



Global Classrooms DC

2022-2023 Annual Report



About Global Classrooms DC



2023 Best Delegates at the GCDC Spring Model UN Conference at U.S. Department of State



Founded in 2003, Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) is the flagship education program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), the largest and most active chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). As one of the original founding cities of the program, GCDC educates students from grades 5-12 on international issues and the work of the United Nations through Model United Nations (MUN). Partnerships with federal agencies and international organizations that provide unrivaled access, GCDC is able to provide learning experiences that go beyond the classroom, with seminars, simulations and conferences as part of the core educational curriculum. Through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), students as part of GCDC can learn about international topics while being exposed to career opportunities in international affairs.

Practiced all over the world by various age levels, Model UN is both an educational and competitive activity that introduces students to issues that allow them to become global citizens at home. It provides these diplomats with a forum to not only debate these issues with like minded peers, but to also broaden their research and writing skills as they work with other countries to draft resolution papers on the topics that they are debating parallel to their real world counterparts.

The 2022-2023 academic year for GCDC was a year of normalization and expansion, with GCDC returning to conducting school visits, fielding delegations at local conferences, and hosting both the Winter Training and Annual Spring Conference in person.



Sarmat Chowdhury is the Manager of Global Education and Director of the Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) program with 16 years of Model UN experience and had previously volunteered with GCDC in 2016-2017. He graduated from George Mason University with a primary B.A. in Government and International Politics - concentration in International Relations, and a secondary B.A. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution - concentration in Global Engagement with a minor in International Security. He previously served on the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), three U.S. Senate Committees, the Congressional Press Corps, and the National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations (NCUSAR). Outside of UNA-NCA, he serves as the Risk Assessment Advisor for the Epsilon Mu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity at George Mason University and is a member of the Literary Task Force for the City of Alexandria, VA.



Partnerships & Collaborations

International Labour Organization

GCDC collaborated with the ILO-USCA for a fifth year in a row on a topic for the Spring 2023 Model UN Conference. Students had researched the topic, "Violence and Harassment Protections at Work". In addition, GCDC and ILO created a year round unit. The ILO is a tripartite UN agency that works on international labor standards, social protection, and more by bringing together government, companies, and labor unions.

USA for International Organization for Migration

GCDC worked with USAforIOM for a fifth time for the Spring 2023 Model UN Conference. Delegates were able to debate "Climate Change and Migration". In addition, GCDC and IOM created a year-round migration unit and mini-MUN simulation. IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides services to migrants and expert migration policy recommendations to governments.

Prince George's County Public Schools

For the first time, GCDC worked directly with the Social Studies Central office with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The inaugural partnership allowed for PGCPS students to access the GCDC curriculum, curated specifically for PGCPS World History and AP World History standards. Students were able to participate in GCDC programming with the curriculum designed to enhance their curriculum standards directly.

Washington Evaluators Without Borders

For the second time, GCDC worked with Evaluation Without Borders (EWB) to design evaluation models to measure the metrics of participation and engagement among GCDC students and educators regarding the GCDC Year Round Curriculum and the Model UN conferences. Evaluation Without Borders is a program of Washington Evaluators, a pro-bono service that aids non-profit organizations in their efforts.

National Council on U.S. - Arab Relations

For the second time, GCDC partnered with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) to take members of their summer cohort to serve as program assistants. In addition, GCDC will be partnering on their D.C.-based Model Arab League conferences to open opportunities for GCDC students to participate in additional diplomatic simulations, such as the National High School Model Arab League

American University School of International Service

After a three years of virtual programming, GCDC returned to hosting the Training conference in person, and for the first time, moved the conference to the Winter and held it at the School of International Service at American University. Invited by Dean Shannon Hader to host, and further opened more avenues of collaboration between AU and UNA-NCA.

GCDC Spring 2023 Secretary-General serves as Assistant Secretary-General at the 2023 National High School Model Arab League (NHSMAL)

On the weekend of April 28-29, 2023, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations held the National High School Model Arab League (NHSMAL), at the Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, MD.

Schools from across the MAL competitive circuit participated across 3 Councils (Political, Arab Social, and Environmental) and this year, based on the stellar performance of the GCDC delegation at the 2022 NHSMAL, Sebastian Sanchez-Clavel was selected to serve as the Assistant Secretary-General. As ASG, Sebastian oversaw the administrative and programmatic operations of the conference, including compiling the summit packet of passed resolutions at the conference. He also did this while serving as the Secretary-General at the 2023 Annual Spring GCDC conference at the U.S. Department of State.



