

For Immediate Release

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**CCSD and key community members to announce plan that
will address disproportionate discipline data**

District also releases latest data on suspensions, expulsions

LAS VEGAS – Clark County School District (CCSD) Trustees, Superintendent Jesus F. Jara and key community leaders today announced a new partnership between CCSD and other organizations to provide more supports and interventions to schools coping with student behavior problems.

The partnership, Clark County School Justice Partnership, was unanimously approved at Thursday's Board of School Trustees meeting. With Thursday's vote, CCSD now enters into a memorandum of understanding with several community groups, including the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services.

"Parents tell me they are most concerned about school safety right now, and it's clear to me we need more community support to address the needs of our students, especially those who have experienced significant trauma," said Trustee Chris Garvey. "Some of the supports provided through this new partnership include additional mental health assistance for students, as well as interventions for students."

CCSD leaders also released data on student suspensions, expulsions and behavior referrals by student subgroups, and mandatory versus discretionary referrals by performance zone. Data indicates that suspensions have increased significantly, and that African American/Black students are disproportionately suspended or expelled from school.

"Today, we are being transparent with our data, despite the difficult story it tells," Jara said. "Districts around the nation struggle with this challenge, and it is only when communities rally together to support our students and our educators that we can work together to keep our students out of the juvenile justice system and in class where they belong."

District Court Judge William Voy said the partnership is designed to provide early interventions to struggling students and significantly decrease the so-called “School-to-Prison Pipeline,” when young adults who enter the juvenile justice system oftentimes do not graduate.

“This partnership aims to hold students accountable for misbehavior in order to learn from their mistakes, take responsibility for their actions and reconnect to the school community,” Voy said. “Members of this partnership agree that the most effective means of holding students accountable for their actions is to provide them with continuity and support from school officials who interact with them on a daily basis.”

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