

Urban Schools Initiative

Urban Schools Initiative: The Numbers

More than

12K 
Students

&

900 
Coaches

in Chicago Public Schools
have participated in the
Urban Schools Initiative
since 2007

In 2006, the Science Olympiad Executive Board determined that increasing minority participation was a program priority, and the first Urban Schools Initiative (USI) was founded in the Chicago Public Schools. Since then, programs have been founded in:

Austin, TX	Los Angeles, CA
Baltimore, MD	Rockford, IL
Birmingham, AL	Rural Islands, Hawaii
Charleston, SC	Philadelphia, PA
Chicago, IL	San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Dover, DE	Washington, DC
Gary, IN	



But the STEM diversity gap persists: only 5% of engineers are Black; 8% are Hispanic. In computer science, both Blacks and Hispanics represent just 7% of employees. Science Olympiad is committed to closing these gaps.

With grants from industry partners and oversight from State Science Olympiad chapters, schools with underserved populations can experience hands-on STEM competition, career prep and standards-aligned teacher training. Perfect for employee mentoring, community outreach and workforce development programs. In many cities, Science Olympiad Alumni Network campus groups are inviting Urban Schools Initiative teams to their invitational tournaments, hosting special enrichment workshops, setting up sister-school peer networks and assisting with materials and resources.