



Summer Quest

Chicago Public Schools

Office of High Schools and High School Programs

envision • explore • experience college

MISSION

Summer Quest connects students to pre-college programs by providing resources and support.

VISION

We inspire high school students to visualize what is possible through higher education. By connecting low-income high school students with high quality pre-college programs, we send students beyond their local neighborhoods on a quest for new intellectual, social, and leadership experiences. We provide the financial resources and support for students to access learning opportunities that would otherwise be unaffordable.

CONTEXT

First-generation college students and low-income students experience a severe disconnect between their educational aspirations and their ability to access and complete college.

- Chicago Public Schools has aggressive goals for future student performance
- High school graduates will increase college enrollment from 47% to 64% in five years

ADMISSIONS

Students in grades 7-11 with GPAs 2.0 and above

- Applications between October and November
- Interviews in December and January
- Selection during February

BENEFITS

- Intellectual rigor and challenges
- Leadership skills
- Confidence and self-reliance

TYPES OF SUMMER PROGRAMS

- Academic - Credit-bearing, preparatory, and enrichment classes at college and elite college-prep high school campuses
- Arts - Visual and performing arts at prestigious art schools
- Outdoor leadership - Teamwork, nature skills, and environmental experience at top outdoor leadership programs

DONORS

Chicago Public Schools is grateful for the generosity of numerous universities, programs, foundations, and individual donors. Donors support the program in the following ways:

- Sponsoring a student attending a program
- Donating to the tuition pool for all students
- Providing the extra costs affiliated with attending a program (flight, books, supplies, etc.)
- Sponsoring a group of students
- Donating your time and talents to mentor students

TESTIMONIALS

- "I had never before been endowed with the freedom and the opportunity of an enriching new environment."
- "I have gained a boundless vision in regards to my curiosity, and my aspirations."
- "As I find myself applying to college now, I know the type of lifestyle I'll be living."
- "This [program] provided me many firsts."