

**Posted on 2022-05-10 08:44:09 AM (CDT) by Veena Villivalam, Future LSC Member, Suder Montessori**

A valid cause for absence should also be stagnant vaccination rates, lack of masking in schools in the midst of community spread, and COVID exposure in the classroom regardless of vaccination status. If CPS and the Board of Education is turning a blind eye in the face of unsafe and disruptive learning conditions for my child then, as a caregiver, it is my responsibility to protect my children from COVID during a time of waning efficacy of their vaccine and greater risk. My children are in multi-age classrooms where 2/3 of their classes are vaccine ineligible because they are 2 to 5 year olds. CPS' shift in masking policy guidance is careless, thoughtless, and one size fits all, privileging the able-bodied, those who are not immunocompromised, and so many others. This weakens communities that are already devastated, widening the gap.

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**Posted on 2022-05-16 03:28:20 PM (CDT) by John Newman**

Will there be a common form or template for the different plans required in this new policy? Will there be detailed rubrics and examples given to support absence plans with restorative practices for all schools to use in the creation of their individual school plans? When will these plans be due?

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**Posted on 2022-05-20 04:40:24 PM (CDT) by Hannah Berkowitz on behalf of Legal Aid Chicago**

Legal Aid Chicago submits the following comments to Chicago Board of Education's proposed Comprehensive Policy on Attendance amending the Comprehensive Policy on Absenteeism and Truancy, Board Report 05-0126-PO2. Legal Aid Chicago is the largest provider of free civil legal services in Cook County, Illinois. We represent low-income persons in various areas of law, including domestic violence, public benefits, employment, immigration, housing, and education law. Our education law team represents K-12 students in school-related legal matters—including special education, school discipline, Title IX, residency, and bullying cases. We have clients across these issue areas who are impacted by attendance policies as related to their disabilities, their status as survivors of sexual assault, and disciplinary matters.

We're pleased to see CPS has expanded the requirement to enroll to include children up to the age of twenty-one as we've had many older clients face difficulties with re-enrollment.

One concern that we would like to note is with the language in Section III.B: "Student removal from enrollment due to attendance can only occur when the following criteria are met and/or proper steps are taken in full." Specifically, we are concerned that this section could be interpreted to allow schools to drop students from enrollment due to attendance without meeting the stated criteria. The end clause, which says "and/or proper steps are taken in full," implies that there are other, unspecified procedures a school could use to remove a student from

enrollment. The lack of clarity in this clause also implies that it is up to the school to decide what those “proper steps” are. We believe this clause should be removed as this section already contains clearly-stated criteria that must be met prior to removing a student from enrollment due to attendance.

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