



# The Allegiance Project

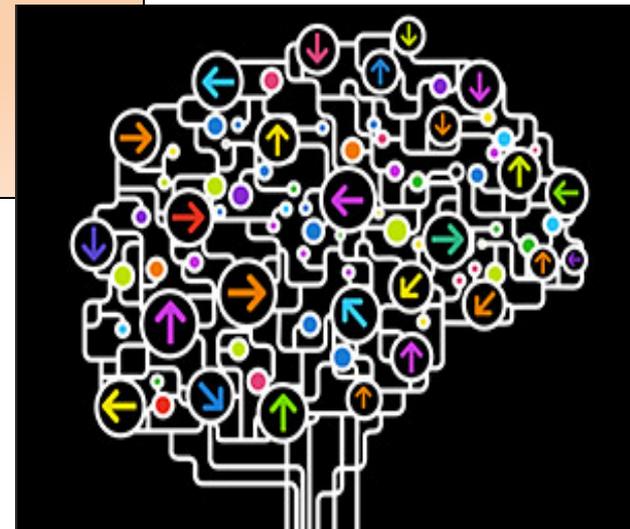
## Enhancing School Safety through a Walking School Bus

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# *The Allegiance Project*

- Our district has a goal for the approximately 34,000 students in our public school system to get to school and say the ***Pledge of Allegiance*** at the start of their school day.
- Getting students to and from school every school day is among the largest and most complex responsibilities entrusted to us at CPS.
- When you add to this the socio/economical factor that Cincinnati is rated number #2 in the country with number of children in poverty, it adds an additional component to an already complex responsibility.



# Why Might Students Feel Unsafe Traveling To and From School?



- Few rules and behavioral expectations
- Opportunities to witness and be victimized by violence in the community
- Opportunities for bullying, intimidation, and physical conflict amongst students
- Low adult monitoring is key antecedent of delinquency and violence

# Exposure to Violence Negatively Affects School Climate and Student Outcomes

Unsafe school environments are associated with...

- Impaired cognitive functioning and academic performance
- Lower attendance
- Attention difficulties
- Juvenile justice referrals



"It looks like you have everything under control."

# Are There Solutions to Safety Challenges in Transportation?

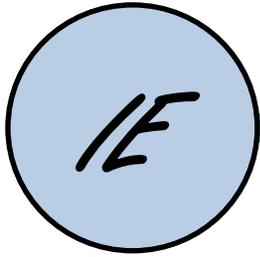


# The Allegiance Project is a Promising Solution for Cincinnati

- Secured a \$5 million grant from the National Institute of Justice to for the Allegiance Project
- The Allegiance Project enhances the Walking School Bus
  - Implement WSB, a parent will travel to and from school with students along the same route
  - Incorporate the GBG with WSB to manage student behavior while traveling to and from school



# The success of the Allegiance Project is at the intersection of where collective impact and collective efficacy meet



The Allegiance Project is proposed from a collective impact model framework because it is grounded in a collective efficacy theory.

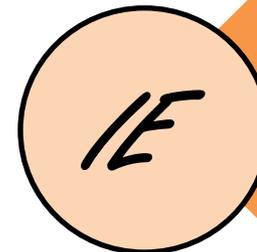
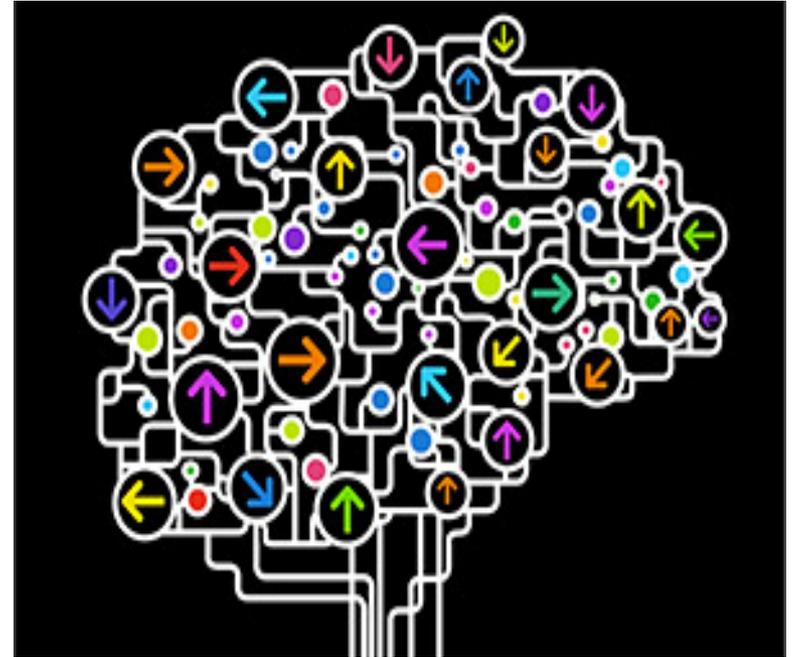
It is hypothesized that collective efficacy, defined as social cohesion among neighbors combined with their willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good, is linked to reduced violence.

