



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Healthy Neighborhoods

Chairperson, Jan-Michele Kearney
Vice Chairperson, Victoria Parks
Councilmember Anna Albi
Councilmember Scotty Johnson

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING CPS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA

- A. METRO - BUSING STUDENTS (MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIDING METRO, ROUTES & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION) - TRANSIT CENTERS**
- B. CPS CROSSING GUARDS**
- C. CHANGE IN STUDENT BODIES AT VARIOUS BUILDINGS**
- D. PROJECT CONNECT & RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN CPS**
- E. BUDGET UPDATE & STATE IMPACT**
- F. BOOK CLUB - WASHINGTON, DC.**
- G. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT REC CENTERS, ENROLLMENT AVAILABILITY & STAFF PAY**

PRESENTATION

1. [202501542](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Kearney, regarding issues that the City of Cincinnati & Cincinnati Public Schools can collaborate on for the betterment of the Community.

Sponsors: Kearney

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

ADJOURNMENT



CPS/CITY Joint meeting

August 6, 2025



METRO – BUSING STUDENTS





Metro and CPS: 2025-26 Academic Year

CPS Student Transportation on Metro

- CPS contracts with Metro to purchase student bus passes for regular Metro service for the academic year (first day of school thru June 30)
- Over 12,000 CPS passes, for ALL 7th through 12th grade students
 - Includes all CPS high schools
 - This year, includes ALL 7th and 8th grade students
 - 12 New schools (Middle schools, Jr. highs and K-8)
 - Approx. 1,200 new students; a 10% increase
- CPS also purchases smart cards for other schools served by the CPS Transportation Department (parochial, charter)

Updates for the 2025-26 academic year

- RFID passes for all, including Extra-Curricular passes
 - Weekdays 6:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – **5:00 p.m.** (prev. 5:30)
 - Extracurricular passes are valid until 10:30 p.m.
- This year: Direct and Non-Direct (transfer) pass types
 - Visually distinct: Color-coded, easy way to observe student use
 - Technically distinct: Programmed according to pass type

Regular pass with Direct route	Regular pass with Non-direct route	Extra-Curricular and Virtual students
Student does not need to transfer buses	Student does need one bus transfer	
~ 7,000 passes	~ 3,000 passes	~ 2,000 passes

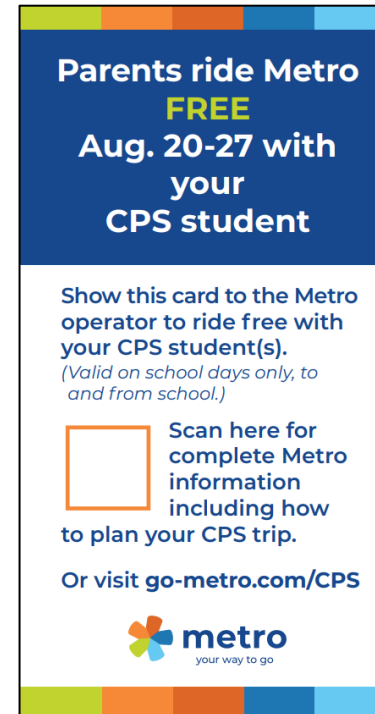
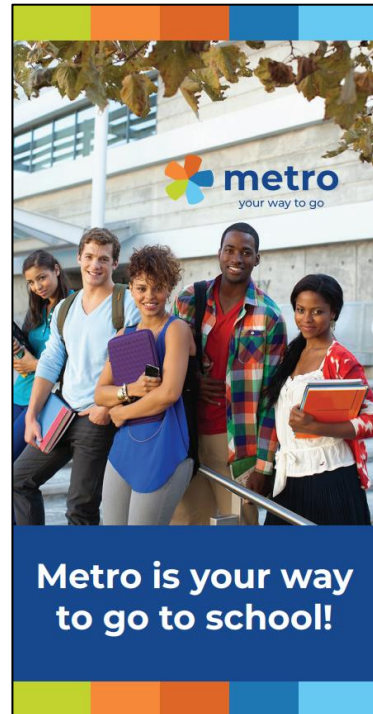
- Metro shares pass usage data with CPS
- CPS engages students regarding their pass usage

Updates for 2025-26 academic year

- Metro and CPS worked (working) cooperatively on a full-scale joint communication plan:
 - Metro staff will attend all CPS Open houses (Aug. 4 – 15)
 - Metro staff will be on site (transit centers, schools) to assist students
 - CPS parents ride free with their students, Aug. 20-27

Updates for 2025-26 academic year

- Metro communications for students and families to obtain Metro information



- Producing best practice videos with "Metro Man" Trayvon Sanderson for CPS and Metro to distribute to help provide support and comfort to students and parents.

