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## Hundreds of CPS High School Students to Compete in City Championship Debate Tournament

Chicago Debates is wrapping its 2020-2021 high school debate season with its virtual City Championship Tournament this weekend, Friday, April 9 through Sunday, April 11. The City Championship is the culminating event of the season and will bring together nearly 200 high school students from 26 Chicago Public Schools, all vying for the title of 2021 High School Debate Champion. In teams of two, students will debate the topic of Criminal Justice Reform: *The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following areas: forensic science, policing, sentencing.*

Chicago Debates quickly pivoted to virtually deliver debate programming when school was shut-down over a year ago due to COVID-19. Within the last school year, nearly 1000 students have participated in 45 tournaments hosted by Chicago Debates. *"As we culminate this unprecedented year, the entire Chicago Debates community is proud of the innovative solutions implemented by our staff in partnership with teachers, coaches, debaters, and administrators at Chicago Public Schools. The High School City Championship welcomes students from all sides of the City of Chicago to respectfully engage in civil discourse,"* said Director of Programs Anthony Bolden. *"We are proud of each of our students for their tireless commitment and embrace of this new reality. Our debaters continue to illustrate the trajectory shifting benefits of debate through their continued success academically, personally, and professionally."*

Schools competing this weekend include:

Amundsen High School  
Brooks College Prep  
Chicago H.S. for Agricultural Sciences  
Chicago Military Academy Bronzeville  
Goode STEM Academy  
Hancock College Prep  
Hubbard High School  
Jones College Prep  
Kenwood Academy

Lake View High School  
Lane Tech College Prep  
Lincoln Park High School  
Lindblom Math and Science Academy  
Little Village Lawndale High School  
Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School  
Senn High School  
Northside College Prep  
Phoenix Military Academy

Pritzker College Prep  
Solorio Academy High School  
South Shore International College Prep  
Thomas Kelly High School  
Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center  
Walter Payton College Prep  
Whitney Young High School  
Taft High School

The Championship will recognize the 2021 Debater of the Year, Coach of the Year and Chicago Debates Alum of the Year during Saturday's award ceremony, along with remarks from Chicago Debates Executive Director Dr. Toinette Gunn and Chicago Public Schools Chief of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Sherly Chavarria. You can support Chicago Debates by making a donation at [ChicagoDebates.org/donate](https://ChicagoDebates.org/donate) or by texting **CHIDEBATES** to **243725**.

*About Chicago Debates: Chicago Debates is bridging the opportunity gap for Chicago Public School (CPS) students by providing them with an after-school program that supports their academic, career, and leadership success. Our mission is to advance the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic*

*debate. We envision a world in which Chicago youth are empowered to find their voice, succeed in college and career, and become leaders in their community. Debate may not fix all of the world's problems, but it can shape the next generation of leaders who will. We exist to ensure that next generation includes some of Chicago's most marginalized youth.*