



## Improving Student Safety and School Climates in Chicago Public Schools

The 2013-2014 school year was the safest on record since the City began tracking student safety data. The Mayor's Office, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department have implemented a comprehensive strategy to improve school climate, reverse the "zero tolerance" policy of the past that funneled students to the criminal justice system, incorporate a restorative approach to student misconduct, reduce youth violence, and keep youth in class and on the path to success.

### Student Safety Outcomes

Compared to the 2010-2011 School Year, this School Year there were:

- **Over 27,000 fewer out of school suspensions**—a 33% drop in out of school suspension rate
- **Nearly 1,300 fewer CPS students referred for expulsion**—a 37% drop in referral for expulsion rate
- **Over 1,000 fewer in-school arrests of CPS students**—a 35% drop in the in-school arrest rate
- **49 fewer CPS students who were victims of shooting** – a 25% drop in the CPS student shooting victimization rate
- **A 12% drop in students who were homicide victims, including a 50% decline over the prior school year**

### Academic Outcomes

Coinciding with the improvements in safety and school climate, CPS students are achieving historic gains in the classroom. This year, the University of Chicago's Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) released a report showing that improvements in ninth grade on-track rates – the "freshman on track" metric – led to higher graduation rates and better academic outcomes for students. Currently, 82% of CPS ninth graders are on track to graduate, a 9% increase since 2011 and a 25% increase since 2007. This year, 65% of seniors graduated, a 7% increase since the start of the Emanuel administration.

### Strategy to Prevent Youth Violence & Improve School Climate

This comprehensive, school-based strategy is driven by four core approaches:

#### **1. Reversing "zero tolerance" and implementing a restorative approach to student misconduct**

- CPS has rewritten the school discipline code, expanded social emotional learning for students, promoted positive learning climates, and improved security officer training.

#### **2. Implementing evidence-based, intensive mentoring and tutoring proven to reduce violence and improve academic outcomes**

- 2,000 youth are enrolled in the evidence-based mentoring program called Becoming a Man (BAM). BAM incorporates cognitive behavioral therapy to help youth think before they act, especially during violent conflicts. In addition, 1,000 students are enrolled in Match tutoring, which focuses on 9<sup>th</sup>-grade math – the largest hurdle for graduation.

#### **3. Reengaging youth who are disconnected from school**

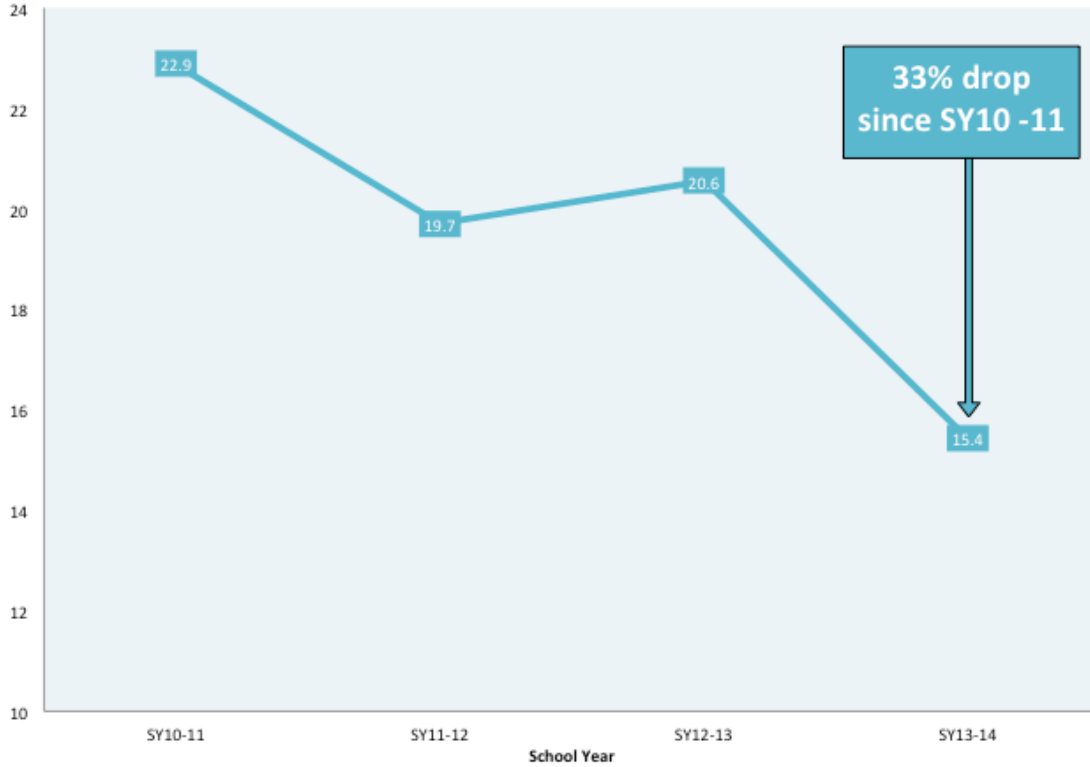
- CPS launched 3 new reengagement centers serving over 1,600 students who wish to return to the system, added an additional 3,500 alternative option school seats, and launched the Check and Connect anti-truancy program.