GCDC Spring 2023 Secretary-General and NHSMAL Assistant Secretary-General Sebastian Sanchez-Clavel

Global Classrooms DC Team 2022-2023

Sarmat Chowdhury,
Manager of Global Education

Mohammed Khader,
GCDC Senior Research Assistant

Himaja Balusa,
GCDC Senior Operations Assistant

Dana Marion
GCDC Curriculum Assistant

Elijah "Eli" Hill
GCDC Simulations Assistant

Andrew Rovinsky
GCDC Research Assistant

Rebecca "Becca" Porter
GCDC Operations Assistant

Rayan Mama
GCDC Operations Assistant

Shahd Sharaf
GCDC Program Assistant

Peter Toro
GCDC Program Assistant

Our Impact

Program Participants

1260

Students

46

Schools

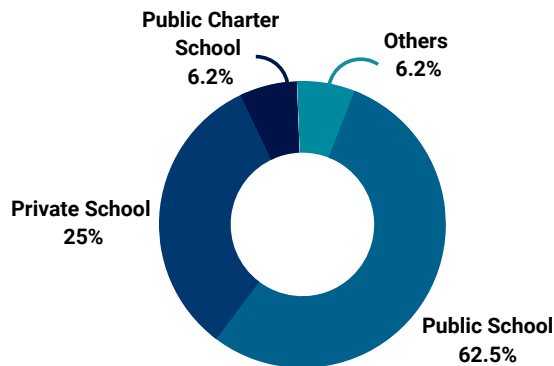
50

Volunteers

100

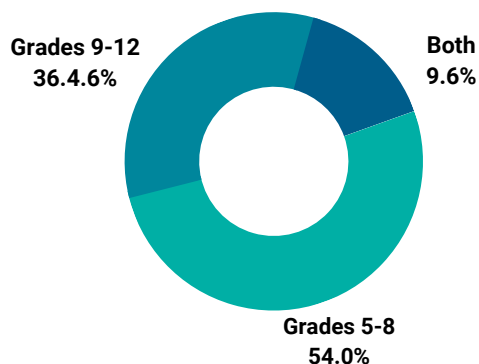
Educators & Parents

Types of Schools



28% of students attended Title 1 Schools

Grade Enrollment



Where GCDC Works



30.6 % OF STUDENTS

Washington, DC



34.4% OF STUDENTS

Maryland



12.1% OF STUDENTS

Virginia



23% OF STUDENTS

Outside of the DC Metro Area

With the transition period between fully virtual and hybrid/in person events, GCDC this year was able to reach students in North Carolina, New York, and internationally in France and China.

Students and teachers identified the top skills that Model UN helped strengthen:



TEAMWORK



WRITING SKILLS



RESEARCH SKILLS



PROBLEM SOLVING



LEADERSHIP



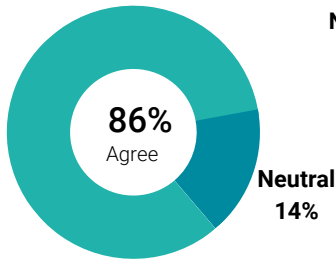
PUBLIC SPEAKING

† Title 1: A designation that guarantees federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families; helps ensure that all children meet state academic standards, regardless of their families' socio-economic status.

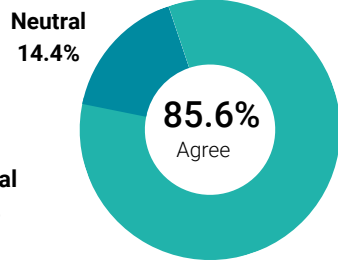
* All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the 1260 total number of students served in the 2022-2023 school year. This final number reflects the students registered for the GCDC Year Round Program, the Winter Training Conference, and the Spring Conference.

How Do Students Say They Benefit?

