

Dear CPS Families,

As the weather continues to get warmer, we know that our young people will want to spend time outdoors with friends. We want our kids to socialize outside and enjoy the spring and summer months, but we need to keep them safe. We have seen what can happen when these large, unsupervised gatherings in parks get out of hand, leading to traumatizing experiences for our kids.

Unfortunately, this past weekend brought a series of tragic incidents that affected families across the city. Our hearts go out to their families, friends, and loved ones as they mourn these unspeakable losses. It is a reminder that we need to work together and do more to ensure the safety of our children.

As a reminder, the best way to keep our students safe is for parents to know who their kids are spending time with and what their plans are when they leave home. Parents, please also be sure that your children know how to reach you, and please encourage them to spend time with a few friends rather than gravitating toward these large gatherings.

I want families to be aware that the City of Chicago has moved up the city's official curfew for minors from 11 p.m. until 10 p.m., and has established additional time, place, and manner rules for other public spaces. Chicago has had curfew rules for those under 18 since at least 1992 and this change is in line with other big cities like Los Angeles. It is important that everyone understands this new expectation and we encourage you to talk about it with your children.

As someone who's grown up in Chicago and who loves this city, I want our children to experience everything that this place has to offer. I am proud of our students and I want to ensure that we are always reflecting the student-centered values that our district stands for — integrity, leadership, and respect for others — both in our classrooms and outside of the classroom.

From sports leagues, to arts programs, to employment opportunities, there are so many programs available to help keep kids engaged during the weekend and throughout the summer. I encourage you to visit MyChiMyFuture.org, [Chicago Public Library](https://ChicagoPublicLibrary.org), and the City's Park District [website](#) to find programs that are right for your families.

I also invite you to watch [this video](#) with messages from myself and school principals across the city talking directly to kids and families about staying safe.

As a father of two CPS students, I know how precious our children's lives are. They are the future of our city and our world, and we want to make sure they have the chance to achieve everything they are dreaming about right now. We will continue working to give Chicago's youth the safe, positive experiences they deserve while also ensuring their safety and the safety of everyone in our great city. We know that our families share this commitment, and we thank you for your partnership in this work.

Sincerely,

Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools