



Chess in the Schools

The mission of Chess in the Schools is to foster the intellectual and social development of low-income youth through chess education.



Benefits of Chess Education

- The game of chess is recognized worldwide for advancing **intellectual** talents.
- Numerous studies confirm that **chess improves cognitive abilities**, rational thinking and reasoning, instills a sense of self-confidence, develops communication and pattern recognition skills, and teaches the values of hard work, concentration, objectivity, and commitment.
- Introduced at an early age, **chess is fun!**

Chess is the Best Equalizer

- The game of **chess is accessible to all** regardless of gender, age, race, religion, cultural background, and physical ability.
- Unlike many other activities, **chess instruction is easy to provide in person and remotely**. Chess sets are inexpensive and easily available.
- Chess can be played indoors and outdoors. Playing the game does not require a specialized venue with high maintenance.



Uniqueness of CIS Approach

- Through an array of in-school and after-school services, Chess in the Schools reaches thousands of students in New York City's most **underserved communities**.
- Offering **its programs free of charge**, CIS levels the playing field for children from disadvantaged circumstances.
- Using chess as a "hook," CIS attracts children who may struggle at school providing them with a **new approach to learning** and developing beneficial habits of mind.
- CIS encourages students to build relationships with like-minded and positive peers promoting **social and emotional maturity**.
- CIS's School Program contributes to improved school culture and inspires a community of **academically driven students** united by their passion for chess.
- Providing wraparound academic, social and emotional support, CIS's College Bound program helps many **young people develop their potential** to complete high school, **matriculate to college**, and **break the cycle of poverty**.



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Core Programs

The School Program

The School Program is comprised of classroom instruction and after-school clubs. Serving 6,000 students at 40+ public schools, the program offers fun and enriching learning opportunities for elementary and middle school chess players of all levels of experience and skill.

Scholastic Tournaments

Scholastic Tournaments provide students with an opportunity to showcase their skills in a friendly, competitive environment. Every school year CIS organizes 25 tournaments in boroughs across New York City, with attendance at each ranging from 400 to 750 students of all ages.

College Bound Program

College Bound, a four-year initiative for high school students, delivers college preparatory and job-readiness programming along with advanced chess instruction. In recent years, 95% of program participants finished high school on time and went on to colleges of their choice.

Teacher Training Institute

The Teacher Training Institute provides workshops and materials designed to help New York City educators initiate chess programs in their schools. This program was implemented in response to the lengthy waiting list that developed for the School Program. To date, more than 2,000 teachers have participated.

All CIS programs are free to all participants

