

Policing in Cincinnati Public Schools Community Survey Results



53% of parents and **65%** of recent graduates do not support the current contract between Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) and Cincinnati Police Department (CPD).



Upon learning that the current contract between CPS and CPD includes several worrisome provisions giving CPD unilateral powers in our schools without any checks, **45%** of parents and **60%** of recent graduates want to modify the contract.



Respondents want reform to center around:

- Use of Force Guidelines
- Training
- Accountability and Oversight

46% of parents and **41%** of recent graduates trust police in schools,



but **52%** of parents and **58%** of recent graduates were either neutral or distrustful of police in schools.



Most parents say it is likely they would take civic action toward school police reform, especially through:

- Voting (65%)
- Signing a petition (62%)
- Attending school board meetings (60%)

Respondents said that the top three most urgent needs for public school students are:

- Social emotional learning (59%)
- Smaller class sizes (51%)
- Extra education (47%)

Respondents rated the below statements concerning the harms of school policing as convincing on a scale of 1-10:

We need to support our students by investing in experts trained to support students' mental health. (7)



CPS should use social workers, guidance counselors, and student mentors to work with students in distress more effectively than police presence. (6.7)



While police are unable to stop school violence, investing in student support resources, such as mental health services, can help prevent and create safer schools. (6.6)



Why change is needed:

- ▶ Students seek mental health support at school, and Cincinnati Public Schools is failing its students by investing in police instead of mental health professionals. The single most important school-safety measure is providing at-risk students the mental health support they need.
- ▶ Police are not trained to help students with personal issues that are most disruptive towards school safety, nor are they prepared to handle violent crises at school. And their punishment-first style only serves to alienate at-risk students. As a result, over-allocating resources on school police results in less safe schools across the board.
- ▶ Students need school safety initiatives that are proven to work. Community-based justice initiatives have a stronger track record than police presence, working in some of our nation's largest cities, and create a healthier school environment for students.