HOSTED BY **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Registration Brochure



Revolutionizing What's Possible in Urban Education

BOSTON Public Schools

1956 70 2026 YEARS

Council of the Great City Schools

Council of the Great City Schools
70th Annual Fall Conference

October 21–25, 2026
Boston, MA

Featured Reception Venues



New England Aquarium
Wednesday Welcome Reception



Museum of Science
Friday Night Reception



Seaport Elite
Saturday Night Reception

70th Annual Fall Conference

October 21 - October 25, 2026 • Boston, MA

WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2026

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Conference Registration
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Urban Schools Resource Room/Internet Cafe
9:00 am - 10:00 am	New Member & Newcomer's Orientation
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Committee on Leadership, Management, and Governance
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Committee on Urban Student Achievement
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Blue Ribbon Corporate Advisory Group Meeting (Members only)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Welcome Reception at New England Aquarium

** Committee meetings are open to all conference attendees and provide an opportunity for Council member districts to share feedback, discuss priorities, and help shape the Council's work.*

THURSDAY, October 22, 2026

7:00 am - 5:00 pm	Conference Registration
7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Urban Schools Resource Room/Internet Cafe
7:30 am - 9:00 am	General Session: Breakfast and Address from **VALERIE DAVIS CHAIR OF BOARD**
9:00 am - 12:15 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	General Session: Lunch and Speaker: **BLACK VIOLIN**
2:15 pm - 3:45 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting (Invitees only)
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception at Boston Marriott Copley Place
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Excellence in Urban Education Awards Ceremony featuring the National Urban Educator of the Year Green-Garner Award and a performance by Black Violin *(Semi Formal Evening Attire)*
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm	Karaoke Night at Boston Marriott Copley Place



Valerie Davis
CGCS Chair of the Board



Black Violin
Grammy-Nominated
Musical Duo

FRIDAY, October 23, 2026

7:00 am - 5:00 pm	Conference Registration
7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Urban Schools Resource Room/Internet Cafe
7:30 am - 9:00 am	General Session: Breakfast and Speaker: **DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN**
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	General Session: Lunch and Speaker: **JORGE RAMOS**
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	General Session: Town Hall Meeting
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Great City Colleges of Education General Meeting
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Reception at Museum of Science



Doris Kearns Goodwin
Presidential Historian,
Pulitzer Prize–winning Author



Jorge Ramos
Journalist and Best-Selling Author,
Former Anchor for Univision News

SATURDAY, October 24, 2026

8:00 am - 9:30 am	General Session: Breakfast
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting (Invitees only)
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Fall Conference Debriefing and Planning Lunch Meeting with Birmingham City School District (Invitees only)
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Farewell Party on the Seaport Elite

SUNDAY, October 25, 2026

8:00 am - 9:30 am	General Session G: Breakfast and Closing Session
9:30 am	ADJOURN

Who Should Attend?

- **Urban School Superintendents**
- **School Board Members**
- **Senior School District Administrators**
- **Deans of Colleges of Education**

The Council of the Great City Schools brings together the nation's largest urban public school systems in a coalition dedicated to the improvement of education for children in the inner cities. The Council and its 82 member school districts work to help our schoolchildren meet the highest standards and become successful and productive members of society.

What's Included in Your Registration?

- **Participation in the nation's premier conference on model programs and reforms that work in urban schools**
- **Keynote speakers**
- **Breakout sessions on urban school achievement, professional development, management and operations, leadership and governance, finance, special education, bilingual, immigrant and refugee issues, mental health and others**
- **All scheduled meals (breakfast, lunch, coffee service, reception/dinner)**
- **Resource area with member-district, non profit organizations and educational companies' material on what works in urban education**
- **Newly published Council reports**
- **Networking with the nation's leading urban school superintendents, school board members, cabinet level staff, research directors, legislative directors and others**
- **Awards banquet**
- **Transportation to and from off-site evening events**
- **Conference bag and gift items**

Council of the Great City School Member Districts

Albuquerque, Anchorage, Arlington (Texas), Atlanta, Aurora (Colorado), Austin, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport, Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale), Buffalo, Charleston, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Chicago, Cincinnati, Clark County (Las Vegas), Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Dayton, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Durham, Duval County (Jacksonville), East Baton Rouge, El Paso, Fayette County (Lexington), Fort Worth, Fresno, Guilford County (Greensboro, N.C.), Hawaii, Hillsborough County (Tampa), Houston, Indianapolis, Jackson, Jefferson County (Louisville), Jersey City, Kansas City, Little Rock, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Madison (Wisconsin), Miami-Dade County, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Newark, Norfolk, Oakland, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orange County (Orlando), Palm Beach County, Philadelphia, Phoenix Union High School District, Pinellas County, Pittsburgh, Portland, Providence, Puerto Rico, Richmond, Rochester, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Ana, Seattle, Shelby County (Memphis), St. Louis, St. Paul, Toledo, Tulsa, Wake County, Washington, D.C., Washoe County (Reno), Wichita, and Winston Salem/Forsyth County

CLICK HERE to register online

MEMBERS
WAIVED Superintendent/Board Representative (no proxies)
$450 for Council School District member (see list of members)
$450 for Council College of Education member
$150 additional late fee (registering after October 9, 2026)

COMPANIES
WAIVED Pre-designated Sponsor(s) (See sponsorship form)
$1,000 for Additional Attendee from Sponsor
$150 additional late fee (for registrations received after October 9, 2026)

OTHERS
$550 for Non-member school districts/colleges of education
$550 for Non-member Superintendents
$525 for Non-profit Organizations
$200 for Spouse to attend Evening Events only
$150 additional late fee (registering after October 9, 2026)

** All companies must sponsor the conference to attend. Additionally, all non-profit organizations with an annual revenue of $20 million or more must also sponsor the conference. To attend, see sponsorship brochure for more details.

PAYMENT METHOD
You may pay using a purchase order #, check or American Express, Discover, Mastercard or Visa.
Make check payable to:
Council of the Great City Schools
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1100N

REGISTRATION FEES
Pre-registration Refund and Cancellation Policy: Refund requests, cancellations or substitutions must be made in writing. Submit request via email to Gregory Bacon at: gbacon@cgcs.org or Alexis Vann at: avann@cgcs.org. A full refund will be given for cancellations received on or before October 9, 2026, and a 50% refund if requested between October 9 - October 16, 2026. **No refunds will be processed if requested after October 16, 2026**. Purchase orders will not be accepted for on-site registrations. **An additional $250 fee will be assessed for registrations processed on-site.**

Register before October 9th to ensure conference materials are prepared for you. This will also guarantee your name is included in the conference participant's list.

Fee is waived for Superintendents and official Council School Board Representatives only (No proxies)

HOTEL INFORMATION

The headquarters hotel for the conference is the:

Boston Marriott Copley Place
110 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02116

All attendees must make their own hotel reservations!!!



All reservations must be made online, via this link: https://book.passkey.com/e/51092428

Room rates are **$339 per night for single and double occupancy, plus 14.95% tax and 1.5% OCC Tax.**

The cut-off date for the room block is **Wednesday, September 30, 2026.**

Cancellation Policy: The advanced deposit of two nights & tax is fully refundable only until **Monday, August 31, 2026**. Beginning on **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, NO REFUNDS** will be given. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and Check-out time is 12:00 noon.