

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 4063

WHEREAS, as one of the largest institutions in the state of Colorado, Denver Public Schools (DPS) plays an integral role in shaping the lives of our youth, and thus our future community; and

WHEREAS, DPS has an obligation to promote the healthy development of each one of its students, which includes protecting them from the impact of systemic racism to the greatest extent possible while they are at school; and

WHEREAS, DPS is deeply committed to affirming the lives of our students and has been changing our institutional culture to align with that commitment and undo the normalization of inferiority and bias, as evidenced by the Trauma-Informed District Resolution, the completion of the Special Education Task Force, the Black Excellence Resolution, and the Safe and Welcoming School District Resolution; and

WHEREAS, from the 2014-15 school year through the 2018-19 school year, DPS students were ticketed or arrested at school by police officers at least 4,540 times, with the vast majority being Black or Latinx students between the ages of 10 and 15,¹ thereby introducing them to the criminal justice system and often inflicting institutional trauma; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of the incidents that resulted in students being introduced into the criminal justice system at such a young age could have been more effectively addressed by school personnel, restorative practices, or other community-based services; and

WHEREAS, the perpetuation of the school-to-prison pipeline is incompatible with our goal of creating safe, healthy, and equitable schools for all DPS students; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by school districts across the country, there are multiple resources and pathways available to ensure school safety without relying on school-based law enforcement officers.

SO, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: to fulfill its responsibility for undoing the systemic racism that Black children and children of color face, the Board of Education (the “Board”) directs the Superintendent, upon approval of this Resolution, to reduce the number of school resource officers in district schools by 25% by December 31, 2020, and to terminate DPS’s contract with the Denver Police Department for the services of school resources officers, and thus remove all school resource officers from DPS schools, by no later than June 4, 2021, the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

¹ Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (data courtesy of Padres & Jóvenes Unidos).

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to reallocate the funds previously used for school resource officers towards accomplishing the objectives set forth in this Resolution, such as increasing the number of District or school-based social workers, psychologists, restorative justice practitioners, or other mental or behavioral health professionals within DPS, with the schools that will be transitioning out school resource officers receiving priority.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to utilize the transition period during the 2020-2021 school year to redefine school safety in DPS through the lens of affirmative support of students, which shall include:

- (a) conducting deep listening sessions with administrators from the schools that will be transitioning out school resource officers to identify and prioritize their needs in supporting their students and school safety;
- (b) deeply examining the interaction between school community members and both the Denver Police Department and the DPS Department of Safety and Security;
- (c) revising the DPS safety plan with strategies for enhancing student learning, safety, and well-being through additional social/emotional supports, mental and behavioral health services, restorative practices, other wraparound supports to meet students' developmental needs, and community-level accountability structures; and
- (d) ensuring that we do not replace school resource officers with or staff our schools with any the consistent presence of security armed with guns or any other law enforcement personnel.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that to mitigate the impact on DPS students during this transition time, the Board directs the Superintendent to create a monthly public school discipline report that includes the following data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, age, and school:

- (a) The number of in-school suspensions of students
- (b) The number of out-of-school suspensions of students
- (c) The number of students handcuffed or restrained
- (d) The number of times DPD or DPS Safety and Security is called to schools and under what circumstances
- (e) The number of students who are ticketed or arrested and the underlying charges

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will convene, by no later than August 31, 2020, an inclusive, community-driven process—involving parents, students, teachers, school administrators, student support staff, and other community members—for completing the following by December 31, 2020 in preparation for full implementation during the 2021-2022 school year:

- (a) drafting new DPS policy that ensures that students will no longer be ticketed, arrested, or referred to law enforcement while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event unless there are no other available alternatives for addressing imminent threats of serious harm to members of the school community or school officials are otherwise obligated by law; and
- (b) drafting a new Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies the ongoing, but more limited, role that the Denver Police Department will have in supporting DPS personnel in the creation of safe, healthy, and equitable schools for all students.

Approved this 11th day of June 2020.

Carrie A. Olson, PhD, Board President

Tay Anderson, Secretary