Student Safety

- Safety measures include:
 - CPS and Metro regularly work together to address on-board issues
 - CPS proactively emphasizes the Student Code of Conduct while on Metro
 - CPD officers regularly staffed at Metro transit centers, on routes randomly, and as needed
 - Iris Roley and Collaborative Agreement Community Care Initiative Team
 - Metro Supervisor presence at Gov. Square
 - 5th Street Liquor Store has closed; Metro to begin outfitting the space for a new Ticket Sales Office and Security Center
 - Full year of Community Service Officers (“311” team) at transit centers
- Ridership data provided to CPS each month, including:
 - Daily, Monthly, and School year to-date ridership
 - Direct/ Non-Direct pass usage



FAQ: Planning your metro trip

Q: How do I plan my student's trip?

A: Use the Transit App

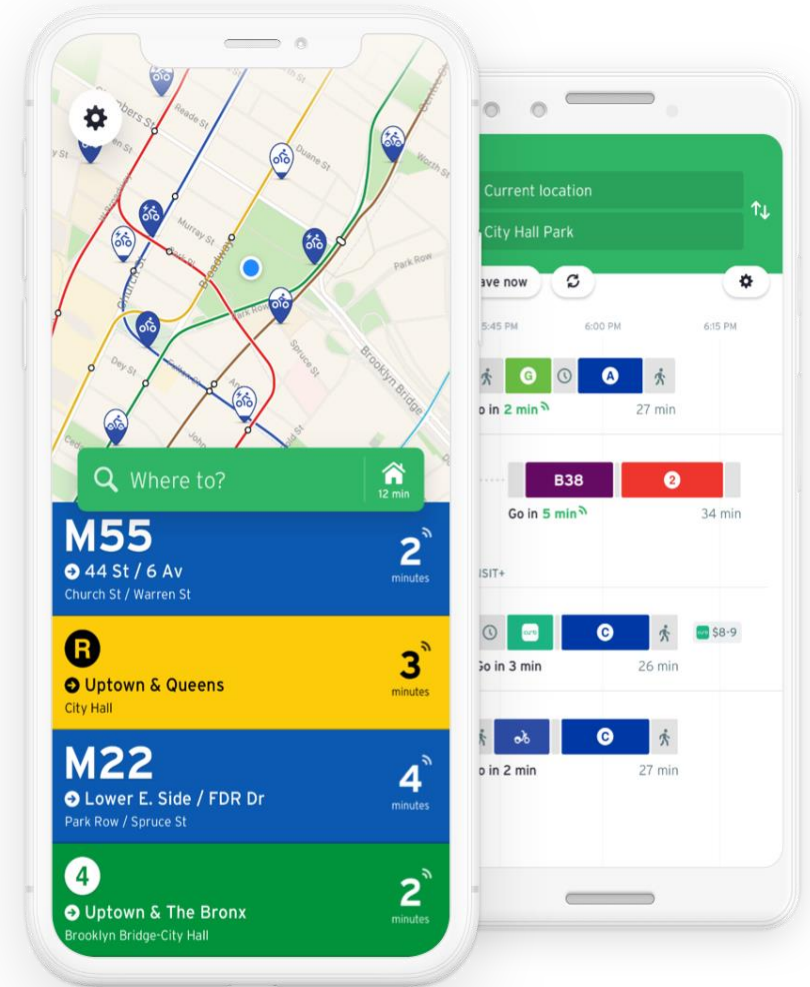
- Trip planning, route options, and real-time info
- Use trip dates for after Aug. 17

A: Or visit Metro's website for route and schedule info

Q: How do students ride?

A: Tap your Metro bus pass on the fare box and show it to the driver

A: Follow the CPS student conduct expectations



FAQ: Real-time info

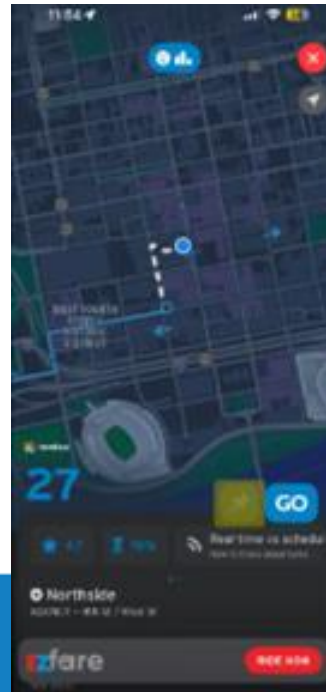
Q: How do I plan my student's trip?

