



# CHICAGO DEBATES

## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

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**2024 - 2025 Tournament Season**





# DEBATE. GROW. TRANSFORM. LEAD.

Our mission is to advance the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic speech and debate.



**CHICAGO  
DEBATES**



# OUR WORK

We've partnered with Chicago Public Schools for over 25 years to provide teachers and students access to the trajectory-shifting power of speech and debate.



01

## For Students

Policy Debate, Public Forum  
Debate, Debate en Español, Speech,  
Chicago Debates Summer Institute

02

## For Educators

Professional Development  
Credit, Curricula, On-Site  
Assistance, Resources

03

## For Schools & Districts

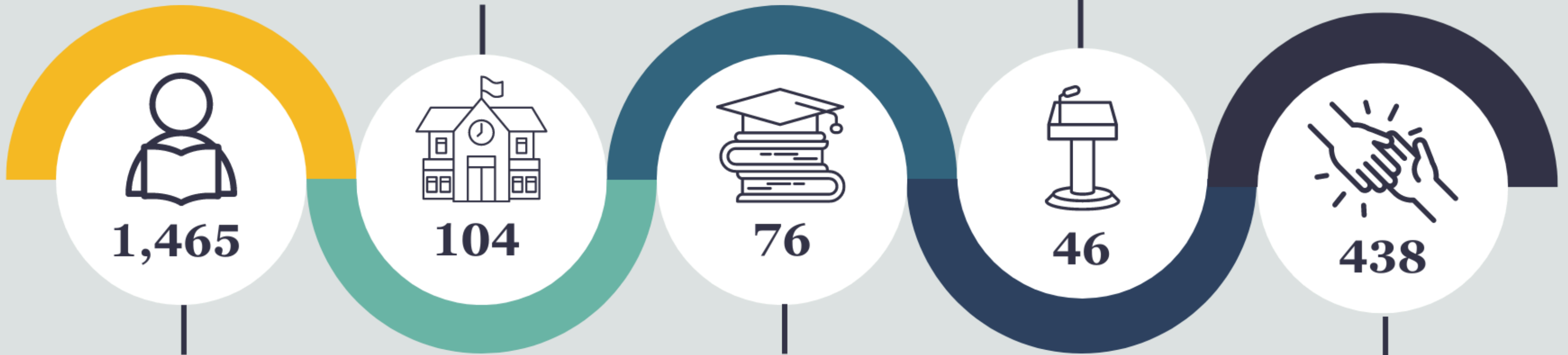
Tournament Operations  
and Closing  
Achievement Gaps



# 2023-24 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our students represent  
**104 Chicago Public  
Schools.**

We organized and hosted  
**46 tournaments**  
throughout the school year.



**Chicago Debates**  
served **1,465 students**  
through a variety of  
speech and debate  
program offerings.

**76** of these schools are  
categorized as **Title I**,  
representing some of the city's  
most underserved populations.

We engaged **438**  
**volunteers** to act as  
coaches, judges, and  
table operators.



# BECOME A TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

As a tournament sponsor, you will ensure hundreds of students maintain access to high-quality speech and debate programming.



Tournament  
Personnel



Awards & Student  
Incentives



Food, Transportation  
& Supplies



# WHY TOURNAMENTS?

- Debate tournaments give students a platform to **exchange ideas** and **think critically**.
- Through argumentation, students **build strong relationships** and **empathy** for one another.
- Students learn to **innovate, think creatively, and persevere** as they are unaware of which side of the topic they will defend until the debate round begins.
- Students learn to **listen for understanding** instead of listening to disagree.
- Debate tournaments allow students to **encounter subjects** that don't appear in the traditional school curriculum.
- Debate tournaments allow **students from all sides of the city to come together** and learn from one another.
- Students **build confidence** in themselves and find their voice.
- Debate tournaments are a **safe space** for students who are exposed to high levels of violence and trauma.
- Debate tournaments are essential for a students **growth** in the activity and **school performance**.



# TOURNAMENT SUPPLY SPONSORSHIPS



## **Sponsor a Bus for \$500**

Help us remove barriers for students eager to participate in debate tournaments. Your sponsorship will fund transportation, ensuring that students from across Chicago have access to these valuable educational opportunities.



## **Sponsor a Meal for \$1,000**

Fuel the success of our student debaters by sponsoring meals during tournaments. With long, intellectually demanding days, providing healthy meals ensures students stay energized and focused. Your donation will cover food for all participants, staff, and volunteers.



## **Sponsor a Day of Debate for \$100 - \$250**

Help us provide expert judges to guide students through a full day of competitive debate. Judges play a crucial role in offering feedback and fostering growth in critical thinking and public speaking. Your \$100 contribution will cover the cost of judges for one full day of debates for two students, and \$250 will cover the costs for judges for a full debate team.



# TOURNAMENT EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

## \$5,000 SPONSOR

- Naming rights of sponsored tournament
- Social media & newsletter recognition
- Logo placement on tournament awards & certificates
- Acknowledgment at sponsored tournament

## \$10,000 SPONSOR

- Naming rights of sponsored tournament
- Social media & newsletter recognition
- Logo placement on tournament awards & certificates
- Acknowledgment at sponsored tournament
- Automatic “Access Level” sponsorship at annual Make Room for Debate fundraiser. Access Level includes four seats and logo visibility.



# IN KIND DONATIONS

There are many ways to make a deep impact outside of providing financial resources. Chicago Debates benefits greatly from strategic donations that will have a direct impact on CPS Students.



## **Tournament Space**

Chicago Debates requires 20 - 40 rooms per weekend to host its tournament. Donate your space to the organization for a weekend to create more learning experiences for CPS Students.



## **Volunteer to Judge**

For every four students, Chicago Debates requires one judge in order to operate its tournaments. Donate your time as a volunteer to ensure students receive a high quality experience.



## **Community Coach**

If you possess experience as a former debater or coach, volunteer your time and talents as a Community Coach for a Title I School.





# **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

The continued success of Chicago Debates depends on the generous support of donors who believe in our students and their potential as future leaders.

**Allstate Insurance Company**

**ArentFox Schiff**

**Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum &  
Nagelberg LLP**

**The Boston Consulting Group, Inc.**

**Chuhak & Tecson**

**George Johnson & Company**

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**NVIDIA**

**Origami Risk**

**The Prinz Law Firm**

**Relativity ODA LLC**

**Sparacino PLLC**

**White & Case LLC**

**Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP**

**Wintrust Financial**

**WIPFLI LLP**



# FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Our partners are more than just financial supporters—they are champions of our mission. Together, we are building a brighter future for Chicago's youth

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**Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust**

**Association of Black Argumentation Professionals**

**Chicago Community Trust**

**Crown Family Philanthropies**

**Helen Brach Foundation**

**Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation**

**The Judelson Family Foundation**

**New Frontiers Foundation**

**Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund**

**The Reedy Family Charitable Fund**

**Shippy Foundation**

**Walter & Karla Goldschmidt Foundation**

**W.P. & H.B White Foundation**

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# LET'S CONNECT

Your Support  
Will Change Lives

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**“That was an experience that I can say without hesitation was the one activity that best prepared me for future success in law and in life.”**

***SUPREME COURT JUSTICE KENTANJI BROWN JACKSON  
ON THE IMPACT OF DEBATE***