

CPS Continuous Improvement and Data Transparency

Data Transparency Stakeholder Advisory Group

Student Focus Group Meeting #1 Summary

Monday, April 15th, 2025, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Virtual

To incorporate student voices, we created a separate focus group for students. We collaborated with Mikva Challenge, an organization focused on empowering, informing, and engaging youth to become active citizens who promote justice and equity.

To protect privacy, students have been identified by school and grade level, rather than by name.

Attendance

Facilitators & Presenters: Felipe Perez (Facilitator), Jill Gottfred Sohoni (Facilitator), Alejandra C.Sanchez (Project Manager), Ximena Novoa (Mikva Challenge, Youth Council Coordinator)

Student Committee Members:

- Roosevelt HS | Albany Park - Junior
- Hancock HS | Gage Park - Junior
- Sullivan HS | Rogers Park - Senior
- Whitney Young | Near West Side - Sophomore
- Back of the Yards HS | Back of the Yards - Junior
- Whitney Young | Near West Side - Junior
- SimeonHS | Auburn Gresham - Sophomore

Meeting Materials

- [Agenda](#)
- [CIDT Overview Slides](#)
- [CPS School Profile Page](#)
- [Exit Ticket](#)

Agenda

By the end of our discussion, students will:

- Be introduced to CPS's new **Continuous Improvement and Data Transparency (CIDT)** policy;
- Understand how their perspective as students can inform the successful implementation of CIDT; and
- Spend time engaging with CIDT data on the district's updated School Profiles pages.

Key Activities and Discussions

1. Welcome & Introductions

Facilitators welcomed students, explained the meeting objectives, and emphasized that their perspectives are essential to making the new district data tools accessible, useful, and meaningful. Students introduced themselves, sharing their schools, neighborhoods, and favorite summer activities.

2. From SQRP to CIDT – Policy Overview

Facilitators explained the shift from the School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) to CIDT:

- **Why the change:** Concerns about how SQRP was perceived and used, the limitations of a single summative rating, and the need for a more inclusive, transparent approach.
- **What's new:** CIDT focuses on multiple indicators—including student outcomes, school resources, culture, and conditions—rather than a single score.
- **Key goals:** Give stakeholders a fuller picture of school quality, empower families and students to assess schools based on factors that matter to them, and promote continuous improvement instead of punitive measures.

3. Transparency Committee Overview

Students learned that the Data Transparency Committee is responsible for reviewing and shaping the public-facing data to ensure it reflects the values and

needs of CPS communities. The committee includes students, parents, educators, principals, and other stakeholders representing diverse experiences.

4. Hands-On Activity – Exploring CIDT on School Profile Pages

Students accessed their own schools' profiles on the CPS website and explored the available CIDT metrics. They were asked to note:

- What was useful or surprising.
- What was unclear or confusing.
- How navigation and layout supported or hindered understanding.

Feedback themes from students:

- The site should use **more student-friendly language** so younger audiences can easily understand the data.
- **Translation of key content** would make the site more accessible.
- **More visuals and interactive elements** could make the site more engaging.
- Profiles should include **student experiences and climate data** to give a fuller picture of school life.

5. Q&A and Next Steps

Facilitators answered questions and encouraged students to complete the exit ticket to capture their reflections. Students were invited to return for the next focus group meeting on Thursday at 4:30 PM, where they would do a deeper dive into specific indicators:

- Student Growth to Proficiency
- High-Quality Curriculum
- College Enrollment & Persistence

Conclusion

The meeting established a foundation for ongoing student involvement in shaping how CPS shares and explains school data. Students' initial feedback highlighted the importance of accessibility, clarity, and representation of lived experiences in the School Profile pages.