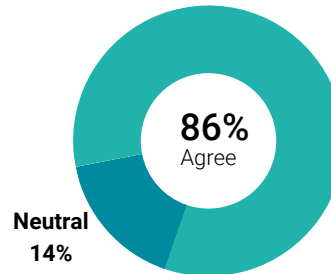
"I feel more confident speaking in public"



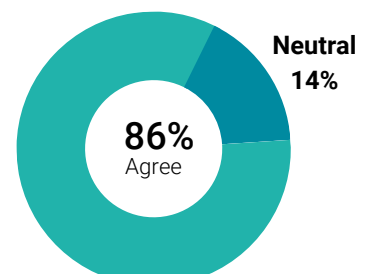
"The Model UN conferences allowed me to work with people of different background"



"I feel more confident applying problem solving and leadership skills in a group setting"



"I feel more comfortable negotiating and working peacefully with others"



Testimonials from Students

"I enjoyed working and using my knowledge to communicate with people I don't know"



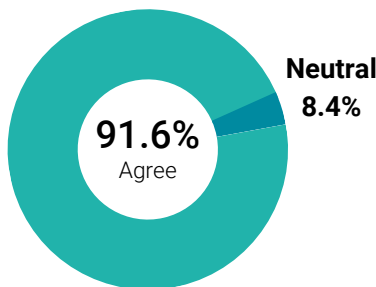
Teachers at 2023 GCDC Spring Conference at US Department of State

"I LOVED sharing my country's ideas and talking with other students from different schools"

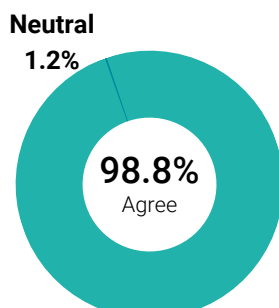
"I loved hearing the perspectives and ideas of different countries. I loved meeting new people and forming allies. It was really fun to draft the resolution and have so many great ideas and suggestions being made."

How Do Teachers Say They Benefit?

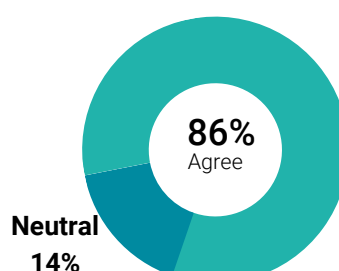
"The conferences enhanced students' key skills, including public speaking negotiation, and teamwork"



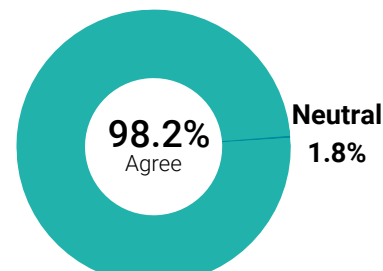
"I believe teaching students about global issues is important to becoming a globally-minded citizen"



"The conference enhanced students knowledge of the United Nations and foreign affairs"



"I plan to incorporate global education content into my instruction."



† All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the surveyed students at both the Winter Training and Annual Spring Conferences. 1260 total number of students served in the 2022-2023 school year. This final number reflects the students registered for the GCDC Year Round Program, the Winter Training Conference, and the Spring Conference.

GCDC Classroom Visits

December 2022

After three years of absence from in-person programming, GCDC re-launched its classroom visits for schools enrolled in the Year-Round program. Open to any school to request for staff to come and discuss GCDC programming or Model UN assistance for classes and clubs.

GCDC staff visited the Academy of Global Service and Diplomacy at Theodore Roosevelt High School to talk to students enrolled in the Model UN class to discuss unit 7 of the curriculum: "Racial Issues when Combatting Poverty" where students were participating in a mini simulation. GCDC staff demonstrated the creation of blocs and caucuses for students to practice during the mini-simulation, and also discussed with students real-world scenarios involving racism in Washington, D.C.



*Theodore Roosevelt High School,
District of Columbia Public Schools*

The team also visited the Model UN club at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, to help the students prepare for their first competitive Model UN conference, TAEMUN VIII. Students reviewed their committee assignments with their partners, reviewed their country positions, and practiced their Model UN parliamentary procedures. GCDC staff also answered questions about competitive Model UN, and how to increase DCPS participation in Model UN and GCDC programming.

GCDC at TAEMUN VIII

December 2-3, 2022

On December 2-3, 2022, Thomas A. Edison High School in Alexandria, Virginia hosted TAEMUN VIII, the largest student-run high school Model United Nations Conference in Northern Virginia after a two-year hiatus. EagleMUN (as their team is known), which traditionally attends the GCDC Annual Spring conference, reached out to ask for volunteers and GCDC staff were happy to assist. Staff served as chairs and Crisis Directors, overseeing simulations of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and **African Union (AU)** and serving as Crisis Director for the **Joint Cabinet Crisis: Cold War between Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) vs Committee for State Security (KGB)**.



