



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

An Invitation to Present at the 70th Annual Fall Conference of the Council of the Great City Schools in Boston, MA.

We invite school districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to submit a proposal for a **10-minute presentation** on what's working for you to improve academic achievement for all students through efforts in one of the following areas in Urban Schools:

- **High Quality Curriculum, Instruction, and Research**
- **Mental Health/Social and Emotional Learning**
- **Professional Development**
- **Business and Operations Management**
- **Leadership and Governance**
- **Bilingual Education Programs**
- **Special Education Programs**
- **Communications/Public Relations**
- **Other Initiatives**

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION

It is our intent that the Annual Conference serves the membership by providing a forum for the presentation, consideration, and discussion of the needs of urban education. This year's discussion groups and concurrent breakout sessions will be arranged to facilitate the exchange of information around increasing academic achievement in urban schools.

We invite you to submit a proposal for presentation that addresses how programs, initiatives and/or practices in the areas of closing achievement gaps, professional development, finance, leadership, and bilingual and special education programming are aligned and related to making a difference in improving academic achievement for all students. We are especially interested in receiving proposals that provide clear, convincing data that the program/initiative is effective in raising achievement and closing gaps between students in core academic subjects, such as reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. You may submit more than one program for presentation.

The title and the 75-100 word description should summarize and accurately reflect the content of what you are proposing for the session. As you develop your proposal, think about real and concrete results, what your urban colleagues most want to know, and how your session can be interactive and engaging for conference attendees.

PRESENTER ELIGIBILITY

The Council considers school districts, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations eligible to present at the Annual Conference. School districts do not have to be Council members to submit proposals. **For-profit consultants and/or businesses are not eligible to present.** Proposals from for-profit consultants and/or businesses will not be considered. Proposals for district-led corporate presentations will not be considered.

Additionally, we ask that all proposals be approved by the appropriate district superintendent and/or college dean in order to be considered for presentation. Please be sure to check the appropriate box on the application form to confirm that the submitted proposal has been approved.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

The format for presentations is one of concurrent sessions. Each session will include a panel comprised of one or more presenters from different districts or colleges of education or partner organizations presenting on similar topics. All concurrent sessions will be held on **Thursday, October 22nd and Friday, October 23rd**. Each session will run for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. **Presenters are to limit formal presentations to approximately 10 minutes.** This will encourage discussion between the panelists and participants and maximize sharing of important ideas and information. All rooms will be arranged in conference-style to facilitate discussion. Presentation slides for all accepted proposals will be due by **Friday, September 4, 2026.**

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **April 3, 2026.** The receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail within a week of submission. All correspondence will be sent to the presenter(s) acknowledged in the submitted proposals. Accepted and declined proposals will be acknowledged via e-mail by **June 12, 2026.**

STRAND DESCRIPTIONS

Presentations should be designed to help participants:

- Become more knowledgeable about quality programs and practices that promote student achievement
- Develop a deeper understanding of the principles for effective teaching and learning for all students

Priority in selection will be given to proposals that provide clear and convincing data demonstrating that the program/initiative is effective in raising student achievement.

1. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Research**

This strand seeks proposals about research-based practices and tiered supports that impact teaching and learning across content areas, systemic levers that dismantle opportunity gaps and inequities, and demonstrate evidence of advancing academic performance for all learners.

2. **Social and Emotional Learning**

Proposals under this strand might address different approaches to addressing the mental health and social/emotional needs of students. Of particular interest are proposals addressing methods for evaluating the effectiveness of supports and their impact on student achievement.

3. **Professional Development**

Proposals submitted under this strand might address how different approaches to the recruitment, preparation, induction, and retention of qualified teachers, principals, and school site leaders have impacted student achievement. Of particular interest are proposals addressing methods for evaluating the effectiveness of professional development and individual teachers on student achievement.

4. **Business and Operations Management**

Proposals in this strand might address areas of finances to deal with federal, state, and local budget cuts, equitable distribution of funding, cost beneficial ways to allocate district resources to boost student achievement, and meeting special education costs. As well as operational areas (facilities, transportation, procurement, etc.) that address efficient operations and have financial impacts.

5. **Leadership and Governance**

Critical topics that proposals in this strand might address are the recruitment and preparation of personnel for leadership roles, expanding the capacity of building leadership, role of board members, community relationships, and models of effective urban governance and management systems.

6. **Bilingual Education Programming**

Proposals in this strand might include programs that successfully improve student achievement, especially for recent immigrants, older students and long-term ELLs, comprehensive assessment strategies, and the development of curriculum that impact ELL student achievement.

7. **Special Education Programming**

Proposals in this strand might include programs that successfully improve student achievement, especially for students with mental, emotional and physical disabilities, comprehensive assessment strategies, and the development of curriculum that impact special education student achievement.

8. **Communications/Public Relations**

Proposals in this strand should be relevant to improve district internal or external communications and should equip conferees with skills and information they can take back to their districts and utilize in their public relations/communication offices.

Please submit your proposal at
[2026 CGCS Call for Presentations](#)
by April 3, 2026