#### **4. Collaborating with law enforcement and communities to prevent, intervene and respond to youth violence**

- CPS worked with Chicago Police Department to expand Safe Passage to over 90 schools. In addition, CPD deployed Gang School Safety Teams that are specially trained in monitoring and de-escalating violent gang conflicts among students. Finally, CPS and CPD are working with the Justice Department to launch youth forums as part of the Project Safe Neighborhood effort.

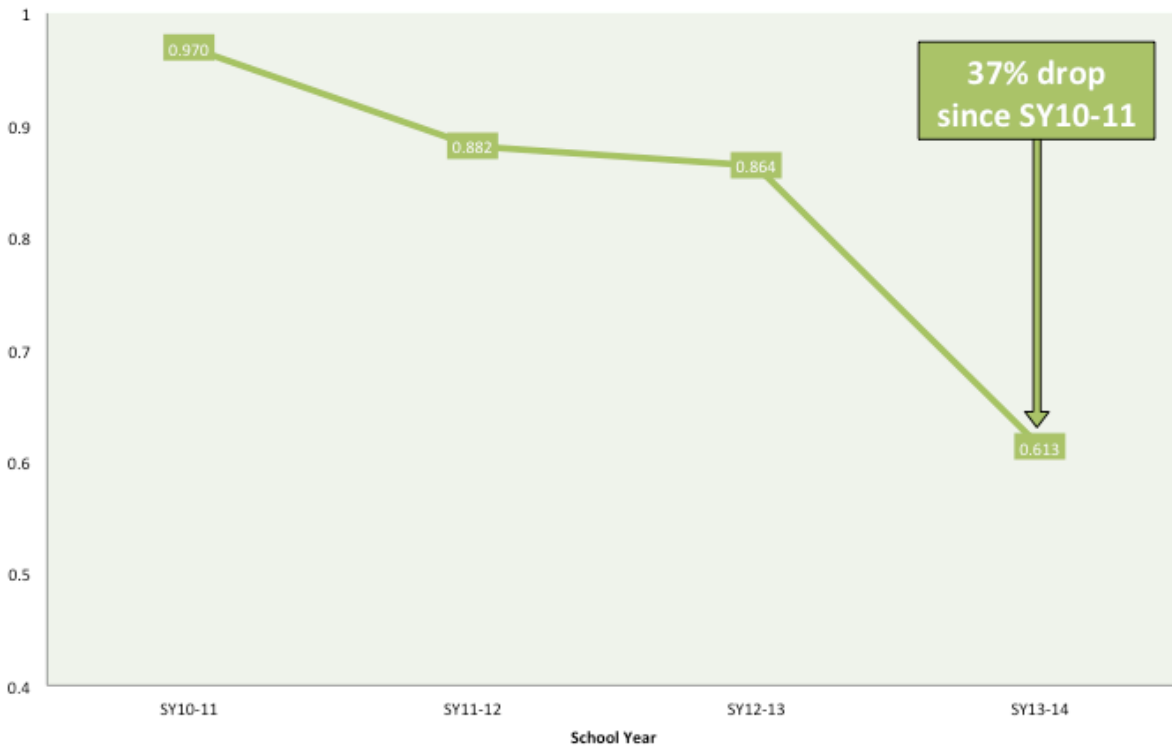


### CPS Out of School Suspension Rate (per 100 CPS students)

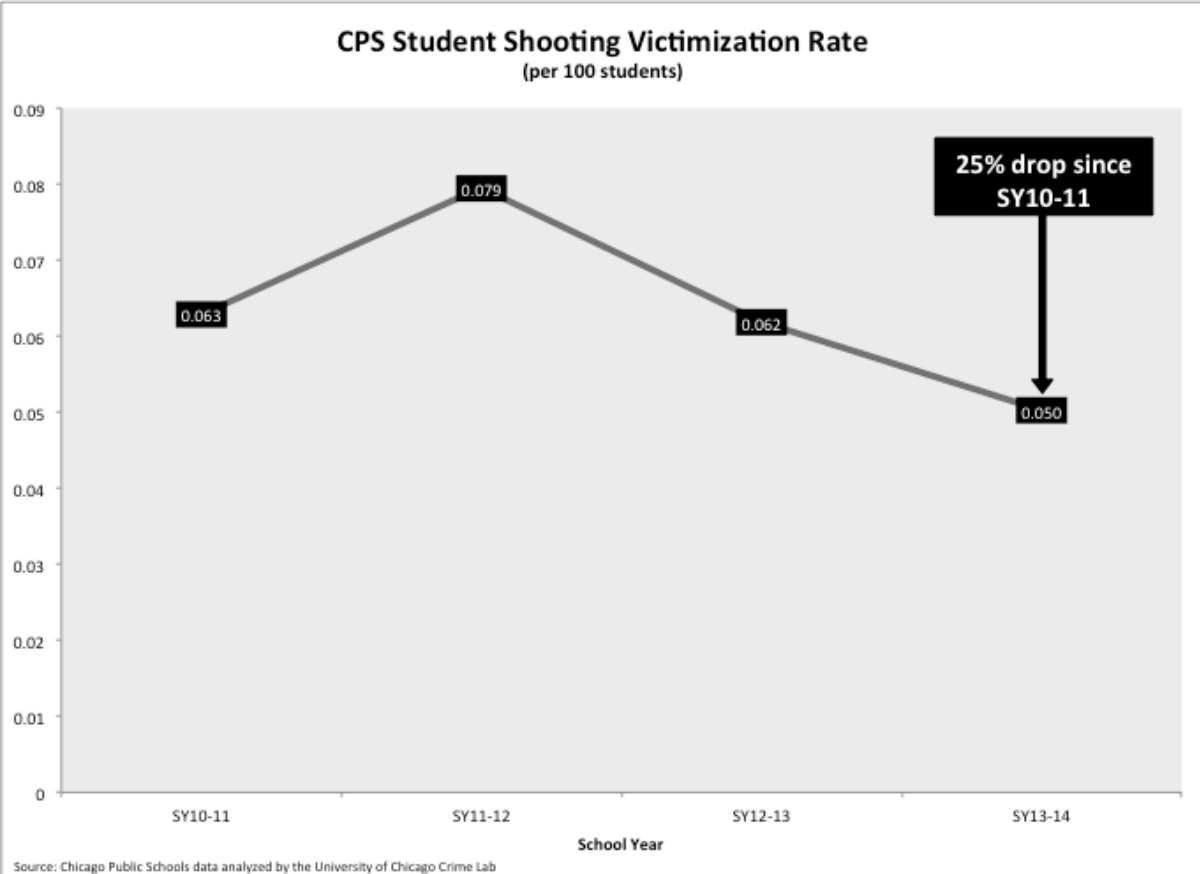
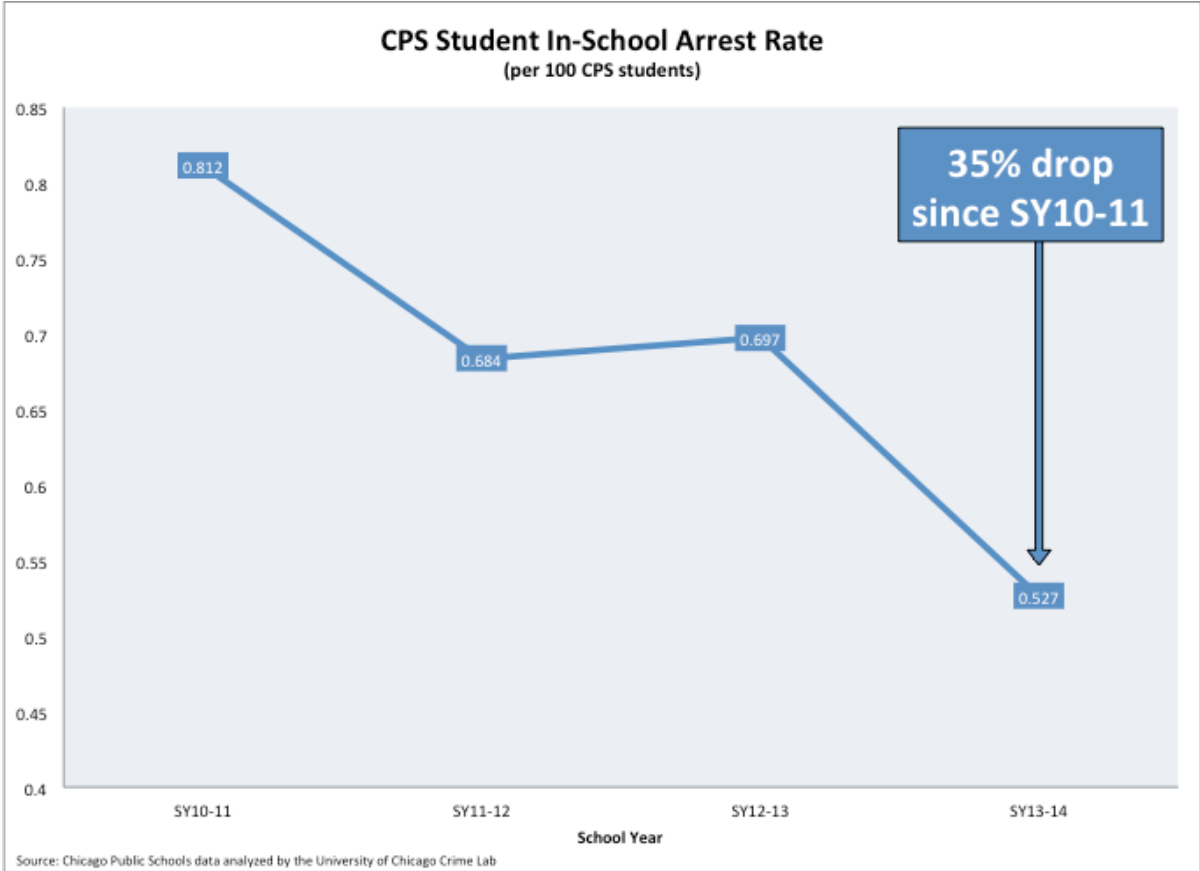


