



Global Classrooms DC

2017-2018 Annual Report

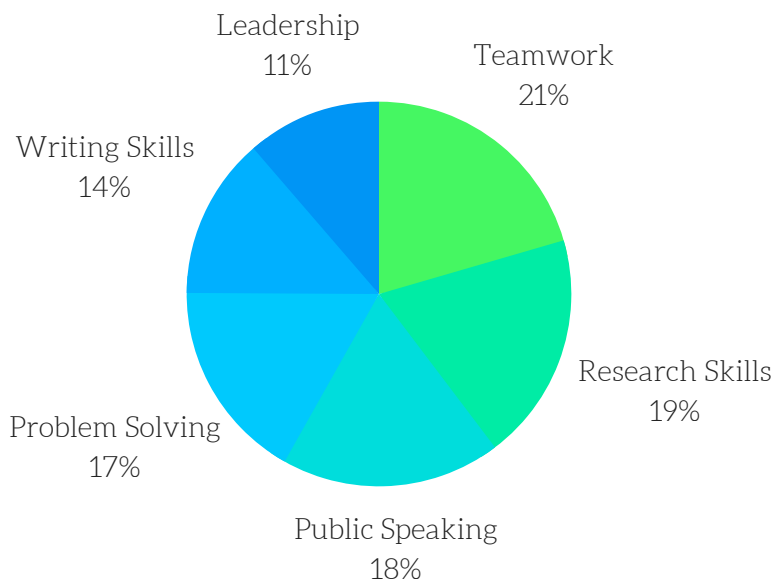


WHAT IS GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC?

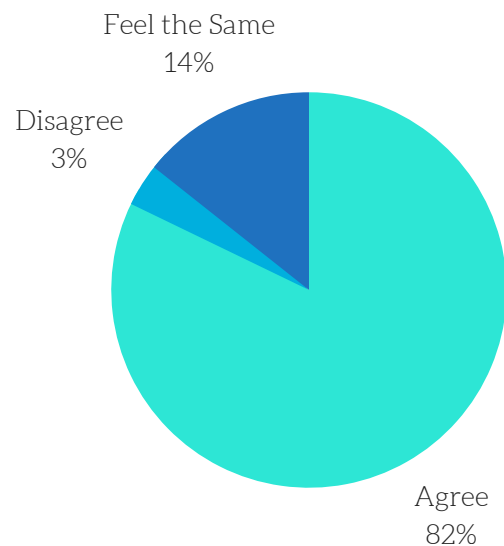


Now celebrating its 15th year, Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) is the flagship education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA). Through original global education curriculum and Model UN simulations, GCDC aims to prepare the next generation of global citizens and educate students in grades 5 to 12 on international issues and the work of the United Nations. Not only do students learn about important challenges happening in their world, but they also strengthen key skills like public speaking, research, negotiation, and writing they will need in college and their future careers. GCDC believes in the power of Model UN, a simulation activity where students put themselves in the shoes of diplomats, and represent countries in the United Nations to discuss critical issues. Like a debate team, students learn how to advocate for themselves, but in Model UN, students must work together to find solutions. Through the GCDC program, students have a two-pronged approach of developing skills while at the same time learning about topics related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, like climate change, gender equality, ending poverty, and more. This method over the years has successfully reached thousands of DC-area students, many of whom might not have gotten involved in international affairs in the first place.

Students say the top skills that Model UN helps them strengthen are:



Student responses to: "GCDC has provided me with skills that I can use in my classes"



WHAT IS GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC?

