

Brownsville Independent School District

Board Meeting
September 1, 2026



BISD Chess **PROGRAM**

Dr. Timothy Cuff
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Alma Cardenas-Rubio
Assistant Superintendent

Presented By:
Mrs. Julie A. Salinas, Director
Mrs. Irma De Leon, Co-Curricular Lead Teacher



Chess Program

The Brownsville Independent School District's chess program has a history of success, since the early 1990's. The district hosts approximately 10 local chess tournaments annually, attracting players of all ages and skill levels from across the region.

Over 35 BISD schools actively participate in chess competitions, with more than 800 students from kindergarten through 12th grade competing in various tournaments throughout the year.



Board Member Request



Action Item

To have The State Qualifying Chess Tournament in house, that will determine which chess teams and individual students placing 1st, 2nd & 3rd will be funded by BISD to compete at The State Chess Tournament and The National Chess Tournament.

Current Practice

Currently, campuses fund Regional or State Championship through district-allocated funds, booster clubs, and fundraising. Funding is provided for the top three BISD teams placing 1st – 5th and individual participants placing 1st – 8th, in accordance with Board approval on April 1, 2025.

Implications

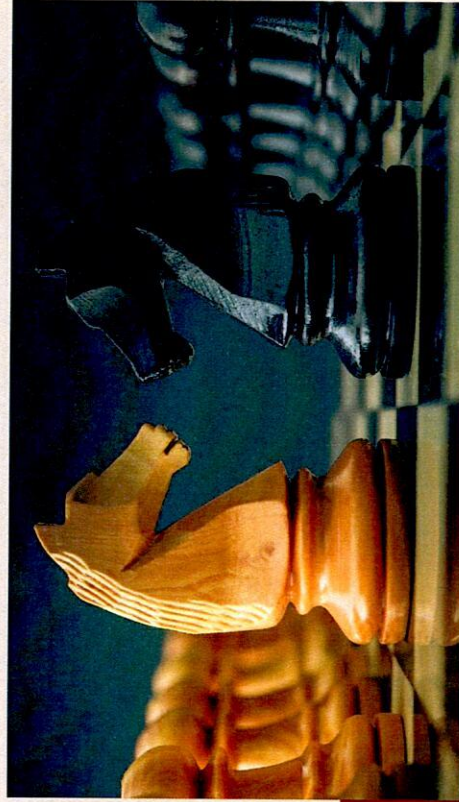
If BISD selects one of its district tournaments as a qualifying tournament, the event would need to be expanded to a two-day competition. This would result in increased costs for trophies, tournament operations, and related fees. Additionally, participation would be limited to Brownsville ISD schools.

If the District elects to fund qualifying students and teams from a BISD qualifying tournament to attend the State Competition, the estimated additional cost would be approximately \$310,000.



Chess Qualifications

Board Approved Modifications April 1, 2025



Team Participation

Teams that participate at the Chess Regional and State Championship, and the All-Girls Regional and All-Girls State Championship have the opportunity to advance to the Chess National Championship.



Qualifications

The Top 3 BISD schools in the top five places qualify to receive BISD funding for the Chess National Championship.



Additional Qualification

Any individual participant placing in the top eight places qualify to receive BISD funding for the Chess National Championship.



BISD Sponsored Tournaments



Chess is a Brownsville ISD co-curricular program that enhances the academic performance of our students. Chess improves critical and creative thinking, problem solving, self-confidence, discipline, and risk-taking skills.



2026 • 2027

BISD CHESS TOURNAMENTS

September 12, 2026 - Pullam Elem.
September 26, 2026 – Manzano MS
October 17, 2026 – Paredes Elem.
October 31, 2026 – Brite Elem.
December 12, 2026 – Stillman MS
January 16, 2027 – Veterans ECHS
February 20, 2027 – Vela MS
March 6, 2027 – Rivera ECHS
April 17, 2027 – Russell Elem.