- A: Sign up for service alerts through the Transit App,
- Starting on June 30 (EZ Alerts ends on July 14)
 - Real-time updates to your favorite routes

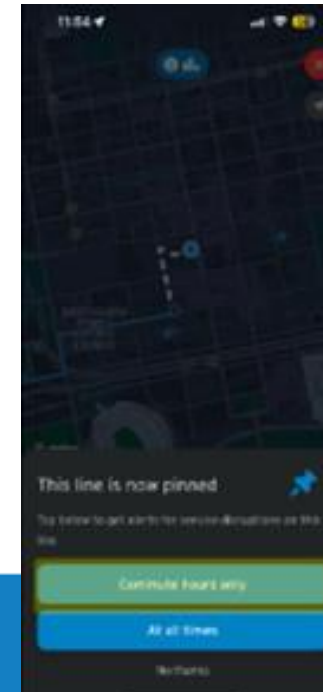
Select Your Route



Pin Your Route



Get Alerts



Continuous Steps:

- Our collaborative efforts continue throughout the year
 - Regular, standing meetings of CPS and Metro teams
 - Ongoing ridership analysis
 - Service observations and continuous improvement
 - Engagement with community stakeholders



PLAN FOR OPENING CPS TRANSIT CENTERS



Government Square and Transit Centers

2025-26 Changes

- CPS all 7-12 grade students on Metro (Most 9-12 were already on Metro)
- Roughly 10% increase in number of students using Metro, don't anticipate a noticeable increase at GSQ
- Similar to last year, around 300 student transfers anticipated each afternoon at GSQ
- 9 CPS schools changing start times
- CPS created middle schools
- Grass roots and structured communication plans between CPS and Metro
- CPS student ridership Code of Conduct
- Color Coded Metro Passes
- 5pm cut off time for passes
- Liquor store to close, Metro to begin outfitting space for a new ticket sales office and security center fronting 5th street

FAQ: Transfers

Q: Do students need to make more than 1 transfer?

A: No. In compliance with CPS policy and state law, while students have several Metro routing options to/from school, every school location is accessible from every neighborhood within the CPS district boundary with zero or one transfer



Q & A



CPS CROSSING GUARDS



The entire district comprises of 144 crossing guards, essential for ensuring pedestrian safety in school zones and busy intersections

At present, 16 positions remain unfilled.

Schools : Carson, Chase, Cheviot, Covedale, Dater High School, Midway, Mt. Airy, Oyler, Pleasant Hill, Rockdale, Sayler Park, South Avondale, Westwood

The schools listed above are not without crossing guards; however, there is currently a vacancy at one specific location.

CPS Schools Safe Signage Overview

- **Widespread Safe Signage:** 60 out of 64 schools within the CPS district, a significant majority—60 schools—have at least two of the three designated safe school signage types. This demonstrates a robust commitment to enhancing student safety in the school vicinity.
- **Importance of Painted Crosswalks:** A total 56 schools, representing approximately 87% of CPS have a painted crosswalk.
- **Presence of School Zone & Speed Limit Signs:** 53 schools, or around 83%, feature school zone or speed limit signs.
- **Active Communication with DOTE:** CPS has taken proactive steps in communicating the safety requirements to the Department of Transportation (DOTE). This collaboration is pivotal in ensuring that the necessary infrastructure and regulatory support are in place to uphold school safety standards.

CHANGE IN STUDENT BODIES at VARIOUS BUILDINGS



District Performance, Redesign, Sustainability and Growth

- Corridor Model
- 9-12 High Schools
- Middle Schools
- In Demand Seats and Programs
- Centralized Enrollment

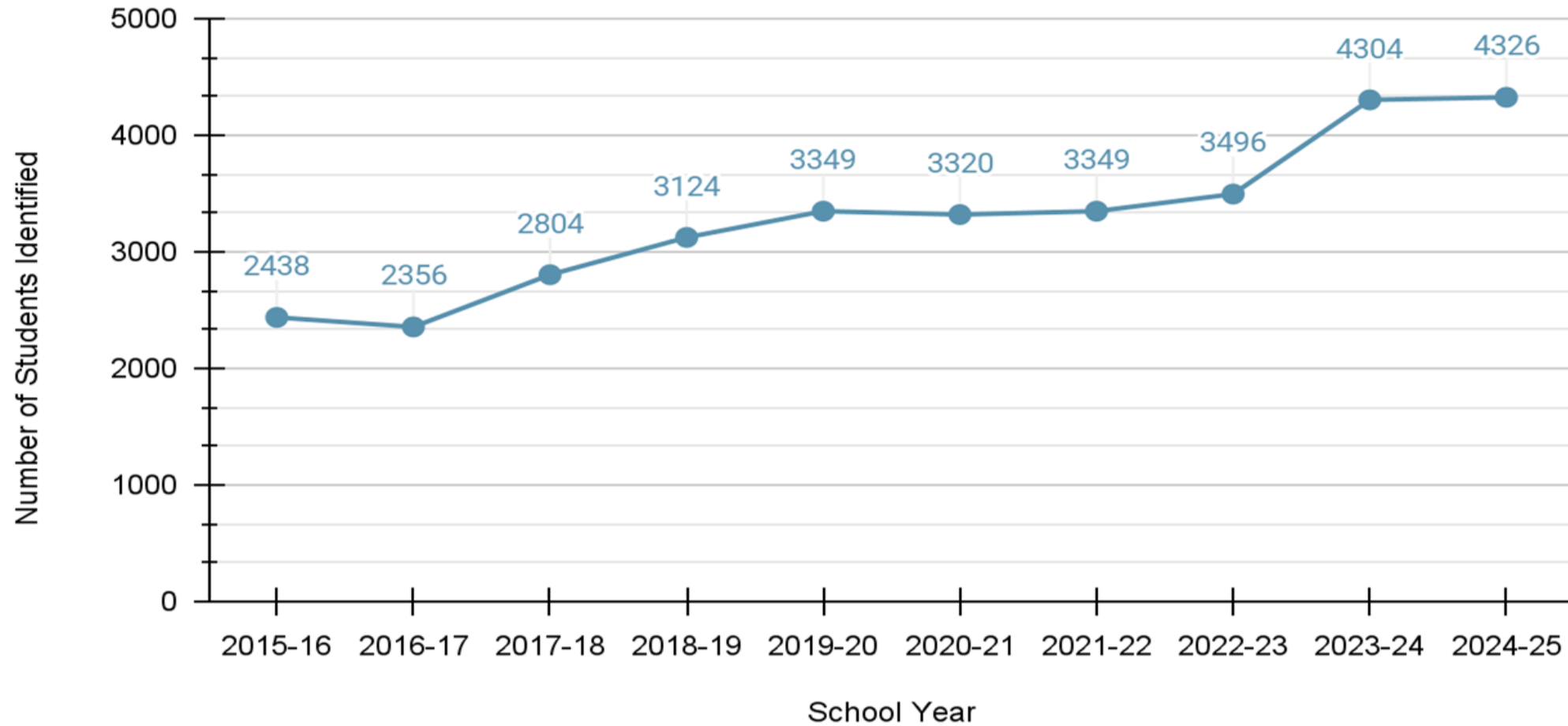
PROJECT CONNECT and RESOURCES for FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN CPS