*IE*

Collective impact is large-scale social change which requires broad cross-sector coordination of individual organizations.

*IE*

*IE* represent the collective measurement of impact and efficacy



This conceptual strategic foundation is in place to create positive outcomes for students participated in the WSB-GBG and traveling safely to and from school everyday through a Civic Campus Concept.

# A Walking School Bus is a Promising Solution for Student Transportation

- Successful in increasing physical activity in participants
- *May also:*
  - Increase attendance and decrease tardiness
  - Improve physical and mental health
  - Reduce exposure to violence in the community
  - Reduce in pollution

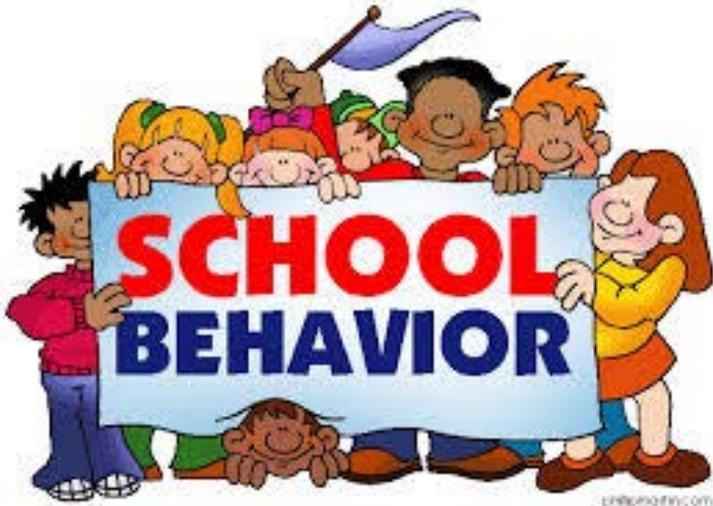


# The Good Behavior Game is a Best Practice for Behavior Management

The Good Behavior Game (GBG) teaches students appropriate behaviors in classrooms and playgrounds

GBG received multiple best practice awards. Research on the GBG found:

- Reductions in aggressive behavior
- Reductions in anxiety and depressive symptoms
- Improvements in children social competence
- Improvement in children's understanding of emotions and their ability to generate effective, peaceful solutions to everyday peer conflicts



# The Allegiance Project Involves Partnership with the Community



- Parents will act as “conductors”
  - Parents supervise Walking School Bus routes and travel with students to and from school and are paid a stipend.
  - Parents will deliver the GBG curriculum
- Older students mentor younger students
  - Older students help teach the younger students how to travel safely and manage behavior



# The Allegiance Project Involves Partnership with RAND and AIR

RAND and AIR will support CPS as it expands transportation services to underserved populations in order to:

- Relieve family stress over transportation
- Encourage attendance and getting to school on time
- Ensure safety during commute
- Provide programming to reduce aggression and improve mental health outcomes



# How Will The Allegiance Project Research be Used?

- Help us understand safety risks students face traveling to and from school
- Determine if using a WSB with GBG improves early indicators of problem behaviors
- Inform the national school safety agenda
- Help other school districts decide if and how they might want to create their own walking school bus program



# Thank you!



- Any Questions?

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