By The Numbers

1,013

Participating Students

46

Groups/Schools

112

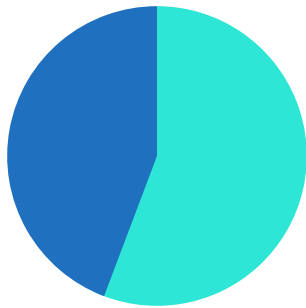
Educators/Teachers

95

Volunteers

Grade Enrollment

Grades 9-12
44%



Grades 5-8
56%

16% of students attended Title 1 Schools*

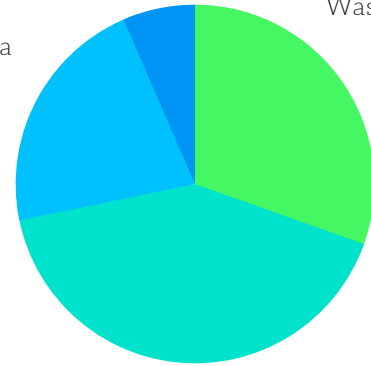
38% of groups were new to GCDC

Where GCDC Works

Virginia
22%

Other
7%

Washington, DC
30%



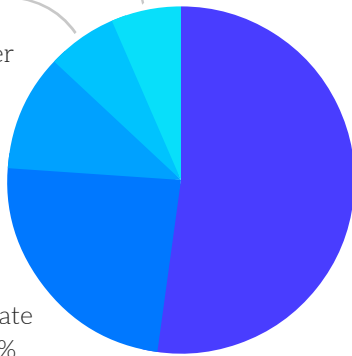
Maryland
41%

Types of Schools

Mentorship Org.
7%

Public Charter
11%

Other
7%



Public
52%

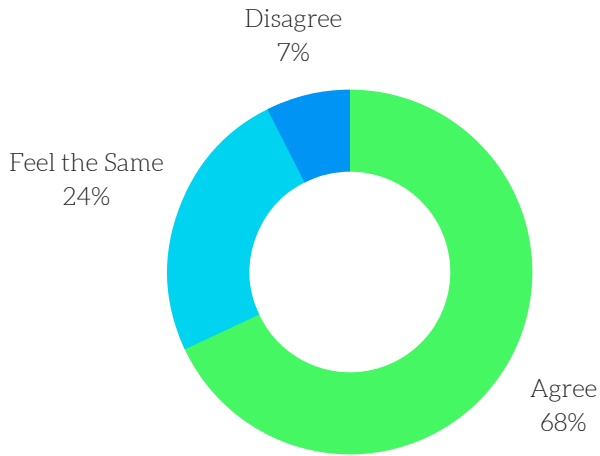
Private
24%

* Title 1 : A designation that guarantees federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet state academic standards



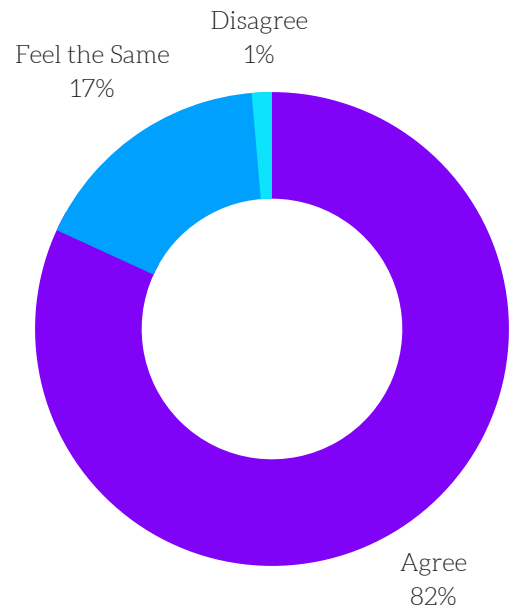
HOW DO STUDENTS SAY THEY BENEFIT?

I feel more confident speaking in public and sharing my opinions.

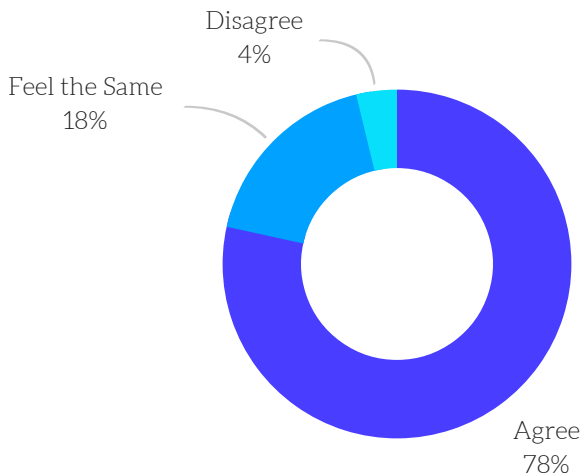


More than 290 middle and high school students participated in the annual Global Classrooms DC survey. Ranging from 10 to 19 years old, the students judged how much they supported or opposed the given statements on a scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". The results here are the combined conclusions.