Project Connect Mission

Project Connect collaborates with school communities and stakeholders to identify and remove educational barriers for Cincinnati Public School students and families experiencing homelessness. The program strives to implement creative solutions by providing advocacy, building awareness, connecting to resources and implementing meaningful enrichment opportunities.

Homeless Identification



Data 2024-25

Student Overview



Total Students Supported: 4,326

- **595** Unaccompanied Youth
- **681** Multilingual Learners (MLL)

Early Learning Access

- **198** students enrolled in CPS preschool programs


Food Access

- **1,030** students used the Order Ahead Food Program
 **65.2%** increase
- **1,893** students received emergency food
 **104.72%** increase

Housing & Stability

- **1,140** students received housing referrals
- **33.59%** increase in emergency housing services

Transportation

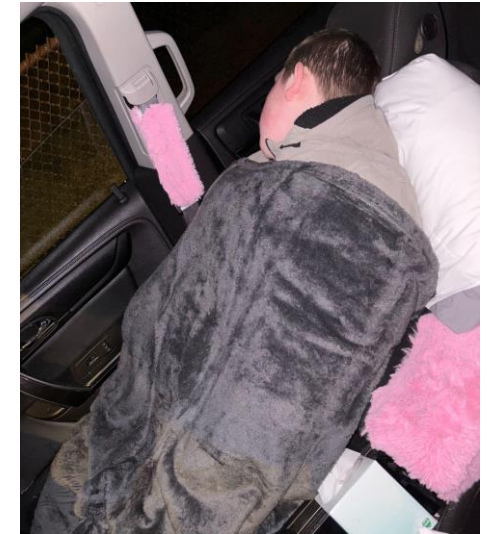
-  **86%** decrease in unrouted transportation cases (daily)

