

# What Students and Teachers are Saying



*“I applied to the Chess in the School (CIS) College Bound Program and it was the best decision of my life. The opportunities that CIS has given me are just phenomenal! They gave me so many outlets to use—initiatives, leadership positions, and life skills that I will use later on in life and right now!... It’s been really fulfilling.”*

**High School Junior, CIS College Bound Program**



*“The most significant impact of the chess program was the students’ engagement. They were excited—it gave them something to feel excited about and something to look forward to every week. Students became more analytical—as they learned to study and anticipate the moves, they began to apply that to their learning.”*

**NYC Public School Teacher**

*“I’m using CIS, the skills and resources I’ve developed, as a leveraging point for my scientific and chess career. I’m incorporating what I’ve gained from chess into the rest of my life.”*

**CIS College-Bound Program Participant**

*“I like the fact that they expose young kids to opportunities... There is a clear pathway for success. I sat in on a few College Bound workshops; they were very engaging. It’s very important to see that the students are engaged and that they are supported by caring adults.”*

**Foundation Partner**

*“Playing chess with CIS has helped students immensely with concentration, problem solving and strategic thinking. Chess also makes students look forward to participating in school.”*

**NYC Public School Teacher**

*“With CIS, I was able to engage in a community where I could be myself, where I could find people like me.”*

**Current CIS Program Participant**

*“CIS has had a big impact on me because chess is like life, when you make a decision, you ask yourself ‘if I do this, what is going to happen?’ You have to plan ahead.”*

**5th Grade Student at a Charter School**



*“I teach children with Special Needs and noticed that a couple of children with IEP’s did very well with chess. It built their confidence and their ability to problem solve increased. This program has a positive effect on all children.”*

**NYC Public School Teacher**

*“The seminars provided great knowledge for those who did not know the college process. I found individual advising especially helpful since I was able to have questions answered that are not black-and-white, like living off-campus and looking for financial aid.”*

**CIS College-Bound Program Participant**

*“Chess has helped me stop and take a moment in not only my chess games, but in real life, because when you take a moment to analyze the position you’re in...you can make the proper moves to eventually succeed.”*

**High School Senior  
CIS College-Bound Program Participant**

*“With CIS, we see real engagement and real enthusiasm among students.”*

**Foundation Partner**

*“Speaking from a single parent perspective, I cannot sum up in words what a great value CIS has been for our family. You have consistently been there for [my son] helping him make good life choices, encouraging him to complete goals, exposing him to see what his future opportunities can be, and showing him his worth.”*

**Parent of a College Bound Senior**

*“Chess in the Schools has opened up the college avenue for me. From freshman year, they’ve taken me on trips to different colleges. I experienced campus upfront which I would have not otherwise. I am not the type who would just go to campus, I am not... My parents cannot afford it. But CIS took me.”*

**High School Junior, CIS College Bound Program**

*“Playing chess helped the children develop friendships. This was especially helpful to the students who were usually quiet during academic lessons. It was a way for them to talk with their peers about something they all enjoyed.”*

**NYC Public School Teacher**