SBS Chicago - Speaking at the board meeting examples and talking points

Best Practice: We suggest that your comments touch on three things:

1. Your personal experience. Real CPS parents, real stories are really powerful.
2. A request that the Board take up a resolution to consider a real, intentional technology policy for CPS
3. Be sure to thank the board for their time and attention. We want to come across as willing partners and not adversaries.

You don't need to cover every point. Speak to what matters most to you and your family. Your personal stories carry a lot of weight. You might wish to align your comments with a specific request from our petition. ***See our talking points in our illustrated guide here.***

Videos of CPS Parents Giving Comment

- Michelle C - July 20
- Vanessa D & Kim T - Sep 10 (Kim also submitted this handout on paper to go with her presentation, pulled from SBS's Compendium of EdTech Literature from the SBS resource library)
- Matt P - Sept 24
- Gwendolyn Z - Sept 24
- Emily S - Sept 24

Written testimony from CPS Parents

- Suzi - Sep 10

Examples and Resources from other cities

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Schools Beyond Screens Public Comments - Schools Beyond Screens - LAUSD
- EdTech Public Comment, Ok To Delay
- Kansas State Board of Ed Comment, Emily Brownlee, ScreenStrong
- EdTech Public Comments, Various, ReConnect MA

- Written Testimony from an Educator, Jill Anderson, Mindful Tech Lessons to the Vermont Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.
- Teacher Public Comment on 1:1 Devices, FCPS Parents for Intentional Technology

Illustrated Talking Points Guide

Speak Up for Kids

Your guide to public comment at school board meetings

Schools Beyond Screens Chicago CPS

You don't have to be a policy expert. A few honest sentences about your child, your classroom, or what you've seen screens do to focus/connection/learning are exactly what board members need to hear.

HOW TO TAKE PART:

WHEN: 9/10; OR 9/24. All meetings begin at 10:30AM

WHERE:
CPS Loop Office
42 W. Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60602

TO SPEAK (up to 2 min):
Click Here to sign up for one of the sessions

CRITICAL: Advance registration for speakers and observers opens 48 hours before start time, and closes 24 hours before start time.

Sept 8, 2026 at 10:30 AM - Sept 9 10:30AM

Sep 22, 2026 at 10:30 AM - Sept 23 10:30AM

CAN'T SPEAK? Come anyway as an observer! A full room is its own message.

YOUR 2 MINUTES, IN 5 STEPS:

1. START WITH YOUR CONNECTION TO CPS

Parent, teacher, community member, etc. – and you can mention the grade level(s) or school if you'd like.

2. ONE TRUE STORY

A specific moment with your child or classroom – what you've seen screens do to focus and connection, or the impact you see.

3. MAKE ONE CLEAR POINT

Speak to what kids would gain from balance, not just what screens take away.

4. ONE SPECIFIC ASK

Pick 1 or 2 points (from the list below) that are true for you.

5. BRING A WRITTEN COPY.

Nerves are normal — notes help. You can even read it straight off your notes. Thank the Board Trustees at the end.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT HELP?
SCHOOLSBEYONDSCREENS.CPS@GMAIL.COM

TALKING POINTS – PICK ONE OR TWO THAT ARE TRUE FOR YOU:

PROTECT THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Remove iPads/laptops for pre-K through 2nd grade (except required assessments). Little kids learn best hands-on and in-person. **SAVES MONEY**

RETHINK 1:1 DEVICES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shift grades 3-5 to shared laptop carts. Research on 1:1 devices in elementary is mixed; cumulative exposure keeps rising. **SAVES MONEY**

TRANSPARENCY & FAMILY AWARENESS

Give families weekly reports of device screen activity and genuine opt-outs of specific EdTech.

NO SCREENS FOR FREE TIME OR AS REWARDS

No school devices during passing periods, lunch, and recess for elementary & middle school. Unstructured time builds social skills. **COSTS NOTHING**

BRING BACK PAPER

Encourage physical books, handwriting, and off-screen homework. Studies link print to stronger reading comprehension and retention.

VET EVERY EDTECH CONTRACT

Require independent review for real educational value & student data-privacy, not just vendor-supplied research.

DO:
- Partner with schools; support teachers & students
- Keep to 2 minutes – practice aloud
- Thank teachers, staff & the Board

DON'T:
- Attack individuals or staff
- Frame it as "ban all tech"
- Get lost in jargon or statistics