

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



“Chess in the Schools remains a sturdy foundation upon which I’ve built my career.”

*Najeebah Williams,
27, CIS Alumna*



CIS Mission:

Chess in the Schools fosters the intellectual and social development of low-income youth through chess education.

The Power of Chess

Chess Instruction in Public Schools

44

partner schools,

including 5 that had the program twice a week

5,394 students

receiving in-person instruction in classrooms



Scholastic Tournaments

39

tournaments

engaging 2,376 students, including:

- 17 in-person tournaments attended by 1,878 players
- 22 online tournaments attended by 498 players



Demonstrated Impact:

Teachers Confirm the Effectiveness of CIS's Programs

Teacher Survey Results*

- Most students could play a legal game of chess by the end of the semester: **96%**
- Most students actively participated in the chess class: **97%**
- Most students applied the lessons of chess beyond the chessboard: **92%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' cooperation skills: **97%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' understanding of math concepts: **89%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' analytic and logical reasoning skills: **96%**
- Learning and practicing chess helped my students concentrate better: **97%**
- Learning and practicing chess improved my students' behavior: **94%**
- Since my students started learning chess, they are more interested in school: **83%**
- Boys and girls were equally interested in chess: **99%**
- **99%** of educators surveyed confirmed that they would like to have a chess class again next school year.

* Based on the responses of 94 teachers surveyed in June 2022.

Teachers Say...

“My students were happy to learn chess. Chess motivated and engaged my students in critical thinking and problem-solving.”

“Attendance improved tremendously on the days chess instruction took place.”

“My students eagerly waited for chess each week. On free time they ask to play. I believe that struggling students especially like chess because they see that they can excel. This I hope that they try to expand to other areas of their work.”



Chess had a meaningful positive influence on my students: 100%*



Students Say...

“Chess is really helpful because it makes me feel focused and be better.”

“Chess helps me because when I practice I have to think about making good decisions.”





New Program: Digital Chess Education for Teachers and Students

Chess in the Schools offered a new program for teachers in public schools. Using the ChessKid platform, CIS provided educators with practical tools to teach chess even if they were new to the game. Public school teachers learned to utilize a variety of virtual tools, lessons, chess puzzles and real-time games using ChessKid and then implemented the new techniques in their classes, providing chess instruction to the entire student body in the 2nd through 5th grades, at their own pace.

Program in Numbers



College Bound / College Success

College Bound: A Four-Year Program for High School Students

95 students took part in the blended program that included both in-person and remote sessions to make sure everyone could join.

100% of seniors graduated on time and enrolled in colleges including CUNY, SUNY, UPenn, and Boston University.



College Success: Helping CIS Alumni to Graduate on Time

77 alums actively participated in the new College Success Initiative that helped them stay in college and graduate on time.

3 peer coaches who are CIS alumni completed **70 training hours** and helped make the program more impactful and efficient.

100% of College Success participants continued their studies and are on track to graduate.



Gabriel's chess journey started at P.S. 503 in Brooklyn.

Gabriel was one of the strongest chess players in his school, bringing home medals and trophies at each event.

Alumni Spotlight: Gabriel Rivera

Gabriel Rivera learned chess from his art teacher as a third-grader at P.S. 503 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Through the Chess in the Schools program at P.S. 503 he joined our chess club and started playing in CIS's weekly tournaments and, later, in national competitions.

In middle school, Gabriel's passion for chess only increased. He continued participating every Saturday in CIS tournaments. As a sophomore in high school, Gabriel joined the CIS College Bound program, where he was excited to

help organize weekly tournaments and teach at CIS summer camps to give back to the community that influenced him so much while he was a kid.

Now, Gabriel is a senior at CUNY Baruch College double majoring in Journalism and Political Science with a minor in Film Studies. He stays close to CIS, especially in his role as a Peer Coach in the College Success Initiative. Being part of this program allows Gabriel to continue following his passion for chess, education, and social work while also pursuing his dreams to one day become a feature writer for a magazine or newspaper.

Investing in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

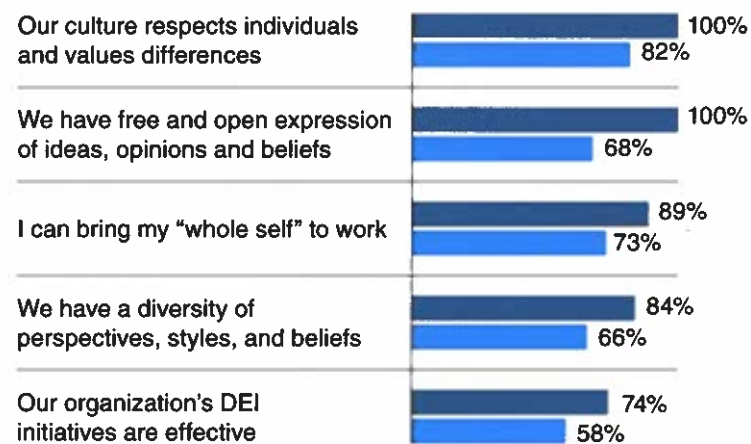
In a year-long program, CIS evaluated its organizational culture and collected data to make progress on DEI. We conducted training and planning, and created tools and resources. This heightened focus resulted in positive progress across the organization exceeding that at peer nonprofits.



