic (and current) widespread segregation limit opportunities for minority children. The bus driver shortage is not an unsolvable problem. Higher wages will

entice more people to drive our children to school. This needs to be a top priority of this city's administration—or the administration needs to figure out how to ensure schools in minority neighborhoods have equal resources—facilities, books, technology, teaching aptitude, etc.—to those in white areas.

Students at Selective Enrollment schools must also be prioritized for busses.

Do better.

It is ridiculous not to offer bus. Drivers shortage is not an excuse for cutting the bus service. This should be planned ahead annually but not just before the school year start. Get this issue resolved or step down.

This is ridiculous to not offering better resolution than given out CTA pass to students and parent. While CTA is cutting service further inconvenience the working parents in the city. CTA is not the resolution. I hope this is resolved within the school year. Otherwise we are seriously thinking moving out the city. CPS claims this is a national wise problem while all our suburb friends still receiving school bus service. This is hard for us to believe CPS is not lying.

School bus service is must for working parents. Happy to contribute \$\$ if that helps to resume services.

You are making education one of the hardest things for children to achieve. It's killing us with stress.

Not providing bus service to selective enrollment students is definitely an injustice for working parents.

Thanks.

This affects enrollment and the socioeconomic diversity of your schools, which CPS claims to be core values.

We are both working parents and have to be at work for 8 hrs and lack of bus transportation has resulted in one of us having to leave work an hour earlier in order to drive to school & pick up at 2.45pm. They cannot simply expect the parents to make alternate arrangements at work everyday, without providing bus transportation facilities.

The fair bussing conversation should also include bussing students within 6 miles of the school. The notion of an additional boundary map being imposed on Classical and Selective Enrollment schools is also unfair and unequal treatment that disproportionately affects students who have been admitted to the school.

Please implement the above mentioned changes for our children sake.

Hello CPS, I just want to send a quick statement regarding how the bus service has impacted me as a parent. I just recently delivered a newborn baby and I also have four children at three different schools. On separate sides of the city, Chatham, West Loop and Hyde Park . Although it's not fully CPS responsibility to get my kids to and from school but the bus service That was available for my child was abruptly taken away, and it has made it extremely difficult for me to transport all of the children and get to school on time when the school time start nearly the same time and navigate through traffic. And this is in the morning and evening it's very daunting This has had an impact on not only attendance in Tardies, but also the rising gas prices for parents, that's already struggling. If you can, please reinstate the bus service or provide a stipend to receive transportation services. Not to mention having to get to work.

I Agree, not having bus services does create a challenge for us as parents. Not having the bus does create a logistical challenge for parents who have to be at their place of employment by 8am or earlier. Please come to a resolution to help get the school buses back on the road, soon. Thank you concerned parent.

Having no bus has strained our ability to get our son to school. We don't want him to miss out on the opportunity of benefiting from the selective enrollment program.

My car broke down 3 times already. In need of money to fix the car and buying gasoline.

Give back our school bus to ours kids.

Comentarios adicionales para compartir con CPS

Les pedimos que escuchen nuestras peticiones y que no olviden nuestros niños que durante años se han esforzado por mantenerse en sus escuelas con altos grados. Solicitamos atención para los niños y familia de bajos recursos que seamos considerados. La gasolina está muy cara necesitamos el apoyo monetario para solventar este gasto para poder transportar a nuestros hijos seguros a su escuela.

No es justo que les quiten el servicio a nuestros hijos haciendo eso quitan las oportuñides de igualdad de educación a nuestros hijos y a los papás que buscamos una mejor oportunidad de educación para nuestros hijos ellos también necesitan los recursos que es la promesa de cps de proveer recursos que ellos necesitan para su educación nesesitamos que restauren el servicio o que den más soluciones para la transportación a sus escuelas más a los niños que son de familias de bajos recursos que es realmente una necesidad

Continúen ayudando a nuestras comunidades con igualdad y equidad.

It's so unjust for disproportionately hurts low-income students and parents!

No tengo la necesidad de autobús para mi hijo pero apoyo a los que si necesitan.

Por favor les pedimos que nos traten con igualdad de transporte. Hemos familias de bajos recursos que ahora es difícil solventar los gastos de gas.!! Nuestros hijos también cuentan!!!

We need what we deserve. Our kids transportation to have a better education

Es un servicio que es necesario para nuestros hijos. Alivia mucho la organización de las familias y cumplir con los horarios laborables.

Es un derecho que a nuestros hijos que estudian en las escuelas publicas de Chicago CPS nos reestablecan el servicio de transporte escolar y garanticen el servicio de transporte escolar durante todo el año escolar.

Porfavor, hay muchos niños siendo afectados y en necesidad de transporte

Por favor apoyennos

Por favor ayúdenos. Tengo que andar en transporte publico durante 1 hora y ahora en el invierno es más complicado y ando con un bebé. Y de esta manera no puedo trabajar y soy madre soltera. Como puedo cubrir mis necesidades.

Esta situación es muy difícil para mi familia ya que por ese motivo de la escasez de chóferes tuve que dejar de trabajar y aparte de qué no trabajo se me incrementaron los gastos por la gasolina qué tengo que pagar diariamente en ir y llevar a mi hijo hasta el norte yo vivo para el sur

No solamente para los que necesidades especiales o depende donde viven, apoyo para todos los que viven más de dos millas como era antes, el gobierno les dio el apoyo económico y no están cumpliendo, donde está ese dinero, mínimo pagar la gasolina que está carísima. Por si perdemos tiempo manejando 40 minutos ida y otros 40 regreso o más.

Ayudar a los estudiantes

El no tener transporte ha impactado nuestra vida como familia, tuve que dejar mi trabajo y estamos sintiendo como nos afecta monetariamente.espero que restauren el transporte escolar es muy necesario.

He perdido mi trabajo por llevar hasta la escuela a mi hijo, la tarjeta ventra NO me sirve absolutamente para nada.

Necesito el bus escolar

El transporte escolar es esencial para muchas familias de CPS,les pedimos de la manera más atenta que vuelvan a proporcionar dicho medio de transporte ya que muchas familias dependen de él.

Necesitamos el transporte para nuestros estudiantes

Necesitamos el bus escolar para nuestros hijos..

Urge transporte para niños ciudadanos

Pedimos de favor nos brinden el bus escolar esto es una necesidad para mi hijo como padres queremos que nuestros hijos viajen seguros a la escuela

I need my children to use the bus service, my children now have to get up at 5 am so that they arrive on time, my children look very tired at school due to changing their schedule.

Hola soy Maria, mi hija se vio afectada en este año por lo que no nos dieron el bus. Yo también soy afectada porque estoy tratando de salir más temprano de mi trabajo y hasta tengo riesgo de que me despeden del trabajo porque siempre estoy saliendo temprano. Eso es mi opinión, creo que es necesario que busquen cómo buscar más personas y también miren cómo nos afecta a las personas de menos recursos. Gracias.