Support Services Provided

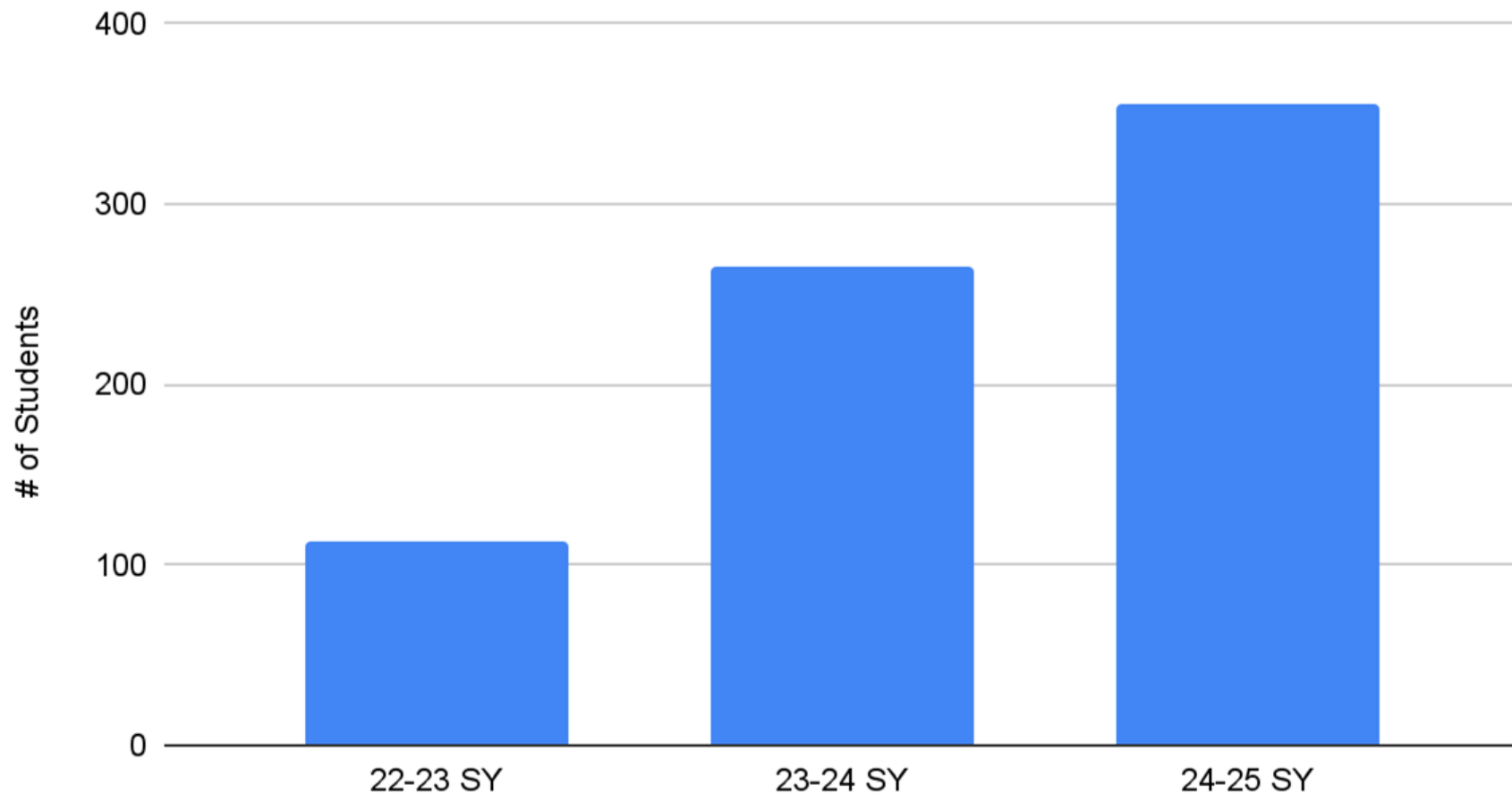
- **38,028** support services delivered (across 24+ service types – a robust, multi-tiered approach)

Unsheltered Family Homelessness

- 312 students have been identified this school year as living in vehicles, outdoors, or in places not intended for human habitation (e.g. storage units) — a 79% increase from last year.
- During the 2024–25 school year, PC provided 4–6 night hotel stays for 355 students whose families were unsheltered or at imminent risk — a 33% increase compared to the previous year.
- The majority of families return to unsafe conditions after their temporary hotel stay due to extended shelter waitlists and lack of immediate housing options.



Emergency Housing Yearly Comparison



The WRAP: Wellness, Resources, Access and Partnerships

The Why:

Barriers to stable housing and educational success are rooted in systemic inequities such as the persistent shortage of affordable housing, poverty and income inequality, the criminalization of poverty, and racial and social disparities. Education cannot be separate from housing, health, and emotional well-being.

Scheduled for a soft opening in August 2025, the WRAP will be housed within PC's new headquarters, co-located at William Howard Taft Elementary School. This expanded program builds upon the foundation of PC's existing resource center, establishing a centralized hub for federally mandated wraparound services while introducing critical new support.

The WRAP

Whole Family Support Services Overview



Basic Needs & Emergency Housing Assistance

- Housing & Shelter: Emergency housing, shelter access, affordable housing
- Safe Sleep Lot: Secure parking for families living in vehicles
- Food: Emergency assistance, Order Ahead food program



Health and Wellness

- Healthcare: Mental health referrals, mobile clinics, transportation
- Mental Health: SEL group referrals
- Medicaid: Enrollment onsite via HCJFS



Social Services Referrals

- Child care, early learning program referrals
- Streamlined referrals to community organizations



Education Support

- Academic Support: Shelter/school-based tutoring, 6-week summer enrichment
- School enrollment assistance
- Academic stability: Advocacy, attendance, school supplies, clothing and laundry facilities
- Transportation: Yellow bus, Metro passes



Outreach & Awareness

- Public awareness campaigns on housing instability
- Partnerships to expand service delivery



Legal Support

- Legal help: Eviction prevention, tenant rights, family law
- Partners: UC Law & Hamilton Co. Legal Aid



Onsite Partnerships

- HCJFS
- Hamilton Co. Eviction Help Center
- UC Law Limited Representation
- Su Casa

