

2026 High School Nationals Trip

Presented by David Heiser

BUILDING THINKERS, LEADERS, & CHAMPIONS ACROSS THE CITY



Key Dates & Deadlines

Interest Form Due by October 31

School Selection Announced by November 7

Travel Request Submitted by November 21

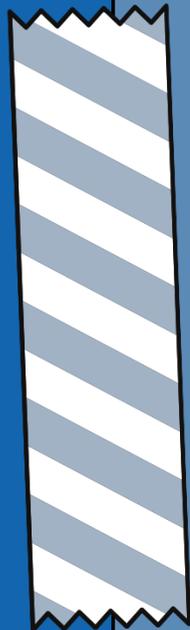
**Approved Travel Request & PO Due by
December 19**

Student Forms & Rosters Due by January 9



Event Overview

- **Up to 20 CPS Chess Teams will be sent to the 2026 National High School (K-12) Championship**
- **Location: Sheraton Grand Chicago, 301 E. North Water St., Chicago, IL 60611**
- **Dates: March 27-29, 2026**
- **Students & chaperones will spend the night at the hotel**
- **Transportation: Students will be bused to/from select location around the city**



Participation Details

Each selected school may send up to **Eight (8)** students in grades 5 – 12, with a minimum of six (6) students required. Schools must also provide two chaperones to accompany their students.

CPS Academic Competition will cover the costs of:

- **busing to & from the event**
- **shared double-occupancy hotel rooms for students (two per room)**
- **single-occupancy rooms for chaperones**
- **tournament entry fees**
- **US Chess memberships (if needed)**

School Financial Responsibility

Meal Contribution:

- Selected schools must contribute \$1,000 toward meal costs by issuing a \$1,000 purchase order (PO) to Renaissance Knights by December 19.

TRAVEL REQUEST

Selected Schools must submit their travel requests by Friday, November 21, 2025.

Copy of approved Travel Request
Due by December 19. Send to
daheiser@cps.edu

elle

Student Forms

Each selected school must submit by Friday, January 9, 2026:

- Parental Permission & Assumption of Risk Forms for each student

Send all completed forms to daheiser@cps.edu.

Student roster & chaperones

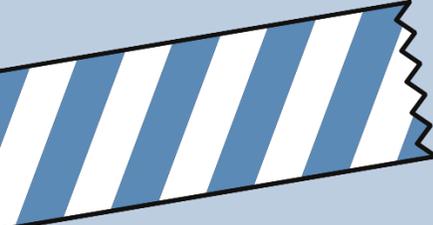
Selected schools must complete the Online Student Roster & Chaperone Forms (listing all participating students and designated chaperones) by Friday, January 9, 2026



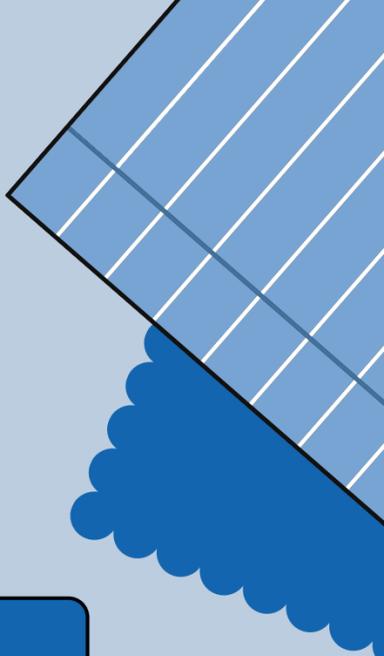
School Selection Criteria

Schools will be selected based on:

1. **Willingness to cover \$1,000 meal contribution**
2. **Priority for schools not selected in previous years**
3. **Active participation in Academic Chess**
4. **Commitment to send 6–8 students (Grades 5–12)**

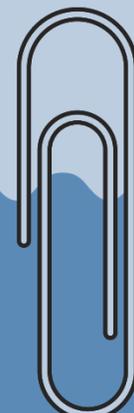


2026 HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS INTEREST FORM

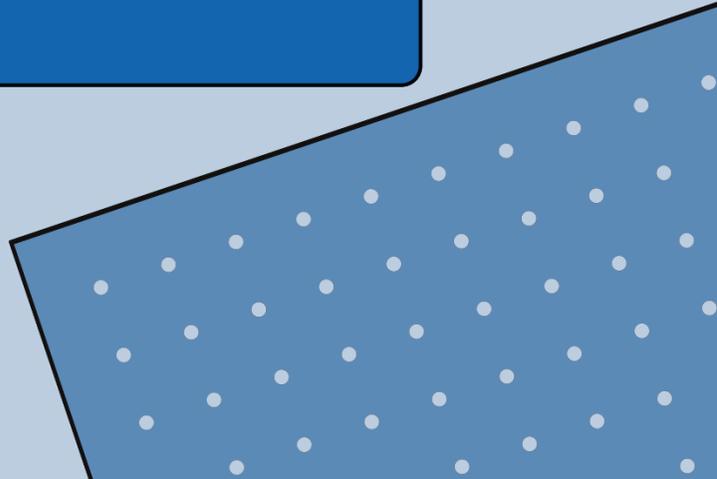


To confirm your school's interest, please have a school administrator sign and return interest form to David Heiser at daheiser@cps.edu by Friday, October 31, 2025.

Selected schools will be announced by Friday, November 7, 2025.



VIEW INTEREST FORM



Itinerary

Friday, March 27, 2026

- Arrival & Lunch at hotel – 11:00 am
- Round 1 – 1:00 pm
- Round 2 – 6:00 pm
- Dinner at hotel – 7:00 pm

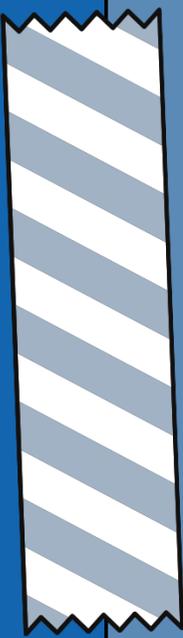
Saturday, March 28, 2026

- Breakfast at hotel – 7:30 am
- Round 3 – 9:00 am
- Lunch at hotel – Noon
- Round 4 – 1:30 pm
- Round 5 6:00 pm
- Dinner at hotel – 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 29, 2026

- Breakfast at hotel – 7:30 am
- Round 6 – 9:00 am
- Lunch at hotel – Noon
- Round 7 – 1:30 pm
- Depart hotel – 5:00 pm

Supervision Policy:



Students participating in the 2026 High School Nationals Trip as part of the CPS delegation must remain under the supervision of the designated school and our chaperones for the duration of the trip. Students may not be released to a parent or guardian during the event and must stay with the group at all times. Students may only be released to a parent or guardian after the conclusion of the tournament.

Students who are not selected to participate as part of their school's official delegation may still attend the 2026 National High School (K-12) Championship independently.

However, they will be fully responsible for their own registration, travel, lodging, and supervision. The Department of Academic Competitions and the CPS Academic Chess Program will not provide financial, logistical, or administrative support for independently attending students.

**These students must have a guardian present
at all times.**

**At no time are any of our chaperones/staff to
assume responsibility for them**

CLOSING / Q&A

Thank you for being a part of
of this presentation