Delegates voting during United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) committee session at TAEMUN VIII in 2022

In addition, GCDC fielded an inaugural delegation to the conference, comprised of delegates from Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. Students represented Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago in the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** and Argentina and Poland in the **United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA)**. After two days of intense debate and voting, Poland in UNEA was recognized with a Verbal Commendation, and GCDC delegation was awarded the "MUNtastic Award" the TAEMUN diplomacy award that is given to delegations that overall exemplify diplomatic finesse, *par excellence*.

Winter Model UN Training Conference

January 29, 2023

The 2023 Winter Model UN Training Conference was held in person for the first time since 2019, with a new institutional host, the American University School of International Service (SIS). Over 100 students and educators attended from six GCDC Year-Round Community Schools, across three training committees on Sunday, January 29, 2023. **Ms. Sarah Bassil** served as the Opening Ceremony speaker and **Mr. Shahamat Chowdhury** of Capital One served as the Closing Ceremony speaker. With a unique model that incorporated three levels of Model UN experience, delegates were able to debate climate change in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, Space Traffic Management in the **Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS)**, and Peace and Security in Africa in the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**. Benjamin Banneker Academic High School won the most awards overall to secure the Best School Award.



Delegates 2023 Winter Model UN Training Conference at the American University School of International Service

Spring GCDC Model UN Conference

April 28, 2023

On April 28th, 2023, after a three year absence, GCDC hosted its 19th Annual Spring GCDC Model UN Conference in person back at the U.S. Department of State. In partnership with the International Organization Affairs (IO) Bureau, over **500 delegates** from **37 schools/groups** attended from across 3 states and D.C. The Opening Ceremonies were opened by recorded remarks from the US Ambassador to the UN **Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, and the Opening Ceremony speakers: **Mr. Brenden Varma**, Deputy Director of United Nations Information Center of Washington, and Ms. **Alexandra Nemeth**, Deputy Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues. Finally, 2023 Secretary-General **Sebastian Sanchez-Clavel** shared his journey with GCDC in his opening remarks under the theme was "Empowering Youth for Transformative Change".

Eight Committees were offered included the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, and the crises in the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for both middle and high school delegates. For delegates who debated a range of topics such as the efficacy of active peacekeeping missions deployed and combatting the rise of transnational cyber crimes. Additionally, delegates had access to policy advisors from the U.S. Department of State. Students were able to hear from the Director of ILO-USCA and from the former Chief of Mission of the IOM in DC. During the Closing Ceremonies, students heard from **Ms. Himaja Nagireddy**, the 11th UNA-USA Youth Observer who talked about her youth advocacy work and the UN. GCDC recognized delegates that performed in an outstanding fashion with Year-Round school **North Bethesda Middle School** winning the overall Best School Award at the conference.



Delegates in the International Organization on Migration at the US Department of State



GCDC Supporters & Sponsors

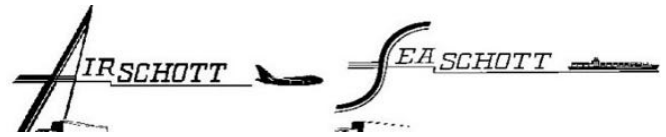
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE GCDC A SUCCESS THIS YEAR!

2022-2023 GCDC Donors

Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (retired)
 Charles Thomas Bradley
 Dawn T. Calabria
 Billie Ann Day
 Renee S. Dopplick
 Roger Griffis
 Anne Howard-Tristani
 Thomas Liu
 WhySource, LLC
 Stephen F. Moseley
 Gayatri Patel
 Aaron Poynton
 Charles W. and Cordelia Puttkammer
 Robert J. Schott
 Richard Seifman
 Dr. Iqbal Unus



2022-2023 Program Partners



International Labour Organization for the United States and Canada
 International Monetary Fund Giving Together Program
 Northern Trust Corporation
 Prince George's Country Public School Board of Education
 United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)
 United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)
 USA for International Organization for Migration (USAforIOM)
 U.S. Department of State - International Organization Affairs Bureau
 WhySource, LLC

GCDC Institutional Partners 2022-2023

American University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 The George Washington University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Tilden Middle School
 Thomas A. Edison High School
 University of Michigan
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Tech
 Winston Churchill High School