Conceptualizing the CPS/Project Connect Safe Sleep Lot



Optimal Facility

- 12 parking spaces
- Hours of operation: 10:00pm - 7:00am
- Structure: Fixed, with an intake room, toilet and shower or a semi permanent structure such as [this](#)
 - Cost: \$100,000.00
- Security: Full time security guard, intake from 10:00pm-7:00am.
 - Cost: \$89,000.00
- Services provided:
 - Breakfast Daily
 - Hot meals on certain evenings based on volunteers
 - Tutoring - teacher volunteers
 - Case management - community partner agency

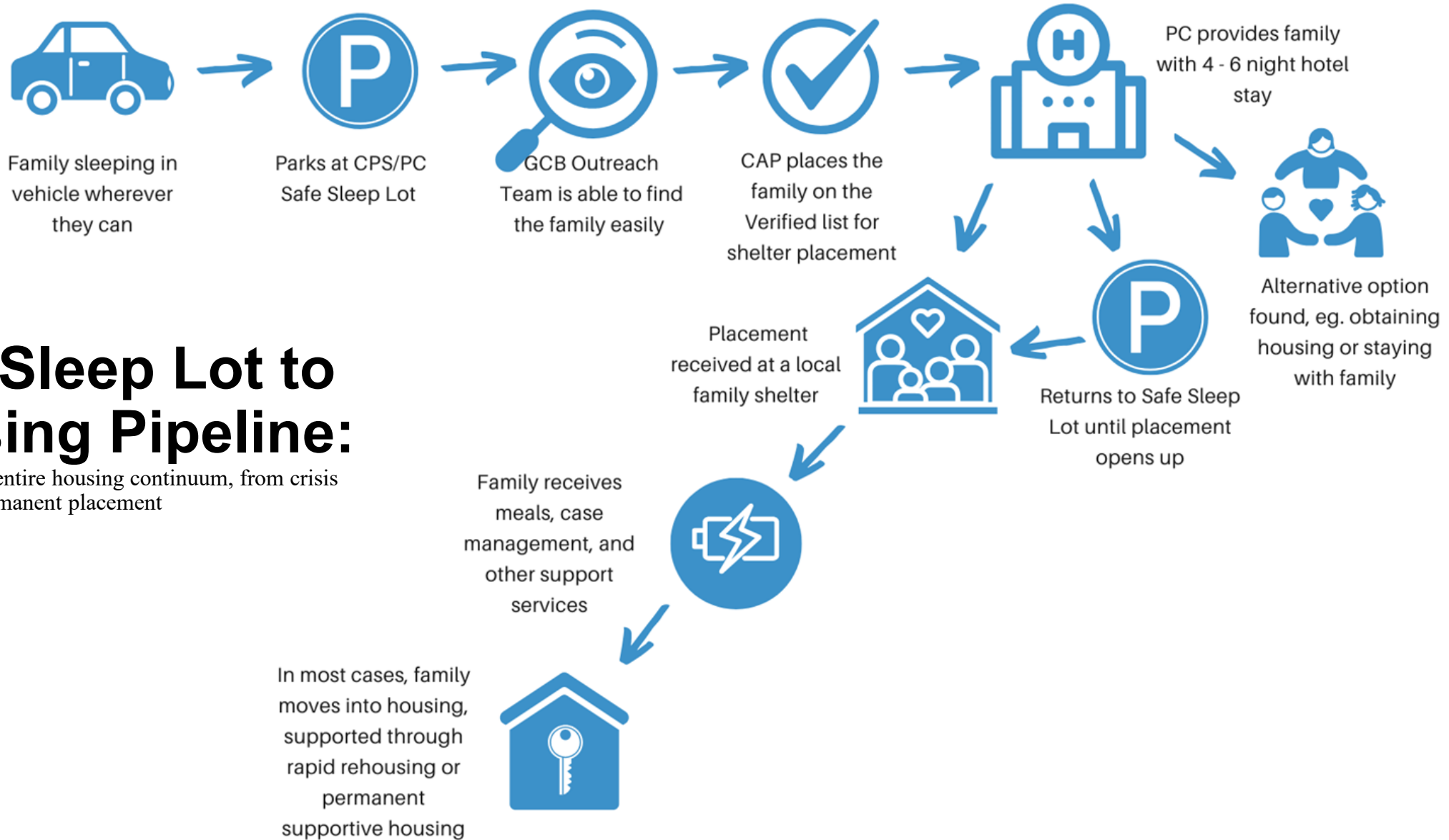
Priority Amenities

- Bathroom access
- Security - minimum of 2 hours for intake, cameras and regular police rounds
- Case management with partner agencies (Greater Cincinnati Behavioral, United Way)
- Daily morning visit by Greater Cincinnati Behavioral for homeless verification and access to shelter waiting list -reducing average verification time from 72 hours plus to 24 hours
- Shelter placement prioritization
- Connection to resources at the WRAP
- Intake and recertification appointments through HCJFS at the WRAP
- Daily breakfast
- Safe sleep car kits
- Operating March 1st through December 1st, 7 days a week