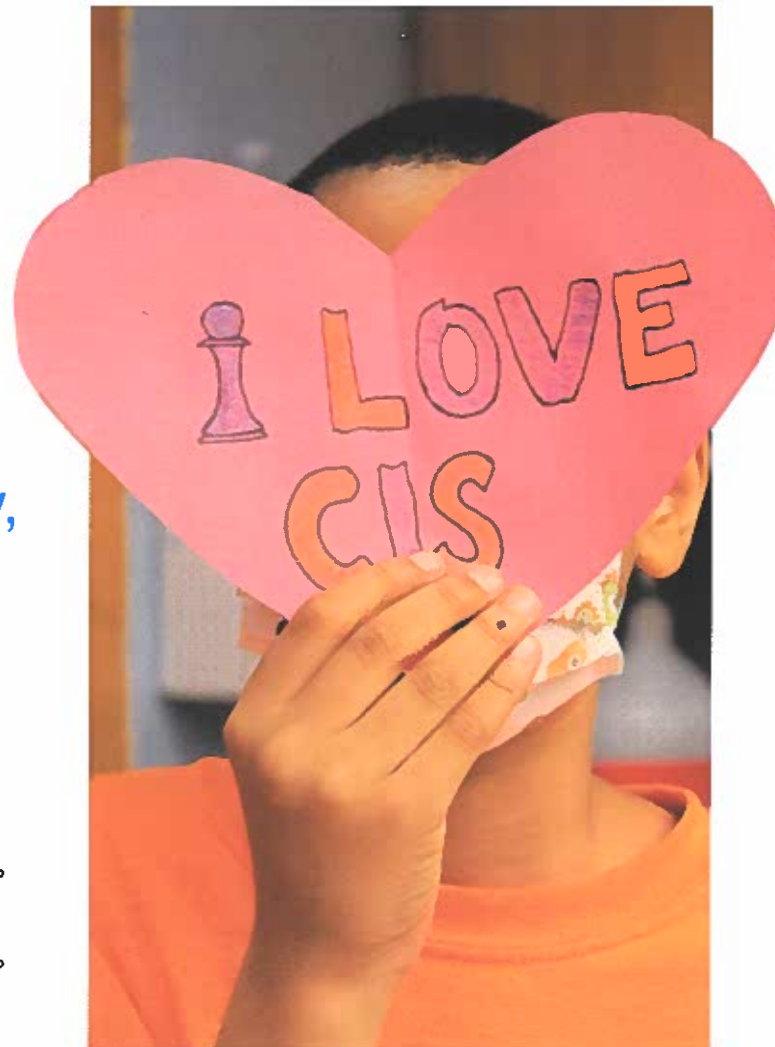
The 2022 CIS staff survey confirmed that the organization values diversity, equity, and inclusion:

CIS Staff responses compared with the ratings of the comparison group

% Positive Response
(Agree or Strongly Agree)



■ Chess in the Schools staff response
■ Comparison group (education support organizations)



Chess in the Schools DEI Values Statement



We embrace, honor, and celebrate our differences across race, gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender orientation, physical abilities, socio-economic class, and other characteristics that comprise our unique identities.

Moving Forward



Launching Large Scale Evaluation Study

In 2022-2023, Chess in the Schools will launch a program evaluation study approved by the New York City's Department of Education Institutional Review Board. The study will specifically measure the positive benefits of chess on math and other STEM skills, and social emotional growth of elementary school students in low-income communities. The 2022-2023 project will engage three public schools and will test the study's framework and logistics. The study will eventually be expanded to ten schools over three years. The evaluations outcomes will help refine our approach for engaging schools, parents, and students and will lay the foundation for strong evidence-guided operational and management practices.

Expanding the Digital Chess Education Program

2021-2022



2022-2023



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2021-2022 Expenses



- 82% Program
- 10% Administration & Management
- 8% Fundraising

2021-2022 Revenue Sources



- 16% Individual Donors
- 16% Foundations & Corporations
- 16% Government
- 9% School Fees
- 22% Investments
- 9% Paycheck Protection Program
- 11% Employee Retention Tax Credit

Thank You to Our Supporters!

Chess in the Schools is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

To find out how you can help, contact:
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