



21 Years of Educating and Empowering
Youth

Global Classrooms DC

2024-2025 Annual Report



WHAT IS GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC?

Established in 2003, Global Classrooms® DC (GCDC) is the flagship educational program of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA). GCDC is a Model UN program that engages students from grades 5-12 in learning about the United Nations and global issues. By providing a unique global education curriculum, Model UN mini-simulations, and opportunities to participate in annual Model UN conferences, GCDC aims to foster globally aware citizens. The program focuses on enhancing essential skills such as public speaking, negotiation, research, analysis, and writing. GCDC is accessible to all public, private, and international schools, as well as homeschool co-ops, leadership organizations, and clubs in the U.S. and internationally. The 2024-2025 academic year witnessed key program milestones. The year-round program focused on key issues ranging from new technologies and pollution to labour migration, engaging with schools across the country. The program also returned to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to host the Winter Training Conference. Additionally, the 21st Spring Model United Nations Conference was hosted at the U.S. Department of State, featuring an introductory video welcome by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, keynote remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau, and closing remarks by Senior Official for the International Organization Affairs Bureau, McCoy Pitt.



Himaja Balusa

Himaja Balusa is the Manager of Global Education and leads the Global Classrooms DC (GCDC) program. She began as the GCDC Program Coordinator in December 2023 and transitioned to Manager of Global Education in March 2024. Himaja is a proud graduate of the George Washington University and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her academic and professional background includes expertise in international affairs, gender studies, and sustainable development. She has previously worked with non-profits such as the Feminist Majority Foundation, RepresentWomen, and AWARE in Singapore.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Program Participants

