



# Chess in Education Commission

## FIDE EDU Report

For FIDE Council meeting 21/03/2025

### Introduction

All of the following programs and activities are aligned with the Strategy Action Plan (SAP) developed by FIDE and FIDE EDU in 2021-2022 as a result of the global Chess in Schools Survey conducted in 2021 as a partnership with FIDE and the ECU. This report highlights the work of the Commission in 2024.

### FIDE EDU Mission

To make chess an essential tool for educating students around the world.

### FIDE EDU Objectives – 2023 - 2026

- Position FIDE as the Global Leader in Chess in Education
- Double the number of teachers delivering chess-related instruction (from 92,500 to 200,000)
- Double the number of students involved in scholastic chess (from 25 to 50 million)
- Increase the number of participants in FIDE EDU courses (teachers and lecturers) by 20% each year.

### FIDE EDU General Strategies

- Access Key Stakeholders
- Build the CIE Community
- Provide Training & Resources
- Encourage & Enable CIE-related Research
- Increase Quality Professional Development Opportunities
- Assist Federations & Organizations to Expand CIE

### EDU Commission Meetings

The EDU Commission will hold an online meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The agenda will feature reports from commission members, a review of the EDU Courses, and updates on recent and upcoming chess in education activities.

## FIDE EDU Courses and Titles

FIDE EDU offers two courses: The Preparation of Teachers (PoT) course offers the School Instructor (SI) title. The Preparation of Lecturers (PoL) course offers the Lead School Instructor (LSI) title or the Senior Lead Instructor (SLI) title.

In 2024 twelve online PoT courses were conducted, of which three were held in Spanish. Thirteen in-person courses also took place around the globe: Hamburg, Ghana, Johannesburg, Beijing, Qatar, Budapest, Kimberley, Honduras, Dominica, Islamabad and Lahore. In 2024, FIDE awarded 526 new School Instructor titles, nearly double the amount from the previous year. Lecturer training has also seen significant progress, with three online Preparation of Lecturers (PoL) courses resulting in numerous Lead School Instructors and [three new Senior Lead Instructors](#). These Senior Lead Instructors can now independently conduct PoT courses, enhancing the sustainability of our training program.

The PoT course materials have been translated into several languages, including Spanish, Greek, Russian, Kazakh, and Chinese. French and Arabic translations are currently underway and are expected to be completed by April.

## FIDE School Awards

The FIDE Chess School Award has a multi-dimensional purpose to enhance the quality and position of chess in the wider education system. The first objective is to provide recognition and motivation of existing Chess in Education activities and programs in schools by a certification process. The second objective is to serve as a quality assurance tool for the improved and established standard of educational chess delivery.

The 2021 Global Survey identified thousands of schools which promote chess activities. For many of these schools, chess is a sign of prestige and used for school promotion. FIDE EDU acknowledges the need for recognition of existing schools as well as the opportunity to encourage other schools to begin or increase their level of involvement. The FIDE Chess School Award provides an effective means of achieving these goals.

In the first application period in 2024, twenty-two (22) schools from fourteen different countries received the first FIDE School Awards. The countries included Brazil, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, North Macedonia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Of the twenty-two schools, thirteen received Gold Awards, six received Silver Awards, and three received Bronze Awards.

During the second application cycle of 2024, a total of forty-seven (47) schools received awards. Of the 47 schools, eleven received the Bronze Award, four received the Silver Award, and thirty-two received the Gold Award. The countries represented included China, Singapore, India, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Venezuela.

Abel Talamantez, FIDE Educator of the Year in 2024 and application assessor, provided the following comments:

“It was exciting to read the different types of programs dedicated to the power of chess as an educational tool and how it can help uplift children’s lives in many areas beyond the chess board. While there were many criteria used to assess which schools might receive gold, silver and bronze awards, the three most important were how a school uses chess as an educational tool,

how socially committed the program is, and how do schools represent their programs to the community.”

“Fundamentally, we want to know the creative and innovative ways programs use chess to enhance learning in other areas, such as math, social sciences, and life skills. We also want to know how programs promote their events and activities to a wider audience such as social media platforms and engagement with their community. We also wanted to know in what ways programs made their classes socially inclusive and accessible.”

In addition to the award certificates, schools also receive the following benefits.

- ChessKid memberships – up to 500 Gold memberships (for 4 months) for your school.
- One-year premium LogiqBoard membership for up to 5 teachers per school.
- LearningChess memberships - for up to 500 students with Learning Management license (admin teacher + assistant teachers) for one year.
- Six months free Notationary.app membership for teachers.
- Discount for teachers of your school to attend an online Preparation of Teachers (PoT) Course. 20% for Bronze, 30% for Silver and 50% for Gold Award winning schools.

The next webinar for FSA award schools is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

The third cycle of the FIDE School Awards will begin in January 2025. Applications will be accepted until April 31, and the awards will be announced in June.

## Pakistan Project with IOC Funding

FIDE EDU, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the national federation of Pakistan organized an initiative to introduce chess in education following the announcement of the Prime Minister’s Mind Sports Initiative in February 2024. The visit of November 19<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup> of FIDE EDU Commission Secretary Rita Atkins and Commission member Anzel Laubscher represented a collaborative opportunity to initiate teacher’s training and include visits and presentations to stakeholders throughout the country.

Two FIDE Preparation of Teacher courses were delivered with 60 participants in attendance. 52 people successfully passed the exam and qualified for the FIDE School Instructor title. Most participants are active chess coaches and classroom teachers, and some have already reported using the material taught during the course in their own lessons. Four people were identified for further training to become Senior Lead Instructors and thus continue with teacher training in Lahore and Islamabad.

Chess Federation Pakistan (CFP) President, Hanif Qureshi, who is also member of FIDE EDU, together with EDU representatives Rita Atkins and Anzel Laubscher paid several official visits to key stakeholders in education. Our message to include chess as a subject in school for 7-9 year old students was received with interest, and preparations are now under way for a follow-on visit for a FIDE EDU Trainer early next year to introduce chess and mind sports in 150 schools across Punjab as a pilot initiative. This would benefit youth in public sector schools, with one school selected from each tehsil, ensuring a widespread impact. One teacher will be trained from each school who then can establish chess teaching practices in his/her school. The FIDE EDU Trainer will also provide adequate training for more local instructors to gain the title of Senior Lead

Instructor and continue with training new teachers independently thereby making the program sustainable.

**Report Submitted By**

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