

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS 2025 Conference Schedule

Executive Committee Meeting

Hyatt Place West Palm Beach/Downtown, West Palm Beach, FL
January 24 & 25, 2025

Chief Human Resource Officers (CHRO) Meeting

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
February 3-7, 2025

Legislative/Policy Conference

Mayflower Hotel Autograph Collection, Washington, DC
March 21-25, 2025

Chief Operating Officers Conference

Charlotte Marriott City Center, Charlotte, NC
April 7-12, 2025

Bilingual Directors Meeting

Hilton Baltimore Inn Harbor, Baltimore, MD
May 12-17, 2025

Chief Information Officers Conference

Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago, Chicago, IL
June 10-13, 2025

Curriculum, Research and Instructional Leaders Meeting

Westin Book Cadillac Detroit, Detroit, MI
July 8-11, 2025

Public Relations Executives Meeting

Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
July 18-20, 2025

Executive Committee Meeting

DoubleTree by Hilton Newark Penn Station, Newark, NJ
July 18 & 19, 2025

Annual Fall Conference

Sheraton Philadelphia Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
October 22-26, 2025

Chief Financial Officers Conference

Grandover Resort, a Wyndham Grand Hotel, Greensboro, NC
November 10-15, 2025

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS 2026 Conference Schedule

Executive Committee Meeting

San Diego, CA
January 2026

Chief Human Resource Officers (CHRO) Meeting

Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
February 3-6, 2026

Legislative/Policy Conference

Mayflower Hotel Autograph Collection, Washington, DC
March 14-17, 2026

Chief Operating Officers Conference

TBD
April 2026

Bilingual Directors Meeting

TBD
May, 2026

Chief Information Officers Conference

TBD
June, 2026

Curriculum, Research and Instructional Leaders Meeting

TBD
July, 2026

Public Relations Executives Meeting

TBD
July, 2026

Executive Committee Meeting

Anchorage, AK
July, 2026

Annual Fall Conference

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA
October 21-25, 2026

Chief Financial Officers Conference

TBD
November, 2026

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMER
2025**

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
Summer Meeting of the Executive Committee
July 18 & 19, 2025

CONFERENCE HOTEL:

Doubletree Newark Penn Station
1048 Raymond Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
Tel: (973) 622-5000

GROUP RATE: \$174/night for Single and Double Occupancy
Plus 8.2% tax

The Doubletree Newark Penn Station is walking distance to Prudential Center Arena, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Red Bull Arena, and Newark Museum, as well as Newark's famed Ironbound Section and its Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian restaurants. The hotel is also connected to Newark's renowned Gateway Center, a large commercial center with businesses, shops and restaurants.



FALL CONFERENCE 2025

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

69th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

**Hosted by
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia, PA**

OCTOBER 22-27, 2025

CONFERENCE HOTEL:

Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown
201 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

GROUP RATE: \$244/night for Single and Double Occupancy, Plus 16.37% tax

Begin your Philly adventure at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Part of Downtown Philadelphia's prestigious Logan Square neighborhood, this hotel is walking distance from the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Love Park and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Venture a bit further to reach Citizens Bank Park, Temple University and historic sites like Liberty Bell and Franklin Square. Surrounded by subway and bus stops, and under a mile from 30th Street Station, our central location makes it easy to explore the city.

As guests, take advantage of the hotel's state-of-art fitness center and free Wi-Fi. Discover new culinary favorites every day at the two hotel restaurants. During your stay, feel at home in a light-filled room or suite with refined décor, a mini fridge, flat-screen TV with premium cable and views of Benjamin Franklin Parkway.



FALL CONFERENCE 2026

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

70th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

**Hosted by
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Boston, MA**

OCTOBER 21-25, 2026

CONFERENCE HOTEL:

Boston Marriott Copley Place
Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02116

GROUP RATE: \$339/night for Single and Double Occupancy, Plus 16.45% tax

This upscale hotel in the Back Bay neighborhood is a 22-minute walk from both Fenway Park and historic Boston Common, and just four miles from the airport. The hotel is connected to two large shopping malls, and Back Bay's designer boutiques, art galleries and patio cafes are walking distance.

The relaxed rooms have flat-screen TVs, Wi-Fi (fee) and desks, as well as minifridges and coffeemakers. Some rooms provide access to a lounge offering free continental breakfast and evening appetizers. Suites add separate living areas.

There's a lively sports bar with wall-to-wall TVs, along with a laid-back lounge offering casual American fare. Other amenities include a spa, an indoor pool and a fitness center, plus 45 meeting rooms and a business center.





CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

January 15, 2020

Michael Casserly
Executive Director
Council of Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 702
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Michael:

The Boston Public Schools and the City of Boston would enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to serve as the host city and school district for the 2024 annual conference of the Council of Great City Schools.

As the home of the nation's first public school district, Boston and the Boston Public Schools offer a rich history of change and progress over time. With a freshly developed strategic plan, unprecedented new education investments from Mayor Walsh and passage of the Student Opportunity Act, Massachusetts' historic new funding and accountability law, Boston Public Schools are poised to make significant progress to ensure all of our students have access to high quality schools and an excellent education that prepares them for success in college, career and life.

From the walkable, history-rich streets of downtown Boston to the booming tech industry, Boston provides a unique opportunity to experience the old and new together. This summer, Boston will serve as the host city for the NAACP's 2020 convention, an event that is estimated to attract 10,000 attendees. The event's planners selected us as the host city not only because of the impactful history of being home to the NAACP's oldest branch, but because of Boston's international reputation as a visitor destination, its rich historical significance, and recent innovations that make our city even more welcoming to visitors.

