AS A STUDENT YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have a right to engage in political speech. As long as the speech does not disrupt the functioning of the school, you may exercise this right freely.

You have a right to be treated respectfully. School Police Officers and school officials should not use excessive force against you. However, if they believe your actions pose a threat to the safety of others, they may use force.

Strip searches are off limits. If your actions do not pose an immediate threat to school safety, neither police nor school officials may strip search you.

If you are detained by police, you have the right to remain silent. Before questioning you, the police officer should read you your Miranda (legal) rights.

You have a right to go to school, regardless of your immigration status.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To make a complaint about a police officer, visit the Civilian Office of Police Accountability website at: www.chicagocopa.org.

If you are arrested, you or your family can contact First Defense Legal Aid at (800) 529-7374 for a free lawyer.

National Immigrant Justice Center
www.immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights

American Civil Liberties Union
www.aclu.org/know-your-rights

Handcuffs in Hallways, Sargent Shriver Center on National Poverty Law
povertylaw.org/handcuffs

This resource is not intended to be comprehensive. It is not a replacement for legal counsel.

October 2017
**POLICE IN SCHOOLS**

What is a School Police Officer?

School Police Officers within Chicago Public Schools are sometimes asked to respond to violent incidents in schools. However they are often called upon to respond to non-violent and non-criminal activity. A security guard is different from a School Police Officer and does not have a badge, gun, or the same police powers. However, some security guards are members of the Chicago Police Department.

As a student, you have rights.

When you interact with police officers at school, you have rights. Know them.

**YOUR RIGHTS IN SCHOOL**

- When questioned by police, you have the choice to speak with them or to remain silent. You also have the right to a lawyer.

  In contrast, when questioned by a school official, you must cooperate.

- If a police officer has not told you that you are under arrest, you may ask to leave.

**YOUR RIGHTS IN SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER V. SCHOOL OFFICIAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER</th>
<th>SCHOOL OFFICIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT TO A LAWYER</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT TO ASK TO LEAVE</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If you make a statement in the presence of a police officer, your statement may be used against you.

- In some instances, school officials can share information about you without your parent’s or guardian’s consent.

- You do not have to answer any questions from police about your immigration or citizenship status.

**YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY**

School officials may use data from security cameras if they suspect you have done something wrong. However, security cameras are not allowed in some places on school property.

**KNOW THE LOCAL POLICY**

In a non-emergency, school officials should call a parent or guardian first before involving the police. *(Source: Chicago Public Schools)*