950+

Students

50

Schools

45

Volunteers

60

Educators

Where GCDC Works



43.9 % of groups,
DC



29.2 % of groups,
Maryland

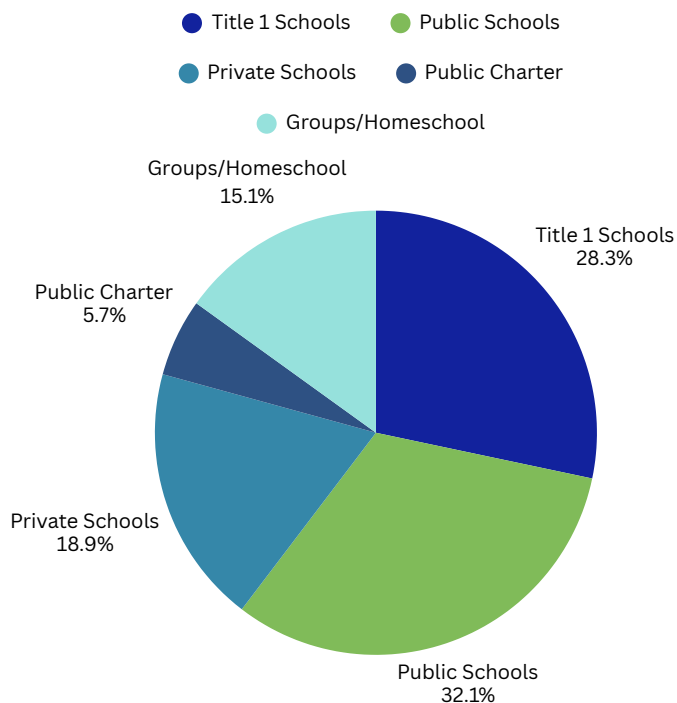


19.5 % of groups,
Northern Virginia



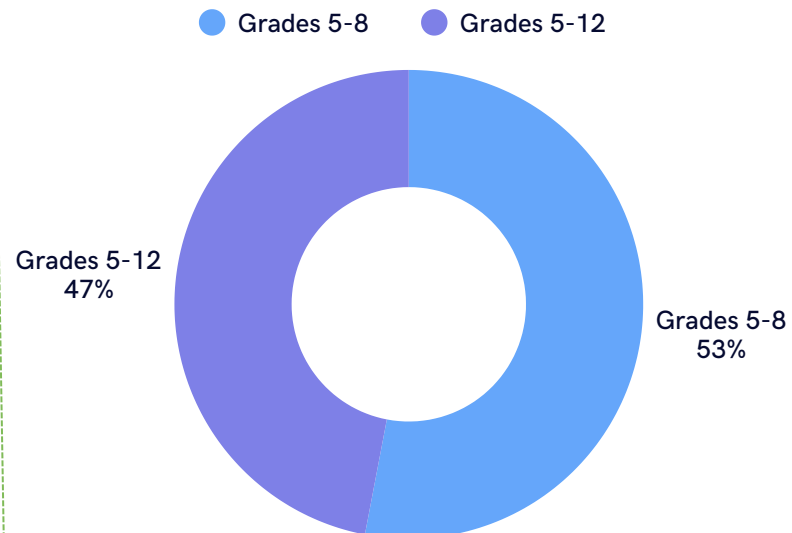
7.3 % of groups,
Outside DMV

Types of Schools



28% Title I Schools

Grade Enrollment

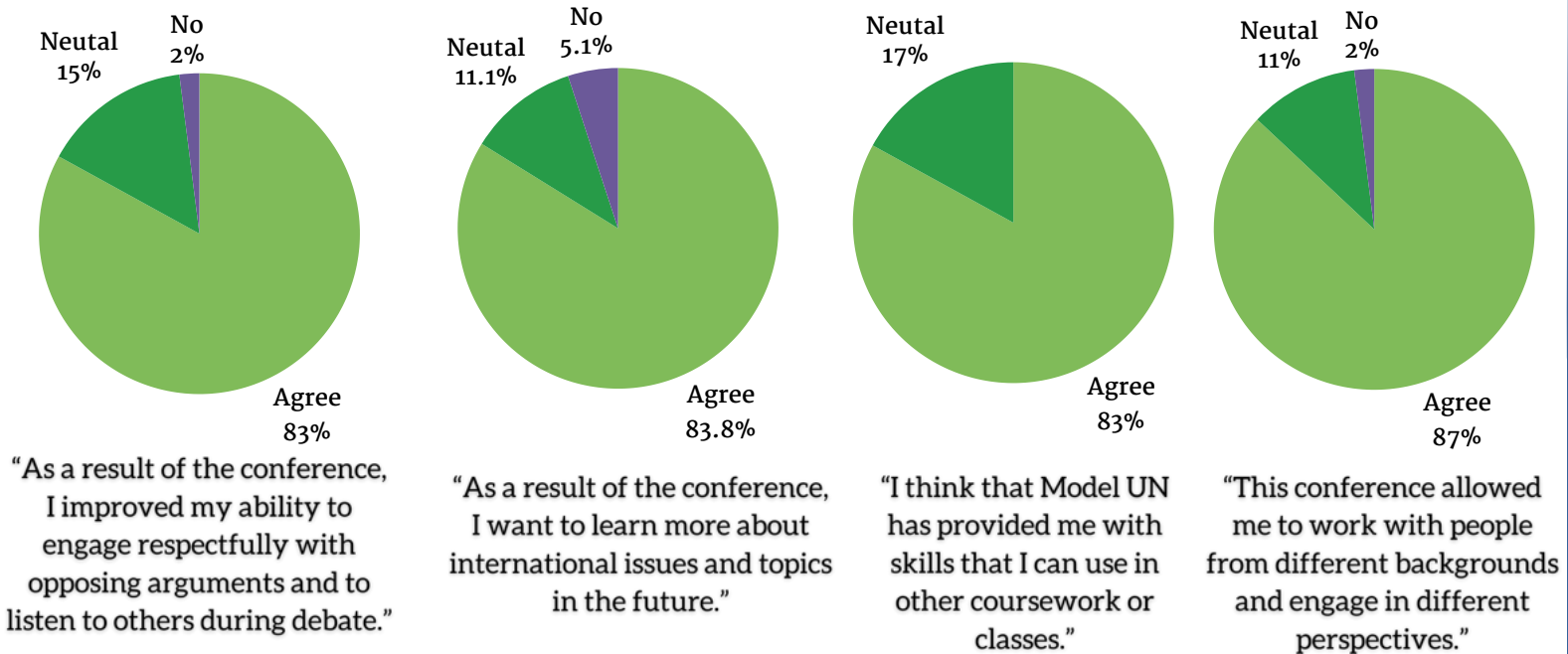