For more information, please visit the [Advanced Academic Website](#) or call (956) 548-8291.
updated 8/13/2026



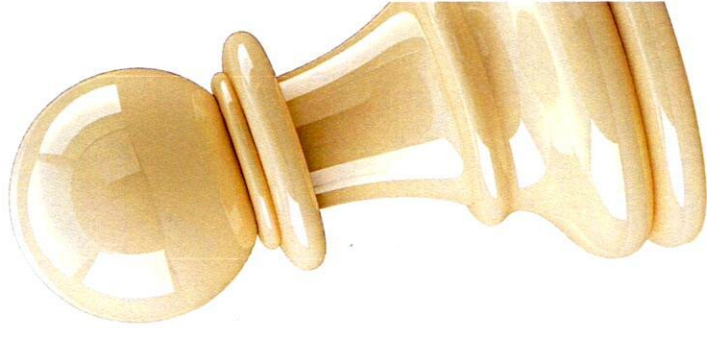
2026-2027 Executive Committee Handbook Update Recommendations

Schools requesting to host a tournament must participate in at least 5 tournaments, with a minimum of 8 participating students per tournament.

**No Ties:
In the Final Results, Teams and Individuals are already listed based on points and tiebreakers.**

Qualifications to advance to a National Championship is limited to a Regional Tournament due to time constraints.

Allow the top BISD Individual Student placing in either first, second, or third in Junior Varsity (JV) for each division at a Regional Tournament to be eligible to advance to the National Championship.



2026-2027 Executive Committee Update Recommendations

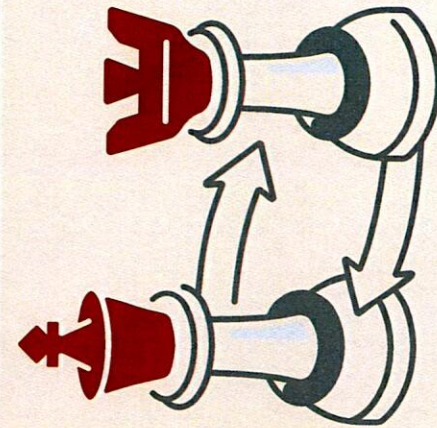
Qualifications: Top 3 BISD teams in the top 5 places, any individual participant in the top eight, and Top Individual in 1st -3rd place in Junior Varsity (each division) to advance to Nationals.

Regionals

Secondary: January 24 – 25, 2027
(TBD)
Elementary: February 6 – 7, 2027
(Brownsville, Texas)

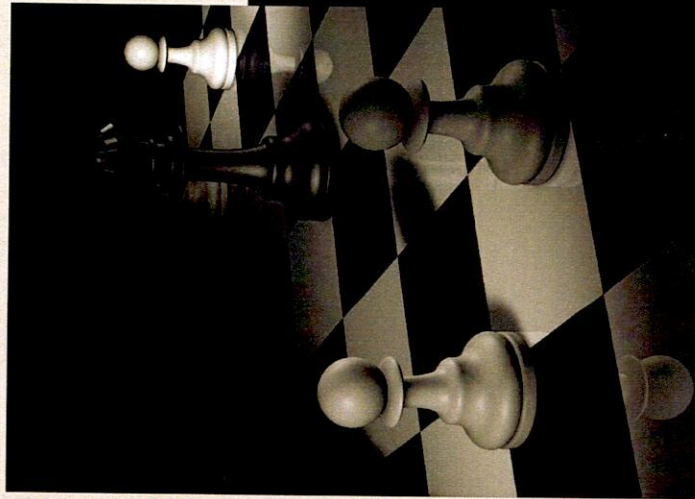
State Championship

All Levels: March 20 – 21, 2027
(Corpus Christi, Texas)



National Championships

High School: April 2-4, 2027 (Schaumburg, Illinois)
Elementary: April 30-May 2, 2027 (Columbus, Ohio)
Middle School: May 14-16, 2027 (Round Rock, Texas)
All-Girls National Championship: April 9-11, 2027 (Chicago, Illinois)

