



October 15, 2009

LETTER

## Keeping Students Safe

To the Editor:

The challenges we're facing in Chicago's public schools, highlighted in "[Public School Violence Plan in Chicago Focuses on Potential Victims](#)" (news article, Oct. 7), underscore the need for an immediate, comprehensive approach to reducing violence.

Identifying students most at risk of violence, as the school administration proposes, is important as far as it goes. More broadly, schools and communities must understand the value of addressing the social, emotional and physical well-being of all students — in Chicago and across the country, and with a variety of services.

Chicago is in the position of embarking upon one of the best-financed, most comprehensive violence prevention plans in the country. Other resources — from mental health to nutrition and anger management — must also be brought into schools that are underresourced and overmatched.

We must insist that all our children have the right to be safe and the opportunity to succeed.

Jane Mentzinger

Executive Director

Communities in Schools of Chicago

Chicago, Oct. 9, 2009

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