



Chess in
Education
Commission

FIDE EDU 2024 End of Year Report

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 held an online meeting on June 1st. Ten members were in attendance to hear reports from commission member activities, reports on the EDU Courses, and an update on recent and upcoming chess in education conferences. The next EDU Commission meeting is scheduled for September 19th in Budapest.

New EDU Book: *Chess for Education. Chess for Changing Lives.*

A revision of the previous EDU promotional book, *Chess: A Tool for Education and Health*, was carried out in 2024. The new book, designed to introduce Chess in Education to the general public as well as potential stakeholders, is available online at the FIDE EDU website and in print at the Olympiad.

Caribbean and Central American Visits

Jerry Nash, Chairman of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission was invited by the national chess federations of Trinidad-Tobago, Costa Rica, and Honduras to tour their countries and to assist in building awareness for chess as an educational tool. One goal for each country was to meet with stakeholders in order to create proposals for chess in education (CIE) initiatives. The tour was arranged with the support of Confederation of Chess for Americas (CCA) President Jose Carillo Pujol and Secretary Mauricio Arias Santana. The tour took place from February 20th to March 2nd, 2024.

School visits as well as meetings with government officials and education leaders revealed not only a great interest for the game but a willingness to include it as a vehicle for skill building. In Trinidad-Tobago and in Costa Rica, chess federation leaders are now preparing proposals for large scale chess in education programs.

In Honduras, the Ministry of Education and the National Pedagogical University Francisco Morazan (NPUFM) both agreed to create a Memorandum of Agreement for a three-year pilot that includes the training of teachers and the inclusion of chess both as an after-school activity and as a vehicle to introduce academic and 21st century skills within the curriculum using both interdisciplinary and transversal methodologies.

The tour opened doors for the federations to access key decision-makers and to generate momentum for scalable and sustainable chess in education projects. Federation leaders are now working with FIDE EDU to develop proposals and the needed infrastructure that allow the creation of programs that will impact future generations of students.

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. 14 POT courses were conducted from January to September 2024, involving 224 participants and 190 SI title holders. 5 Lecturer courses were conducted from January to September 2024, involving 74 participants and 36 LSI & 23 SLI title holders.

- **Total Courses Conducted:** 19 (3 PoL, 2 SLI, 14 PoT)
 - In Person: 9
 - Online: 10
- **Total Participants:** 298
- **Total Titles Qualified: 249**
 - LSI: 36
 - SLI: 23
 - SI: 190

The first in person PoT course in China was held in July led by Senior Lead Instructor Xiaoping Li from Chess Ivy. Other PoT courses, in person and online, are scheduled for later in the year. An online Spanish PoT course is scheduled for Latin America for October. Courses in Greek, Kazakh, Malaysian, and Chinese are planned.

In a first for chess in education in Honduras, twenty-four teachers and chess coaches completed three days of the Preparation of Teachers (PoT) course on August 31st. The participants attended

not only from Tegucigalpa, the capital city, but from as far away as Copan, almost an 8-hour drive. The training is part of the first stage of a national initiative that is supported by the national Ministry of Education, the National Pedagogical University Francisco Morazan (UPNFM), in collaboration with the Honduras Chess Federation. Additional support for the PoT was provided by FIDE America.

A PoT course will also be offered during the Olympiad in Budapest, led by Rita Atkins and Anzel Laubscher.

Other Upcoming Courses:

POL

- 2024/10/25-27 – 8th POL (LSI title) online course
- 2024/11/16 – 3rd SLI title course

POT

- 2024/09/5-8– 1st hybrid PoT in English & Spanish – Spain, Madrid
- 2024/09/15-16, 20-21 - 19th in-person PoT– Hungary, Budapest
- 2024/09/29-10/01 – 20th in-person PoT – South Africa, Kimberly
- 2024/10/4-6 – 1st online POT in Spanish for America
- 2024/10/18-20 - 19th online POT
- 2024/11/1-3 – 2nd online POT for America
- 2024/11/15-17 – 4th online POT in Spanish

Non-SI courses

- 2024/08/20-21 – CIE online training_01 – India, Nagpur – 11 participants
- 2024/09/14-15 – CIE online training_02 – India, Nashik

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.

Twenty-two 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.

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

- ChessKid memberships – up to 500 Gold memberships (for 4 months)
- A 20% Discount for teachers to attend an online Preparation of Teachers (PoT) Course.
- Other benefits will be added in the months ahead.

A Welcome Webinar for award schools was held on August 10th. Several schools shared presentations about their programs. The participants were introduced to additional EDU programming and were requested to share what additional benefits would enhance their programming. A WhatsApp group was created to allow schools to share ideas and news.

Physical awards will be presented to representatives of the National Chess Federations during the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary in September.

EDU Commission Report: Considerations for the Implementation of Educational Chess
Members of FIDE's Chess in Education Commission collaborated to create a rationale for the inclusion of chess as an educational tool. Adriana Salazar Varón (Colombia) led a workgroup that included Uvencio Blanco Hernández (Venezuela), Esteban Jaureguizar (Uruguay), and Charles Moura Netto (Brazil).

Their work, "Considerations for the Implementation of Educational Chess," highlights the historical and cultural importance of chess throughout its history as well as its basis as a pedagogical tool. In this context, chess offers important connections to mathematics, communication and language development, as well as "a highly positive atmosphere of enjoyment and collaboration among students." Their report is included as a resource on the FIDE EDU website.

