

NEXT MOVE

The Broward County Schools and Communities Scholastic Chess Initiative Year 1 Report – May 2015

As part of its innovative teaching initiative, the **Broward Education Foundation** supports and promotes the *Next Move* program, a partnership with the **National Scholastic Chess Foundation**, to introduce chess in schools and communities.

The study of chess improves concentration and self-discipline, encourages socialization skills that extend across cultures and generations, and enhances development of critical thinking skills, a vital component for success in the 21st century.

- The first step of the program is to have more people who can teach basic chess so that thousands of students can be introduced to the game.

In the fall of 2014, NSCF created “Demystifying Chess: A Thinking Skills Workshop” to train educators to teach the basics of chess at any grade level. The training includes two days of instruction plus additional online and text resources.



NSCF executive director and chess master Sunil Weeramantry leads a class of 35 summer program teachers at a training funded by the Children’s Services Council. BEF and NSCF delivered 9 workshop classes over 6 days during the 2014-15 school year.

Day 1 equips people to offer 12 weeks of in-the-curriculum instruction, or approximately 20 weeks for an after school program. Children progress from total beginner to being able to play a game, understand key tactics and begin the process of learning how lessons on the chess board can be applied to other subjects and to life. This school year, 166 educators completed the Day 1 Workshop.

The second workshop covers materials at an intermediate level for coaches and educators to firmly establish a scholastic chess program. To date, more than 100 teachers, activity coordinators and parents have completed the Day 2 class.

“Demystifying Chess” workshop participants included teachers and youth workers in 22 cities from across Broward County. Dozens of new school chess clubs have already been formed and hundreds of children are finding out that chess is cool!



Students in the chess club at New River Middle School can also participate in Coach Garcia’s chess lunch when he gets to play against the kids as well as have them play each other. Mr. Garcia, a 7th grade science teacher, says next year he will have to break the chess lunch program into two groups to meet demand!

At New River Middle School, 7th grade science teacher Mateo Garcia started a club on Friday mornings before school. One 8th grade kid, a “soccer star,” was being teased for “joining the nerds” but in just a few months has become one of the top players. Many kids wanted to play more than once a week, so Coach Garcia opened his classroom for a “chess lunch” when he can also play with the students. He also reports chess will be offered as a 6th grade elective next year.

At Nova High, chemistry teacher Basma Andre completed the training and started a chess club as well as offering chess to one of her lower performing classes. Her AP/honors classes have complained to her that they want a chess class too. Nova is now evaluating an elective chess class for all incoming 9th graders!

- Believing that education of our children does not begin and end at the classroom door, *Next Move* has been extended to after school program providers, parks & recreation staff, libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs and other organizations working with children in a combined effort to encourage and reinforce outstanding academic outcomes for Broward County school children.

One program specifically targeting “at-risk” youth was started by two deputies at the Police Athletic League site at Millennium Middle School in West Park. Another program works in alternative schools and in the Broward Juvenile Detention Center using chess to teach problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.

In Cypress Creek, chess is offered after school at two Parks and Recreation Centers. These sites offer a short period of instruction and then open play two afternoons each week: one for younger students and one for older elementary/middle school ages. Over 100 children participate each week.

Several cities (Sunrise, Davie, Cooper City and others) now offer weekly free open play chess events.

- Another popular event has been the Mayors' Chess Challenge which started with the Mayor of Sunrise inviting Broward County mayors and other elected officials to come play chess against local school kids. Children get to play students from other schools and neighborhoods, while parents and community leaders learn more about the value of scholastic chess. Events have been hosted by the Mayors of Fort Lauderdale, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Sunrise and Davie.



Town of Davie Mayor Judy Paul takes on an aspiring champion at the Mayors' Chess Challenge, an outreach event that introduces the benefits of scholastic chess to the community.

- **Program Funding:** For the 2014-15 school year, an initial grant of \$5,000 from the City of Sunrise, some smaller donations and a contract with Children's Services Council to train local service providers were matched by the State of Florida through a grant secured by Broward Education Foundation. BEF and NSCF have maximized every dollar raised for this county-wide initiative with programs already up and running and reaching hundreds of children of all ages.

- **Year 2 Planning:** Our first goal is to continue teacher trainings for schools and partner organizations. One example: We have been asked by the Broward Public Library to provide trainings for their staff in our FY 16 program. We are increasing the number of Mayors' Chess Challenges and other promotional events. We are also working to produce fun scholastic tournaments. The Broward Education Foundation is working to again have grant funding to match investments by communities, schools, private and corporate sponsors.

Find out how you can support this unique initiative.

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Deputy Elias Gonzales is one of two Broward Sheriff's officers who took the Demystifying Chess Workshops and started offering chess as part of a PAL program that reaches at-risk youth. BSO is now planning to offer chess at 2 other PAL sites.

Demystifying Chess workshop participants included teachers and youth workers in 22 cities across Broward County.

Broward County Public Schools

Country Hills Elementary	Davie Elementary
Flamingo Elementary	Lauderhill Elementary
Manatee Bay Elementary	Miramar Elementary
Meadowbrook Elementary	Norcrest Elementary
Nova Blanche Forman Elementary	
Sandpiper Elementary	Sawgrass Elementary
Sea Castle Elementary	Sheridan Park Elementary
Silver Palms Elementary	
Thurgood Marshall Elementary	
Village Elementary	Welleby Elementary
Bair Middle School	Crystal Lake Middle School
Deerfield Beach Middle School	
Falcon Cove Middle School	
Indian Ridge Middle School	
Lyons Creek Middle School	New River Middle School
Sawgrass Springs Middle School	
Silver Lakes Middle School	
Westglades Middle School	Westpine Middle School
Cooper City High School	
Cypress Bay High School	
Nova High School	Piper High School

Charter/Private Schools

North Broward Academy of Excellence
 Pinecrest School of Fort Lauderdale
 Pines Charter Middle School
 Renaissance Charter at Cooper City
 Renaissance Charter at Palms West
 Somerset Preparatory Academy
 University School of Nova Southeastern

Parks & Recreation Departments

Coconut Creek, Davie, Hallandale Beach,
 Hollywood, Oakland Park, Sunrise.

Other Organizations Serving Children

ASP: After School Programs
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County
 Broward Sheriff's Office – PAL Program
 Center for Hearing & Communication
 Community After School
 Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library
 HANDY Inc., Kids in Distress,
 Memorial Healthcare System
 Smith Community Mental Health
 Soref Jewish Community Center
 Urban League of Broward County
 YMCA of Broward County