Bathroom & Shower



Safe Sleep Lot to Housing Pipeline:

supporting the entire housing continuum, from crisis response to permanent placement

Community Partners



BUDGET UPDATE and STATE IMPACT



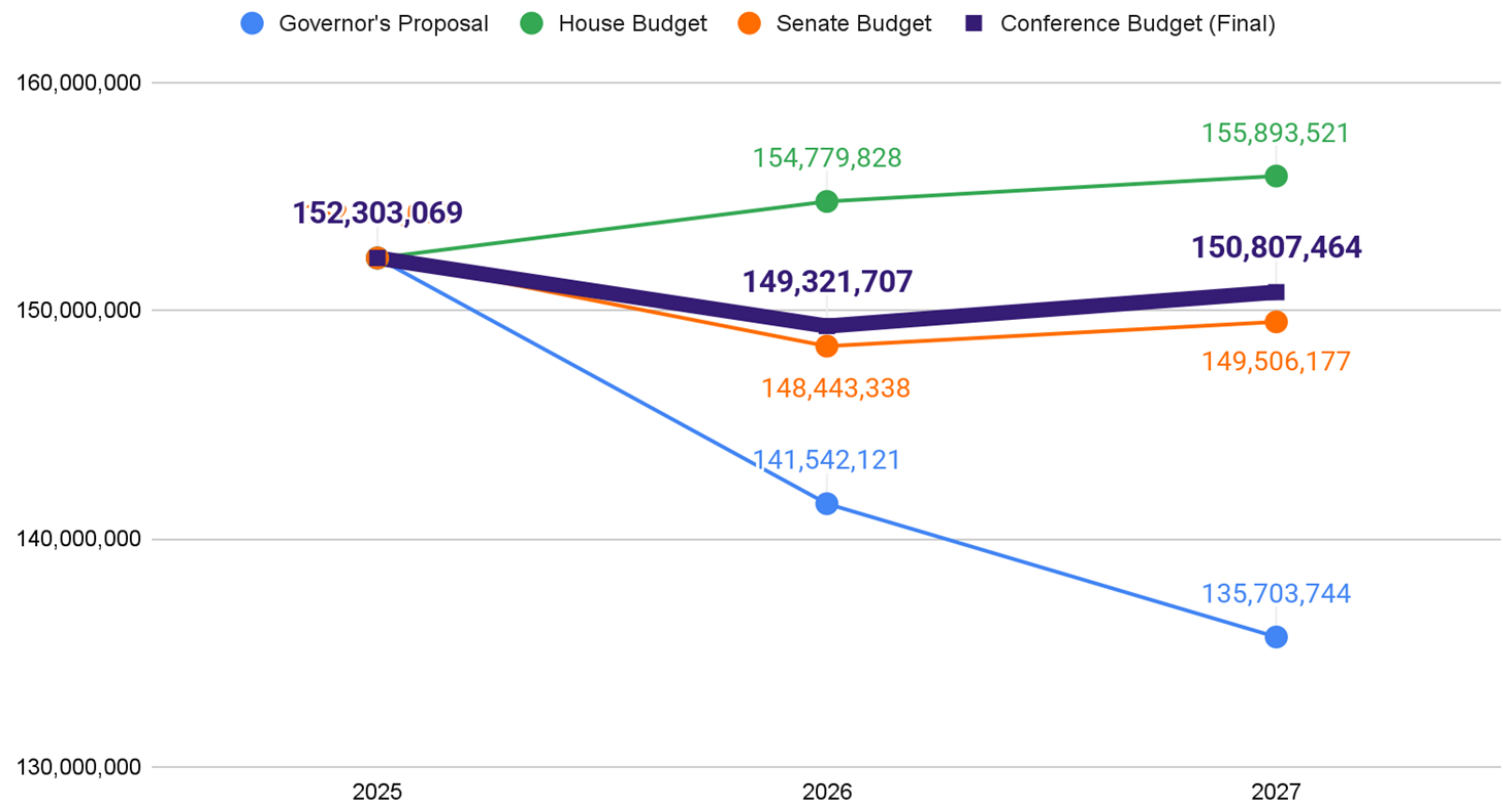
CPS Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

- **General Fund Budget: \$ 634.7 M**
- We closed a \$ 51 M Budget Gap through a combination of reductions
- This budget continues funding for our strategic goals, including the growth plan