II International Congress on Chess, Education and Health in Menorca, Spain

The II International Congress on Chess, Education and Health was held in Menorca from March 22-24, 2024. Directed by Pep Suárez, the Congress was designed to "reflect on the role of chess as an educational and therapeutic tool, as well as to explore new ways of integrating this discipline into education and health systems." Attendees had the chance to "participate in keynote lectures, round tables, practical workshops and networking activities, with the participation of leading international experts and professionals."

Jerry Nash and Rita Atkins represented FIDE EDU at the Congress, which was supported by FIDE and designated a FIDE 100 event. Both Mr. Nash and Ms. Atkins delivered presentations and participated in numerous meetings with conference speakers, teachers, and leaders from the ECU Education Commission as well as the Continental Chess Association.

Prior to the Congress, Mr. Nash and Ms. Atkins spent two days outside Barcelona visiting school chess programs under the direction of Marta Amigo. These visits and the resulting meetings centered around how best to highlight these excellent programs and to make many of their classroom resources available on the EDU website.

The partnership of FIDE EDU and the Congress created positive public relations for FIDE with both the organizers and the participants. The partnership was cost effective for FIDE, saving significant funding while increasing visibility. In addition, FIDE and FIDE EDU gained important content for both websites.

II International Conference "Chess in Education" held in Astana, Kazakhstan

Held at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, and organized by the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, the two-day Chess in Education conference was by any definition a resounding success. More than 200 participants crowded the room to hear panel discussions, lectures, and participate in master classes.

First Vice-President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation Darmen Sadvakasov opened the conference with a welcome to participants. The first session, a panel discussion on the topic, Chess in Education as a Global Trend, featured Mr. Sadvakasov, Marta Amigo Vilalta, Second Vice-President of the Catalan Chess Federation, and Jerry Nash, Chairman of FIDE EDU.

The roundtable discussion was followed by a presentation by Vahan Sargsyan, Scientific Supervisor of the Chess Research Institute (CRI) on the topic “Experience of Armenia. The influence of chess knowledge on the 21st century competencies prerequisite for learning digitalization.” Jerry Nash delivered a presentation, “Chess and Critical Thinking (Using chess to develop and reinforce advanced thinking skills)” and then participated in another panel discussion of the benefits of chess in education. On the second day of the conference, he led a Master Class on “Chess and Literacy Skills.”

Rita Atkins, Secretary of FIDE Chess in Education Commission, delivered a presentation, “Online tools for chess in education” on the first day of the conference and then led a Master Class on the second day, “Integration of chess and math.”

Leontxo Garcia, Senior Advisor for FIDE EDU, spoke on “Chips, neurons and chess, a 250-year-old story” which also highlighted the educational benefits of chess. Ozgur Solakoglu, Chief Events Inspection Officer for FIDE, presented a case study of the Chess in Education Experience in Turkey. Marta Amigo’s “Case Study: Introduction to the educational chess project in Catalonia ‘Chess at school’” on day one was followed by a Master Class on day two, “Practical and comprehensive use of chess in the educational process.”

Our appreciation goes out to First Vice-President Darmen Sadvakasov for the invitation to participate and to continue our collaboration. Our thanks also goes to Adiyah Nurmanova and her team for an impressive job of logistics and event organization. In addition to the conference activities, the guest lecturers were treated to a school visit, a dining experience at a local restaurant that offers traditional Kazakh fare, a visit to the Hazret Sultan Mosque, and to the National Museum. To the rich cultural traditions that exist in Kazakhstan is now being added a new one – chess as an educational tool!

EDU Activities at the Olympiad

FIDE EDU is partnering with the Judit Polgar Foundation for their Global Chess Festival on September 17th and the 4th EDU Chess Summit that will be held on September 18th in Budapest, in Hotel Intercontinental, coinciding with the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad.

The conference, centered around the theme of inspiration, will feature presentations from several members of the FIDE Education Commission. Anzel Laubscher, our chief PoT and PoL course lecturer, will share her vision of making every child in Africa play chess by 2030. Dijana Dengler, the principal chess teacher at the Overseas Family School in Singapore, will offer tips for effective chess classroom management. FIDE EDU Chairman Jerry Nash will discuss building sustainable and scalable Chess in Education systems, while Rita Atkins, Secretary of FIDE EDU, will demonstrate how to use LogiqBoard for educational chess teaching in classrooms. Alla Khachatryan, our indispensable Course Administrator, will describe the evolution of school chess in Armenia and how to integrate chess into the national curriculum.

The EDU Commission meeting at the Olympiad is scheduled for September 19th. In addition to reports from Commission members, the meeting will feature a presentation from the Kazakhstan

Chess Federation regarding their national chess in schools initiative. FIDE School Award certificates will be presented at the conclusion of the Commission meeting. The FIDE 100 Educator Award will be presented at the Awards Dinner.

The EDU Commission Meeting agenda follows:

Welcome & Introductions (5 minutes)

EDU Vision – Jerry Nash

Chess in Education in Kazakhstan (45 minutes)

- Case study: systematic integration of chess into Kazakh schools

Commission Discussion (50 -60 minutes)

- EDU Booklet Introduction
- EDU Courses
- Delivery of PoT and PoL courses worldwide effectively.
- Certification of CIE courses (non-FIDE).
- Accreditation of FIDE EDU courses and certified CIE courses as Professional Development courses for teachers.

Audience Q&A (30-40 minutes)

FIDE School Award Presentations

Closing

Report Submitted By

Jerry Nash

Chairman, FIDE Chess in Education Commission

Rita Atkins

Secretary, FIDE Chess in Education Commission