△ Title 1 : A designation that guarantees federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families; helps ensure that all children meet state academic standards, regardless of their families' socio-economic status.

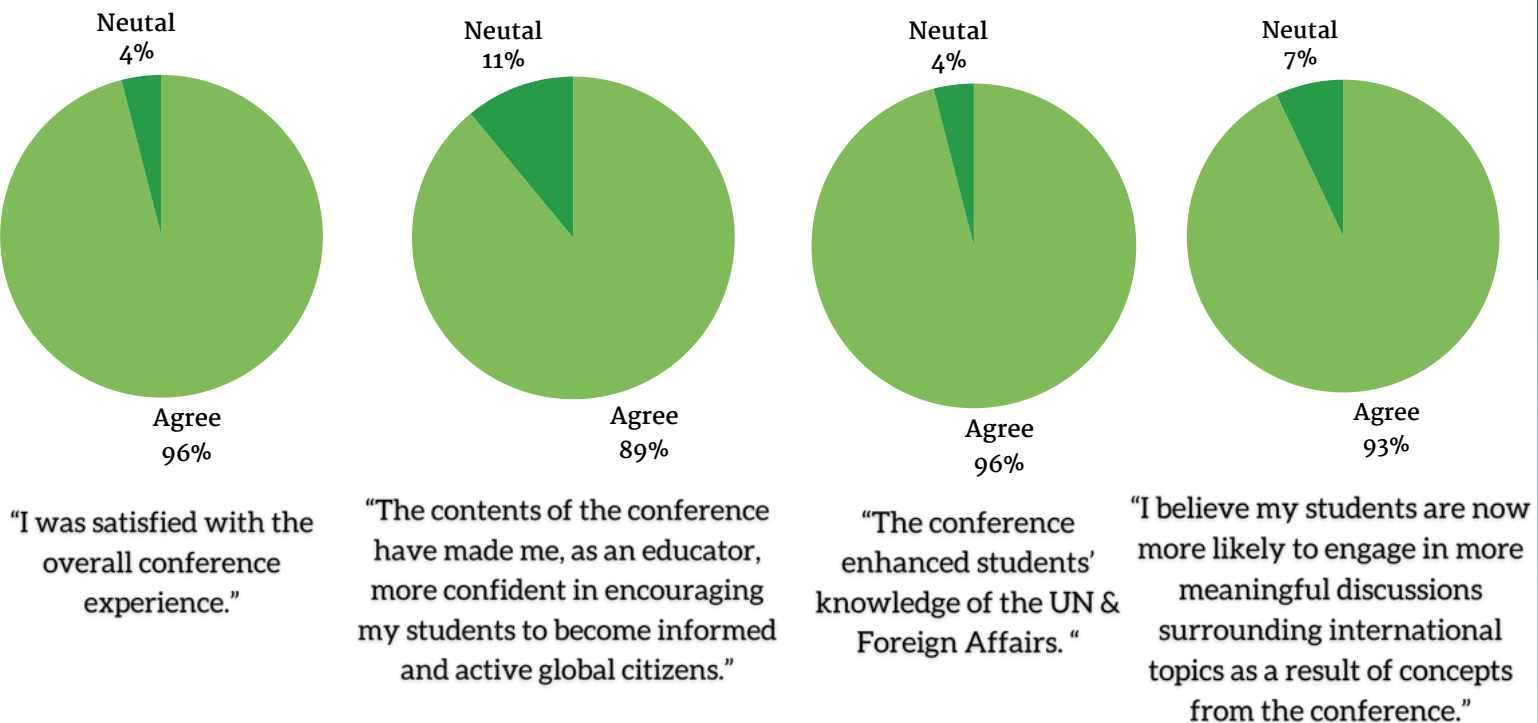
- All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the surveyed students in our programming including our year-round program, Winter and Spring Conferences.