FY26 Modified Budget = FY25 CO Budget + FY26 Provided School Budgets	\$686,538,137.52
Updated Budget Target	\$634,700,000.00
Gap	\$51,838,137.52
Master List of Reductions	\$28,962,129.04
<i>Contracts</i>	<i>\$19,696,568.56</i>
<i>Impact Positions: 32.4 Central Office</i>	<i>\$3,667,738.10</i>
<i>Other Expenses (Office supplies, mileage, copy clicks, etc)</i>	<i>\$3,262,768.70</i>
<i>Right Sizing Preschools Positions</i>	<i>\$2,335,053.68</i>
Gap	\$22,876,008.48
Additional Reductions	\$21,105,364.20
<i>Schedule E reduction</i>	<i>\$200,000.00</i>
<i>Move items to Title funding</i>	<i>\$1,300,000.00</i>
<i>Defer ITM Device Lease payment</i>	<i>\$6,282,000.00</i>
<i>Executive Assistant realignment</i>	<i>\$52,000.00</i>
<i>Reduce SSW (8 positions, 6 vacant)</i>	<i>\$954,600.00</i>
<i>Spring Enrollment/Projection Staffing Update: 109.9 Teaching Positions</i>	<i>\$12,316,764.20</i>
Gap	\$1,770,644.28
Budget Refinement	\$1,770,644.28
<i>Indirect Costs charged to Grants</i>	<i>\$500,000.00</i>
<i>Updated Previous Year Encumbrance Neg. Contingency (NET)</i>	<i>\$1,270,644.28</i>
Gap	\$0.00

State Budget & School Funding

Estimated State Aid for Cincinnati Public Schools 2025 - 2027



The Final Budget reduced State Aid by \$3M compared to our FY25 estimated aid.

Increased enrollment has mostly offset the lost revenue

The final version preserves the Fair School Funding Plan, but did not update all the base cost inputs.

State Budget Policy Changes & Vetoes

- Governor DeWine used line item vetoes to remove many provisions adversely impacting public schools
 - Restriction on Types of Levies that can be used
 - Changes to the 20 Mill Floor Calculation
 - Cash Balance Carryover Limit
 - Ability of the County Budget Commission to Reduce Tax Rates
- The Ohio House has overridden his Veto of the Fixed Sum Levy prohibition; the Senate has yet to Schedule a Vote
- CPS has 3 Fixed Sum Levies, including the \$ 48 M levy up for renewal in November

Property Tax Reform Working Group

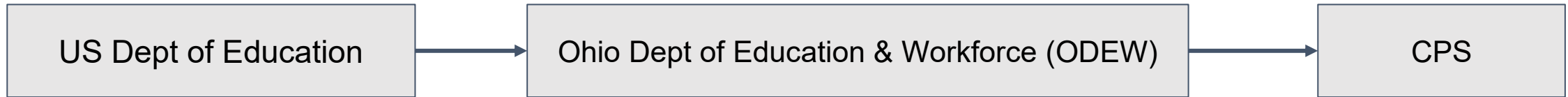
Task: Develop concrete proposals by **September 30**

First meeting: **Thursday, July 24**

- **Co-Chairs:** Pat Tiberi (Ohio Business Roundtable President & CEO) and Bill Seitz (former State Representative)
- Krista Bohn, Allen County Treasurer
- Chris Galloway, Lake County Auditor
- Matt Nolan, Warren County Auditor
- Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens
- Dr. John Marschhausen, Superintendent, Dublin City Schools
- Stephanie Starcher, Superintendent, Fort Frye Local Schools
- Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Gary Scherer, Pickaway County Commissioner
- Jeff Chattin, Pike County Commissioner

Federal Funds Update

- Federal Grant Spending Period starts on July 1st



- US Department of Education paused allocations for Title II, III, and IV on June 30
- Only July 25, it was reported that the hold was over and funds are being released
- We are still awaiting on our Official Allocations from ODEW
- ODEW extended the FY25 grant period to September 30th to allow us to continue operations

BOOK CLUB – WASHINGTON, DC



Book Club Trip to Washington, D.C.

- Girls from Rockdale Academy and Ethel Taylor Academy attended a trip to Washington D.C. in May of 2025 with Deputy Superintendent Dr. Alesia Smith, CPS Board Member Kendra Mapp, Resource Coordinator Aleese Willis, and Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
- This was a celebration of their participation in the CPS Book Club created by Dr. Smith
- The girls read *President of the Whole Sixth Grade* during the school year, where a young girl attends a class trip to D.C.
- Various educational experiences were provided during the visit that included the African American Museum, the National Mall, the Library of Congress, Howard University, and the Frederick Douglass' House



Read. Rise. Represent

- Student led discussion and tour of HBCU, Howard University
- Meeting with Congressman Greg Landsman and his Chief of Staff, Reggie Harris at the U.S. Capitol (discussed the 3 Branches of Government, roles and responsibilities of Congress, and the courage to stand for your beliefs)
- Personal reflections on advocacy, community engagement, civic leadership, and impact

Visiting the Capitol Building in Washington



Visiting the Smithsonian African American Museum and stopping by the White House



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT REC CENTERS, ENROLLMENT AVAILABILITY and STAFF PAY



HERE FOR KIDS



cps-k12.org



#IamCPS