



69TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 22-26, 2025
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

WE ARE **Public Education**

Defining the Future.



REGISTRATION
BROCHURE

Featured Reception Venues



Barnes Foundation
Wednesday Welcome Reception



National Constitution Center
Friday Night Reception



NBC Sports Arena
Saturday Night Reception



69th Annual Fall Conference

October 22 - October 26, 2025 • Philadelphia, PA



WEDNESDAY, October 22, 2025

- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Fall 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 CGCS Task Force Meetings (**All Conferees are welcome to attend**)
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Buffet Lunch
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm CGCS Task Force Meetings (**All Conferees are welcome to attend**)
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Blue Ribbon Corporate Advisory Group Meeting (Members only)
- 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Welcome Reception at Barnes Foundation

THURSDAY, October 23, 2025

- 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 A: Breakfast and Address from **SONJA BROOKINS SANTELISES CHAIR OF BOARD**
- 9:00 am - 12:15 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm General Session B: Lunch and Speaker: **GIANCARLO ESPOSITO**
- 2:15 pm - 3:45 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Cocktail Reception at Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Excellence in Urban Education Awards Ceremony featuring the National Urban Educator of the Year Green-Garner Award (*Semi Formal Evening Attire*)
- 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm Karaoke Night at Philadelphia Marriott Downtown



Sonja Brookins Santelises
CGCS Chair of the Board



GIANCARLO ESPOSITO
Award-Winning Actor and Director;
Arts & Education Advocate

FRIDAY, October 24, 2025

7:00 am - 5:00 pm
7:30 am - 4:00 pm
7:30 am - 9:00 am
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Conference Registration
Urban Schools Resource Room/Internet Cafe
General Session C: Breakfast and Speaker: **MICHAEL SMERCONISH**
CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON BEST PRACTICES
General Session D: Lunch and Speaker: **ANA NAVARRO**
General Session E: Town Hall Meeting
Great City Colleges of Education General Meeting
Reception at National Constitution Center



MICHAEL SMERCONISH
Host of *The Michael Smerconish Program*
on *SiriusXM*, Host of CNN's
Smerconish and Contributor



ANA NAVARRO
GOP Strategist and Political Contributor
to CNN, Telemundo; Co-Host of
ABC's *The View*

SATURDAY, October 25, 2025

8:00 am - 9:30 am
8:30 am - 12:00 pm
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

General Session F: Breakfast
Board of Directors Meeting
Fall Conference Debriefing and Planning Lunch Meeting
with Boston Public Schools
Farewell Party at NBC Sports Arena

SUNDAY, October 26, 2025

8:00 am - 9:30 am
9:30 am

General Session G: Breakfast and Closing Session
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 81 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, Washington, D.C., Washoe County (Reno), Wichita, and Winston Salem/Forsyth County

[CLICK HERE](#) to register online

MEMBERS

WAIVED Superintendent/Board Representative (no proxies)
\$425 for Council School District member (see list of members)
\$425 for Council College of Education member
\$150 additional late fee (registering after October 10, 2025)

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 10, 2025)

OTHERS

\$525 for Non-member school districts/colleges of education
\$525 for Non-member Superintendents
\$200 for Spouse to attend Evening Events only
\$150 additional late fee (registering after October 10, 2025)

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
Washington, DC 20004

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 10, 2025, and a 50% refund if requested between October 10 - October 17, 2025. **No refunds will be processed if requested after October 17th.** 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 10th 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:

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

1201 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

All attendees must make their own hotel reservations!!!



All reservations must be made online, via this link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/CGC-SANNUALFALLCONFERENCE2025>

Room rates are **\$269 per night for single and double occupancy, plus 16.37% tax.**

The cut-off date for the room block is **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

Cancellation Policy: The advanced deposit of two nights & tax is fully refundable only until **Wednesday, August 20, 2025.** Beginning on **Thursday, August 21, 2025, NO REFUNDS** will be given. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.