Source: Chicago Public Schools data analyzed by the University of Chicago Crime Lab (September 1 to June 30)

### CPS Student Referral for Expulsion Rate (per 100 CPS students)

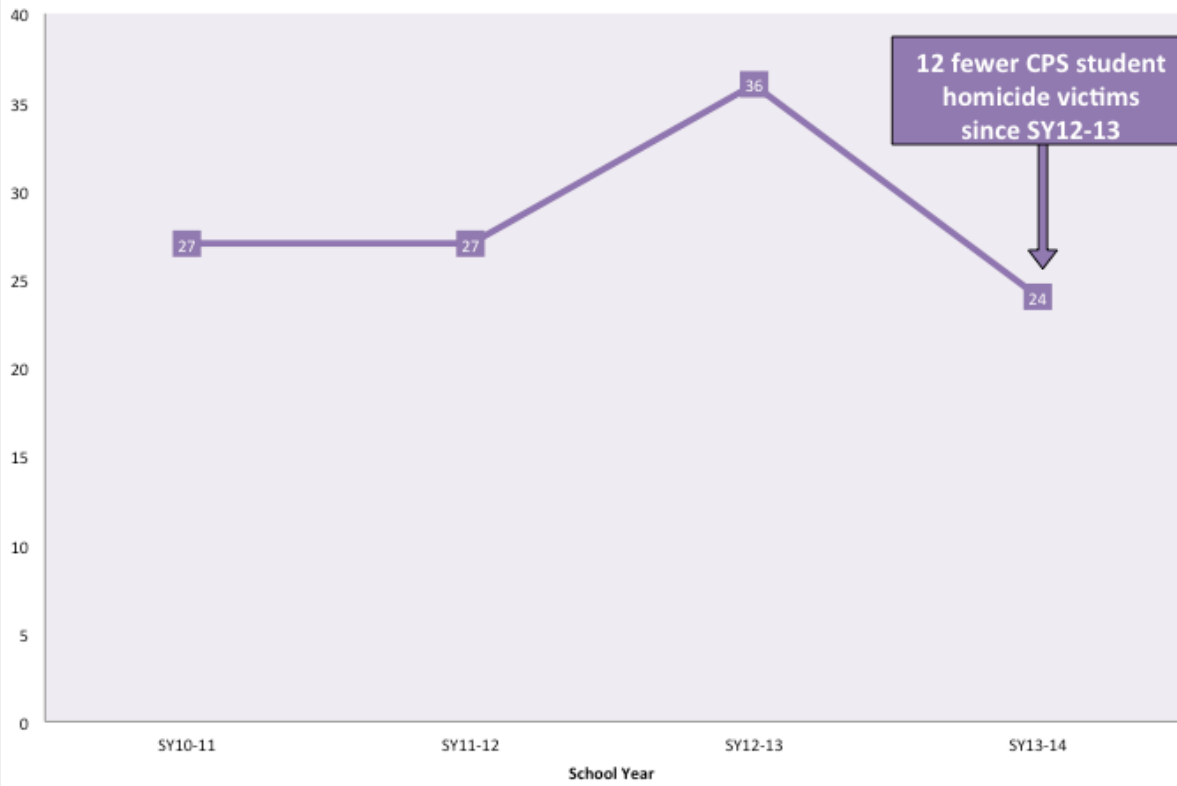


Source: Chicago Public Schools data analyzed by the University of Chicago Crime Lab





### Total CPS Student Homicide Victims



Source: Chicago Public Schools data analyzed by the University of Chicago Crime Lab