

Student-Teacher Relationships Sense Making Team: “What is the story we want to tell?”

Currently not all of our students are connected to adults in their school communities - this is particularly true for students of color. Student-teacher relationships are a prerequisite to learning. This is not reflected in our district’s priorities as measured by CPS’ strategic outcomes, school schedules, and the teacher evaluation tool.

Schools are structured around white, middle class norms that feel more familiar for some than for others. Linguistic, cultural and socio-economic disparities amongst students and families result in opportunity gaps to build relationship with teachers and schools. Oftentimes, strong family engagement begets stronger student teacher relationships. To create equitable opportunities to build relationships CPS needs to implement protocols for family engagement that result in equitable access to teachers and limit opportunity hoarding.

Teachers need more time and opportunities to build relationships with students. Strong student-teacher relationships should be articulated as a district priority.