



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent of Education

March 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: Chess in Schools, LLC Professional Development Opportunity

In 2014 the Alabama State Department of Education launched the Alabama Chess in Schools Initiative, a four-year pilot program that supported chess instruction in classrooms. Research results and feedback from participating local education agencies (LEAs) have shown the program to be a success, and teachers reported significant improvements in students' skill development and behavior. They also indicated a positive impact of chess-related instruction on classroom environment and their own instructional skills. From the initial pilot program, Chess in Schools, LLC is launching a successor program, the Chess in Education (CIE) Initiative.

Through this initiative, professional development opportunities will be offered. There will be a four-day course for new teachers titled "Chess in the Classroom: Level 1 Certified Teacher Training." For returning teachers who have implemented chess instruction through Chess in Schools, a two-day course titled "Chess in the Classroom: Level 2 Certified Teacher Training" will be available. Both courses will be offered the week of June 10-13, 2019, in Loxley, Alabama, and June 17-20, 2019, in Alabaster, Alabama. For LEAs contemplating a fall start to a chess program, a one-day course titled "Introduction to Chess in Education" will be offered on April 3, 2019, in Alabaster, Alabama, or April 10, 2019, in Loxley, Alabama. Registration information can be found on the website at <https://chessinschools.us>.

The CIE Initiative is a teacher-driven initiative designed to engage students while positively impacting critical thinking and 21st Century skills. For additional questions, please contact Mr. Andy Meadows via email at ameadows@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 694-4768.

EGM/AM

Attachment

cc: City and County Curriculum Coordinators
 City and County Gifted Specialists
 Dr. Daniel Boyd
 Mrs. Robin Nelson
 Mr. Andy Meadows

FY19-2058

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Chess in Education Initiative

Connecting Chess to the Classroom



About Us

Chess in Schools LLC is a non-profit subsidiary of the **Alabama Chess Federation**, a 501(c)(3) corporation. We founded the Alabama Chess in School Initiative in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education.

Website: <https://chessinschools.us/>

Contact: Jerry Nash

National Chess Education Consultant

Email: jerry@chessinschools.us

Phone: 888-400-7182, Ext. 3

Goal

We train teachers how to play chess and use the game to introduce and reinforce academic and life skills.

We work with school administrators to develop and achieve a self-sustaining, teacher-driven program within three years.

Educational Benefits

Chess in the classroom saves instructional time. Engaged and focused, students learn faster with longer retention. Literacy, math, critical thinking and life skills can all be presented to students of every learning modality. Unlike most programs, we use chess for education, not education for chess.

In-depth [research](#) validates our program's benefits to students, as well as its enthusiastic endorsement by teachers and students.

Programs, Costs

- 1) [Chess in Education Initiative Package](#) - a comprehensive and cost effective program for implementing a sustainable, multi-site CIE program. As a guideline for Alabama schools, a typical cost range for a first-year investment is \$75 to \$85 per student. [<More>](#)
- 2) [Professional Development Courses](#) - individual course offerings for teachers, chess coaches, and administrators.

To schedule training in your area or to attend a March or April regional event, contact us ASAP.