

# Introduction to Chess in Education



What skills do students need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

Analysis? Planning? Adapting? Perseverance?  
Problem-solving?

What tools do teachers need to help students acquire these skills? Teachers around the world are learning how chess can be the ideal activity that engages and equips students for success.

**Duration:** One Day

**Target Audience:** Classroom Teachers and Administrators

- considering chess in the classroom programs, or
- looking to increase the educational benefits of current programs

**Prerequisites:** None. No chess experience needed.

## **Course Description:**

Discover how chess connects to any area of the curriculum allowing teachers to engage student interest, differentiate for complexity, and encourage critical thinking in and beyond the classroom. Educators will participate in a hands-on experience designed to introduce the game of chess and demonstrate classroom connections. Administrators will learn about the variety of Chess in Education approaches being practiced nationally and internationally, their strengths and weaknesses, and what recent research and education theory have to say about what works well and what does not.

Participants will:

- Receive an introduction to chess.
- Relate the game to critical thinking and life skills.
- Discover ways to differentiate for varying skill levels.
- Gain insight into how to use chess to teach literacy, math, critical thinking, and life skills.

- Understand the varieties of Chess in Education programs along with their strengths and weaknesses.
- Learn about recent Chess in Education research and to what extent it confirms (or not) the commonly cited benefits of chess.

**Instructor: Jerry Nash** (pictured center)

Jerry Nash serves as a National Chess in Education Consultant. He is the architect and teacher training leader for the Alabama State Chess in Schools (ACIS) statewide initiative which began in 2014.

A former classroom teacher at both the high school and university levels, Nash understands the challenges of the classroom and offers a fun and engaging path for educators to learn the game of chess and link it to academic and life skills.

He consults regularly with individuals and organizations nationally and internationally and leads teacher training events across the nation. He is a frequent presenter at education conferences where he links chess skills to education standards. He was recognized by the University of Texas at Dallas as its 2015 Chess Educator of the Year.



Nash holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and French from The University of Tennessee at Martin. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in English from Tennessee Technological University.

**Cost**

- **on-site for your organization:** \$1,250 + travel expense
- **per person; scheduled offerings:** See our course catalog at [chessinschools.us/register](http://chessinschools.us/register).

**Legend**



**Focus:** Developing student proficiency in chess

**Educational Premise:** Student develops important thinking skills (executive functions) by simply learning and playing chess.



**Focus:** Teach Chess and Chess Variants taught using a SMART methodology that is based on educational research and proven best practices. Priority is given to aspects of chess that develop executive functions and promote far transfer learning.

**Educational Premise:** The selective use of chess training by teachers focused on developing executive functions and critical thinking engages more students and yields greater educational benefits (than standard chess training).



**Focus:** Same as  plus connections to classroom curriculum.

Teachers draw connections to curriculum while teaching chess.  
Teachers utilize chess examples while teaching to curriculum.

**Educational Premise:** Connecting chess to the classroom yields the greatest benefit.