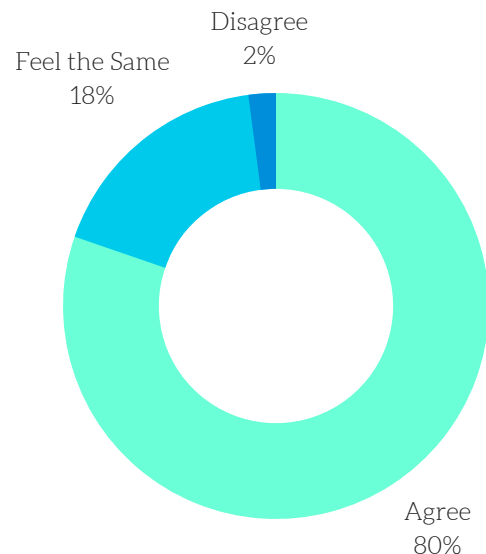
I feel more confident applying problem solving skills to international issues.



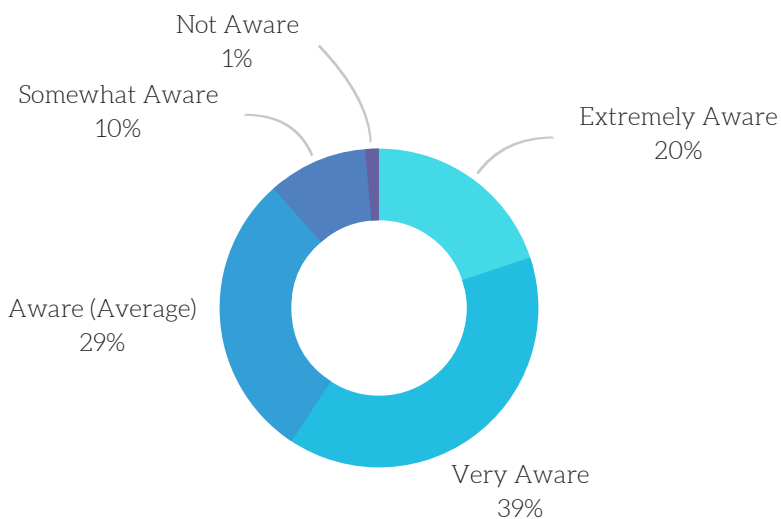
The skills and knowledge I have gained through GCDC help me feel like a global citizen.



I feel more confident negotiating and working with students of various backgrounds.



After GCDC, I am ____ of current international news and issues.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Curriculum Restructuring & The Culturified Foundation

After receiving feedback from our educators and participants, the GCDC Team spent months making changes to the year-round curriculum to achieve two main goals: accessibility for students and flexibility for educators. Every unit focuses on developing a skill, covering an international issue, and ending with a mini-simulation to reinforce students' new knowledge. In addition, we modified the materials so any educator can easily adapt the curriculum, no matter the class size, time commitment, nor resources available. As part of the restructuring, GCDC collaborated with the Culturified Foundation, a DC not for profit organization dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding. Our work together added a key cultural component to the Model UN curriculum and built cultural competence.

Human Rights of Refugees: UNA-USA Model UN Mini-Simulation

In the summer of 2017, the UN Association of the United States (UNA-USA) recruited Global Classrooms DC to write, develop, and pilot a new Model UN mini-simulation on "The Human Rights of Refugees." Designed for classroom use, mini-simulations condense the best of Model UN into an activity that only takes an hour of classroom time instead of an all-day event. Officially launched in October 2017, the new UNA-USA mini-simulation is a free resource for thousands of chapter members, teachers, and students around the US to engage in one of the most critical issues of our time – the refugee crisis. Although Model UN seems intimidating to newcomers, these mini-simulations help introduce students who may never have tried Model UN.

Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)



LAYC students working on policy recommendations that they could send to their local DC Council representatives. (Photo Credit: LAYC)

Over the course of three sessions in July 2017, GCDC had the opportunity to work with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), a local organization that serves 4,000+ people in the DC-area. GCDC worked with the Center's Latino Youth Leadership Council, a summer program to develop leadership skills that the high school participants can take with them, whether in university or life beyond school. GCDC supported them in learning about the Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of the United Nations, honing their public speaking skills, and writing effective policy recommendations.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Fall Model UN Training Conference

November 16, 2017



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

The Annual Fall Model UN Training Conference held at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is designed for schools and groups who are new to GCDC programming and to Model UN.

The conference is a "teaching-style" conference

that focuses less on competition and awards, and instead on making sure students practice their new writing, negotiation, and public speaking skills. For the 2017 conference, nine schools from DC, Maryland, and Virginia attended the conference, with 187 total students who participated and represented 94 countries in the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more students than any other previous fall conference. In preparing for the conference, students learned about the key role of UNHCR in leading international action to protect refugees and to solve the many refugee crises around the world. Over the course of the day-long conference, the students came together to discuss how their countries should protect the Human Rights of Refugees. Over the course of a busy day, students concluded the day by presenting joint solutions to protect the refugees around the world to the committee.



GCDC Educator Professional Development Workshop

October 20, 2017



Thanks to a community grant from the Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC, the all-day workshop held at InterAction was geared towards middle and high school teachers from private, public charter, and public schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Educators shared their best practices to prepare their students for the



upcoming Fall Training Model UN Conference, as well as sustaining year-round Model UN and global education programs. The seminar had educators participating in a mini-simulation to act as delegates from various countries related to the Yemen refugee crisis. By putting themselves in their assigned country's position, it was a chance for teachers to experience what their students undergo during both in the preparation process and during Model UN conferences. As one of the teachers pointed out, "After the experience, it helped to see what students might find challenging during their process."

14th Annual Spring Model UN Conference

April 27, 2018



Over 600 students, educators, parents, volunteers, and guests gathered at the U.S. Department of State and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for the 14th Annual GCDC Spring Model United Nations Conference.

The conference welcomed 5th to 12th grade students from nearly 40 schools and groups from not only the DC, Maryland, Virginia area, but also as far as Texas and Lebanon. The students had the opportunity to hear Keynote Speaker Munira Khalif, the 2017-2018 US Youth Observer to the UN, who encouraged the students at the conference to align their skills with their passion.

Throughout the intense one-day conference, student delegates debated possible solutions to important international issues from the perspectives of their countries. Acting like true diplomats would, students participated in a variety of middle school and high school committees: the UN Environment Programme, the UN Security Council, the International Olympic Committee Executive Board, the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as UNICEF.

The program also included a professional development session that allowed educators to give feedback about the conference. They also shared how they run their Model UN clubs, and how others can learn from their experiences.

The GCDC Model UN Conference continued to provide participants with fully immersive global education. They enjoyed discussing some of the world's most pressing international issues with student delegates from diverse backgrounds, while learning from inspiring leaders.

2018 Spring Conference Topics

- Renewable Energy
- Sports Diplomacy & Gender Equality
- Malnutrition
- Rehabilitating Child Soldiers
- Crisis in the Sahel & Lake Chad Basin



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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE GCDC A SUCCESS THIS YEAR!

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Dr. Iqbal Unus
Melissa Wolfe



Global Classrooms DC Team for 2017-2018

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Taylor Dumaine, Program Assistant
Ting Han, Program Assistant
Esther Jung, Program Assistant
Kelly MacGarrigle, Youth Intern
Ashley Murphy, Program Assistant



Program Volunteers

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George Mason University
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Georgetown University Law Center
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United Nations Foundation



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