Urban school students have endured a challenging year dealing with a global pandemic but they have demonstrated resilience and perseverance time and again. The students featured here - recent graduates in the Class of 2021 - have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds and have reached the stratosphere of academic excellence.
Mitigating the Effects of Poverty

Students in the nation’s urban schools are about 50 percent more likely to be poor, twice as likely to be English learners, twice as likely to be Black or Hispanic, and about 50 percent more likely to have a parent who did not finish high school as students in all other schools.

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New Blueprint to Help Urban School Districts Spend COVID-19 Relief Funds

With the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, the 77 member school districts that represent the Council of the Great City Schools are expected to receive more than $40 billion in supplemental funding, as part of the $122.8 billion funds provided under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

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New Leaders in Houston, Denver and Toronto

The Houston, Denver and Toronto school systems have new superintendents, while other districts have begun searches to fill vacancies at the top.

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Nation’s Big-City Public Schools Ramp Up Efforts to Vaccinate Students

When the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was authorized for children ages 16 and older in December and then approved for use in 12-to-15-year-olds last month, urban school districts around the nation began taking a number of proactive measures to vaccinate students and contain the spread of the virus.

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New Leadership at Council Begins

The Council of the Great City Schools will head into the 2021-2022 school year under new leadership.

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Dallas Urban Educator of the Year Awards $10,000 Green-Garner Scholarship

Kamila Vargas, a 2021 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, has been awarded the $10,000 Green-Garner Scholarship, based on her high academic performance and strong character.

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Legislative Column

Finding a Legislative Path Forward

After the swift enactment of the American Rescue Plan in early March, the Biden administration proposed a series of legislative priorities including the American Jobs Plan for national infrastructure, the American Families Plan for human infrastructure, and an annual federal budget that accelerates investments in meeting critical domestic needs.

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Read more stories here

Four Urban Students Win CGCS-Bernard Harris Scholarships in Math and Science | Council Names New Research Director | Bond for Tulsa Public Schools Passes | First Alaskan and Indigenous Student to Receive Princeton Prize in Race Relations | Buffalo Public Schools Receives 1619 Project-Pulitzer Education Center Grant | Los Angeles Partners with Music
Upcoming Events

65th Annual Fall Conference

The Council of the Great City Schools is holding its 65th Annual Fall Conference in Philadelphia.

When:
October 20 - October 24, 2021

Where:
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown
201 N 17th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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A newsletter published by the Council of the Great City Schools, representing 75 of the nation’s largest urban public school districts. Click here to learn more. All news items should be submitted to Tonya Harris (tharris@cgcs.org).