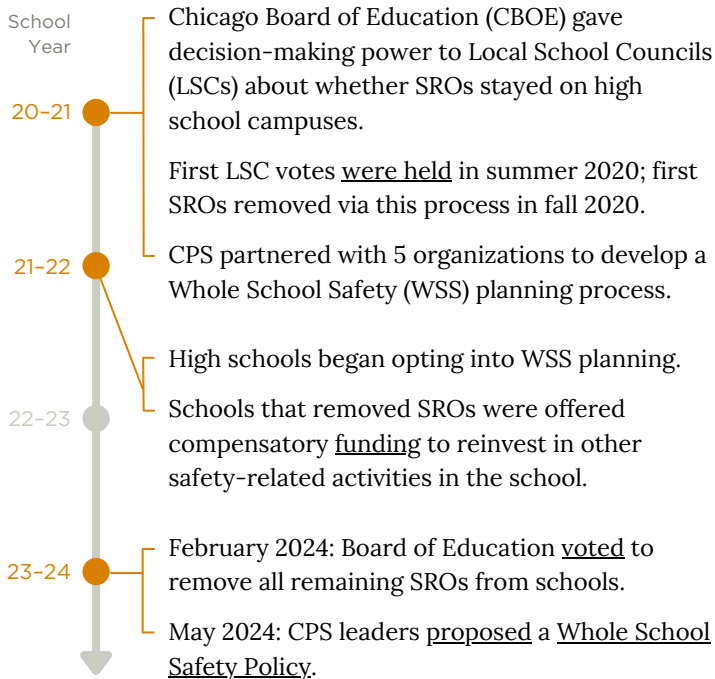


Background

Recent policies and decisions about school-based police officers—school resource officers (SROs)—in Chicago:



Study details

A June 2024 UChicago Consortium study asked:

1. What were the characteristics of **schools** that retained, partially removed, or fully removed SROs?
 - What were the characteristics of **students** in schools that made different decisions about SROs?
2. When Chicago Public Schools high schools removed one or both SROs, how did **school climate & discipline outcomes** change?
 - School climate: Student and teacher perceptions of physical safety, student perceptions of relationships with teachers
 - Discipline outcomes: All behavioral infractions, high-level behavioral infractions, suspensions, & police notifications

Key findings*

➤ Schools removed SROs without detrimental changes in student disciplinary outcomes or perceptions of school climate.

- SRO removal was significantly related to having fewer high-level discipline infractions.
 - While high-level discipline infractions rose districtwide from 2018–19 through 2022–23, schools that had fully removed SROs *did not have similar increases* in high-level discipline infractions; their rates remained relatively flat.
- SRO removal was *not* related to changes over time in:
 - Student 5Essentials Survey reports of perception of physical safety or student–teacher trust.
 - Teacher survey reports of perception of physical safety (supplemental items on 5Essentials Survey).

➤ Where SROs were, and were not, removed differed by schools' student body composition.

- Schools that retained both SROs in 2022–23 (vs. schools that removed both SROs) were more likely to:
 - Serve predominantly Black students.
 - Black students became more than twice as likely as other students to have an SRO in their school.
 - Be smaller and have higher suspension rates.
- Although students in all groups were much less likely to have an SRO in their school in 2022–23 compared to 2018–19, students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, not English Learners, or in special education were more likely than their peers to be in schools that retained one or both SROs.

*This analysis does not establish causation; these findings are likely due to the combination of removing SROs and implementing alternative student support and spending measures.

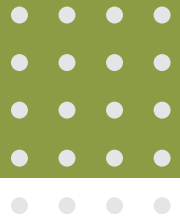


TABLE 1
Summary of high school outcome analyses

Outcome	After the removal of SROs, was there a change in...	...at the school-level?	...at the student-level?
Discipline	Discipline infractions	Not significantly	Not significantly
	High-level discipline infractions	Yes, a reduction	Yes, a reduction
	Suspensions (in-school and out-of-school)	Not significantly	Not significantly
	Police notifications	A potentially meaningful reduction, but not statistically significant	Not significantly
School Climate	Student Physical Safety How safe do you feel? - In the hallways of the school. - In the bathrooms of the school. - Outside around the school. - Traveling between home and school. - In your classes.	Not significantly	Not significantly
	Teacher Physical Safety To what extent is each of the following a problem at your school: - Physical conflicts among students - Robbery or theft - Gang activity - Disorder in classrooms - Disorder in hallways - Student disrespect of teachers - Threats of violence towards teachers	Not significantly	N/A
	Student-Teacher Trust How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? - I feel safe with my teachers at this school. - I feel comfortable with my teachers at this school. - My teachers always keep their promises. - My teachers always listen to students' ideas. - My teachers treat me with respect.	Not significantly	Not significantly

Note: We flag results that were statistically significant at the alpha = 0.10 level.

Learn more

Published: June 2024

Cite as: Arneson, A., Hinze-Pifer, R., Franklin, K., & Johnson, D.W. (2024). *Removing police officers from Chicago schools: Trends and outcomes summary*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Consortium on School Research.

Read the research behind this summary at: <https://consortium.uchicago.edu/SROs2024>