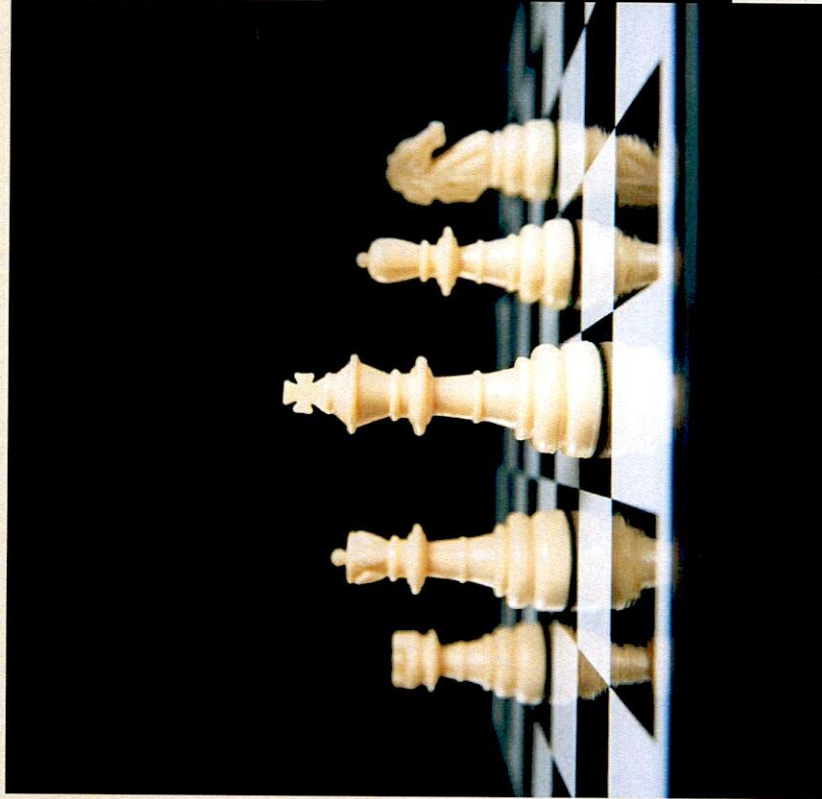


2025-2026 Campus Chess Expenditures

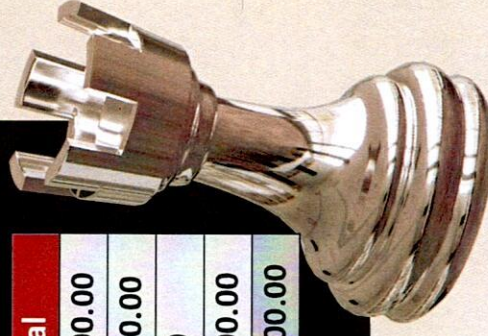
Expenditures	# of Coaches / Campuses	Total
Coaches Stipends	52	\$49,600.00
Campus Allocated Funds	36	\$73,000.00
Total:		\$122,600.00



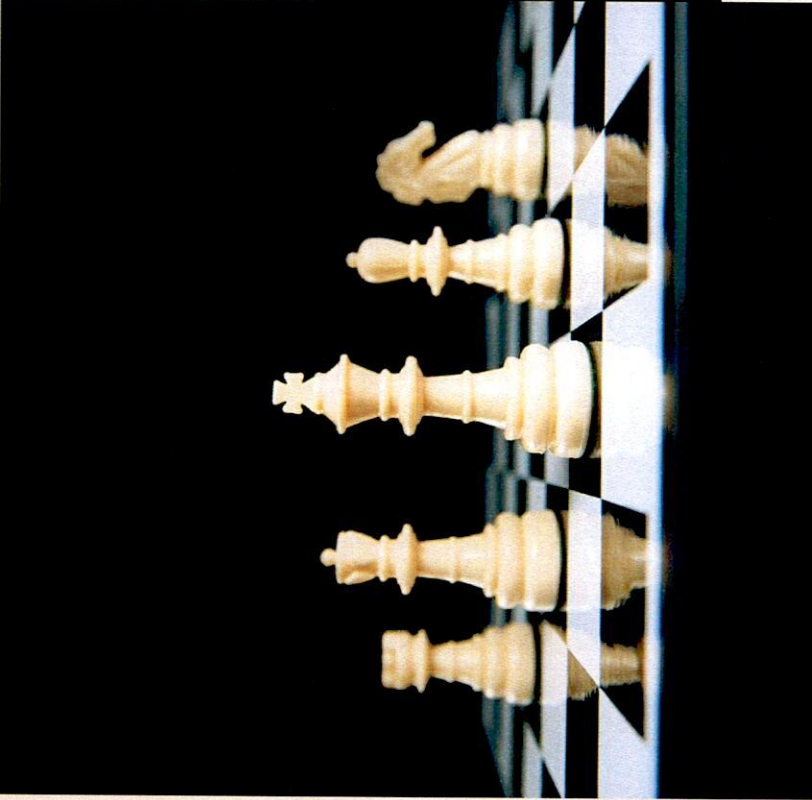
2025-2026 Campus Chess State Expenditures