Hosting the 2024 annual conference in Boston would be an honor. We are confident that the Boston Public Schools and our entire community will make the event a memorable and meaningful experience for conference attendees.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about our candidacy. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

Michael Loconto
School Committee Chair

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent



**GREATER BOSTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

January 13, 2020

Michael Casserly
Executive Director
Council of Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 702
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, I want to express how honored we would be to once again host the Council of Great City Schools Annual Conference in the fall of 2024. When we last hosted this event, in 2011, the meeting enjoyed record-breaking attendance. We would be thrilled to welcome the Conference back to Boston during a period when we will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, and the catalytic events in Boston that ushered in the Revolutionary Era. Educational programming is at the core of how we will mark these important anniversaries.

The fall in Boston is simply spectacular. Our historic parks and urban green spaces pop in myriad hues as our famous foliage takes over the city. Our history and heritage invite exploration, our diverse neighborhoods offer vibrant culture and delicious restaurants, our sports and performing arts calendars begin to heat up, and our iconic museums introduce exciting new exhibitions.

Boston is a walking city where visitors can bask in 4 centuries of history while easily strolling from neighborhood to neighborhood. And Boston is still making history. We are a city of innovation, where institutions of higher education interact with world-class research hospitals, start-up incubators, and life sciences clusters to drive an ecosystem of collaboration and discovery. This buzz of innovation, and these guideposts of the future, are most palpable in Boston's emerging Seaport District, where fun nightlife, great restaurants, and eclectic art galleries exist alongside engines of economic development.

We hope that you will consider returning to Boston for the 2024 Annual Conference of the Council of Great City Schools. We take very seriously our role in this nation's past and future, and education plays a central role in that story. We are very excited about this possibility and look forward to hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at msheridan@bostonusa.com with any additional questions or follow-up information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha J. Sheridan", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Martha J. Sheridan
President & CEO
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

FALL CONFERENCE 2027



DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Superintendent
Every Learner Thrives

January 21, 2025

Ray Hart
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 702
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Hart,

I am writing to formally request that Denver Public Schools (DPS) be considered as the host district for the Council of the Great City Schools' (CGCS) Annual Conference in 2027-2028. This proposal represents our district's unwavering commitment to educational excellence and innovation, aligned with the values that CGCS embodies.

Under my leadership as Superintendent, DPS has embraced a transformative vision, focusing on academic achievement, community engagement, and systemic educational equity. Our city, known for its cultural richness and breathtaking landscapes, would serve as a perfect backdrop for this prestigious gathering of urban education leaders. Denver has proven to be a hub of progress, with state-of-the-art facilities, accessible accommodations, and a vibrant blend of experiences that reflect the diversity of CGCS member districts.

Over the past four years, DPS has demonstrated significant achievements in student outcomes, including reaching historic highs in graduation rates and closing achievement gaps among marginalized groups. We have launched innovative initiatives like the Seal of Biliteracy program, our International Educators Institute, and Community Hubs that integrate comprehensive family support into our educational framework. These accomplishments have established DPS as a model of forward-thinking urban education.

Denver's strategic central location and our district's ability to host large-scale events make us uniquely suited to accommodate and inspire CGCS attendees. With the enthusiastic support of our city leaders, including Mayor Michael Johnston, we are prepared to ensure a seamless and enriching experience for all participants.

Hosting the CGCS Annual Conference in Denver would not only spotlight the incredible work happening within our schools but also provide an opportunity to share best practices and inspire transformative dialogue among districts nationwide. We aim to make the 2027-2028 conference a landmark event that embodies the resilience and innovation that characterize urban education.

Thank you for considering Denver as the host city for this significant occasion. We are eager to showcase the collective efforts of our educators, students, and community to advance the mission of the Council of the Great City Schools.

In Collaboration,

Dr. Alex Marrero
Superintendent
Denver Public Schools

Dr. Carrie A. Olson
Board of Education President
Denver Public Schools

January 22, 2025

Ray Hart
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 702
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Hart,

As Mayor of the City and County of Denver, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Denver Public Schools' bid to host the 2027-2028 Council of Great City Schools National Conference. I am confident that our vibrant city would serve as an ideal setting for this prestigious event, providing an exceptional experience for all participants.

Denver is a city that prides itself on its commitment to education, innovation, and diversity. With a strong emphasis on fostering collaborative learning environments, our community has consistently demonstrated a dedication to the success and well-being of our students. Hosting the Council of Great City Schools National Conference aligns with our city's values and aspirations for educational excellence.

The conference would benefit greatly from Denver's state-of-the-art facilities, world-class accommodations, and a plethora of cultural and recreational attractions. Our city's unique blend of urban sophistication and natural beauty offers attendees an unparalleled experience that goes beyond the conference walls. From our thriving arts and cultural scene to our picturesque outdoor spaces, Denver provides a rich tapestry of opportunities for networking, learning, and inspiration.

Moreover, Denver Public Schools has a track record of innovation and achievement, making it an exemplary host for an event of this magnitude. The district's commitment to educational equity, community engagement, and student success aligns with the values of the Council of Great City Schools.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Denver Public Schools' bid to host the 2027-2028 Council of Great City Schools National Conference. Denver is ready to welcome your members and we are excited about the opportunity to showcase our city's educational initiatives and accomplishments.

Thank you for considering Denver as the host city for this prestigious event. I look forward to the possibility of welcoming you and the Council of Great City Schools to our beautiful city in 2027-2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being more prominent and the last name "Johnston" written in a more compact, flowing style.

Mike Johnston
Mayor