Teams	# of Students	Total
Elementary	70	\$70,000.00
Middle School	35	\$35,000.00
High School	0	\$0
All-Girls	111	\$10,000.00
Total:	216	\$115,000.00

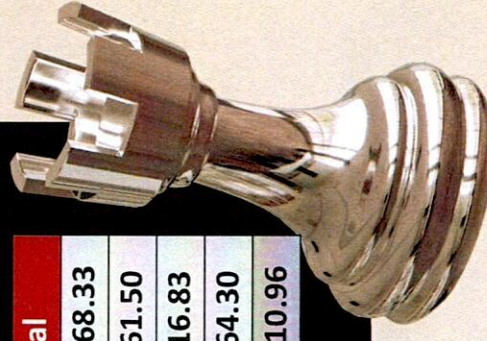


Estimated fees and meal costs are based on the teams that attended last year through campus funding, booster clubs, and fundraising efforts.



2025-2026 BISD Chess Nationals Expenditures

Teams	# of Students	Total
Elementary	89	\$159,268.33
Middle School	27	\$31,461.50
High School	26	\$44,516.83
All-Girls	56	\$93,764.30
Total:	168	\$329,010.96



2025-2026 Chess Expenditures

Elementary National Championship – 32 Students Placed In Top 20

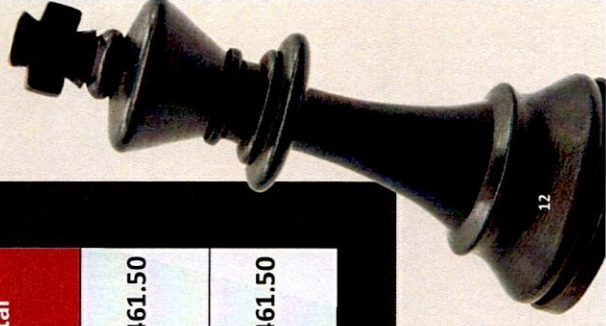
Elementary Sections Teams and Individuals	# Students	# Sponsors	# Admins	Entry Fees	Airfare	Shuttle	Lodging	Meals	Total
K-1 Section	29	4		\$3,045.00	\$23,106.51	\$850.00	\$14,303.80	\$11,002.50	\$52,307.81
Primary Section 2 nd _3 rd	29	3		\$3,045.00	\$21,001.22	\$800.00	\$15,142.20	\$10,206.00	\$50,194.42
Elementary Section 4 th _5 th	31	3	4	\$3,255.00	\$24,712.75	\$925.00	\$15,986.60	\$11,886.75	\$56,766.10
Total:	89	10	4	\$9,345.00	\$68,820.48	\$2,575.00	\$45,432.60	\$33,095.25	\$159,268.33



2025-2026 Chess Expenditures

Middle School National Championship

Middle School Teams and Individuals	# Students	# Sponsors	# Admins	Entry Fees	Airfare	Shuttle	Lodging	Meals	Total
3 Schools	27	3	3	\$2,835.00	\$7,500.00	N/A	\$12,860.00	\$8,266.50	\$31,461.50
Total:	27	3	3	\$2,835.00	\$7,500.00	N/A	\$12,860.00	\$8,266.50	\$31,461.50



2025-2026 Chess Expenditures

High School National Championship – 17 Students Placed In Top 20

High School Teams and Individuals	# Students	# Sponsors	# Admins	Entry Fees	Airfare	Shuttle	Lodging	Meals	Total
3 Schools	26	3	2	\$3,120.00	\$20,478.28	\$775.00	\$10,029.80	\$10,113.50	\$44,516.83
Total:	26	3	2	\$3,120.00	\$20,478.28	\$775.00	\$10,029.80	\$10,113.50	\$44,516.83



2025-2026 Chess Expenditures

All-Girls National Championship – 42 Students Placed In Top 20

All-Girls Teams and Individuals	# Students	# Sponsors	# Admins	Entry Fees	Airfare	Shuttle	Lodging	Meals	Total
9 Schools	56	10	4	\$5,600.00	\$31,134.04	\$1,750.00	\$31,131.76	\$24,148.50	\$93,764.30
Total:	56	10	4	\$5,600.00	\$31,134.04	\$1,750.00	\$31,131.76	\$24,148.50	\$93,764.30



Thank You!

**Chess is more than a game—it
is a powerful tool for learning**



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