OUR IMPACT

How Do Students Say They Benefit?



How Do Educators Say They Benefit?



△ All graphs and numbers shown here are calculated as percentages of the surveyed students and educators in our programs including our Winter and Spring Conferences.

WHAT DOES OUR COMMUNITY SAY?

"I enjoyed being able to work with people that I haven't met before and speaking confidently in front of an audience." - Delegate, Spring MUN, UN Environment Programme Committee

[Most Enjoyed about the Conference] "Comparing and combining ideas and discussing ways to create a better future for the next generation, while preventing and addressing potential consequences or concerns with our solutions and our chair was amazing." - Delegate, Spring MUN, Peacebuilding Commission

"The conference was very effective! Students spent time researching and drafting papers and opening statements." - Educator, Jackson-Reed HS



Winter MUN Conference 2025
Pan American Health Organization



Winter MUN Conference 2025, Educator Session

Participants identified these top skills that Model UN helped strengthen:



TEAMWORK



RESEARCH



COMMUNICATION



WRITING



LEADERSHIP

Winter Training Conference

March 7, 2025

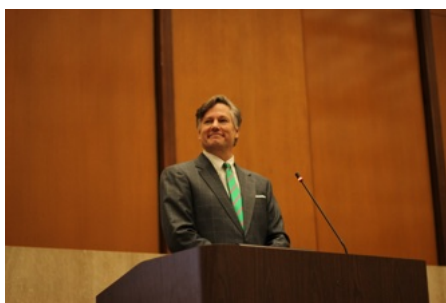
On March 7, 2024, over 150 students, educators, and partners came together at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for UNA-NCA's annual Winter Model UN Training Conference. Held at the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization, the event focused on the theme: "Global Health: Building Resilient Communities for a Better Future." The day opened with remarks from UNA-NCA President Paula Boland and PAHO Deputy Director Mary Lou Valdez. Ms. Boland reflected on UNA-NCA's commitment to education and international cooperation, while Ms. Valdez highlighted PAHO's legacy in public health and the importance of empowering youth through global education. Students from 12 schools across the Washington Metropolitan Area participated in simulations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Security Council (UNSC), addressing topics such as global mental health and the opioid crisis. Delegates engaged in debate, problem-solving, and resolution-writing, supported by experienced chairs and expert policy advisors from PAHO and UNA-NCA's network, including Ambassador David Johnson, UNA-NCA Advisory Council Member Jeff Meer, and PAHO Chief of Mental Health and Substance Use, Renato Oliveira e Souza. The conference also included a session for educators on integrating global education in classrooms, and closed with an awards ceremony celebrating student achievement and leadership. The day served as a powerful learning experience that built Model UN skills and deepened participants' understanding of global health and diplomacy.



Annual Spring GCDC Conference

April 29, 2025

On April 29, 2025, Global Classrooms DC hosted its 21st Annual Spring Model UN Conference in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO). Over 400 students, educators, and guests gathered for a day of diplomacy and global dialogue. The Opening Ceremony featured remarks from UNA-NCA President Paula Boland and a special video message from Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who emphasized the importance of international cooperation and the need to reform and renew global institutions like the United Nations. William Davis, Director of the UN Information Center in Washington DC, followed with reflections on compromise and collaboration. Student Secretary-General Ahaana Sabari Rajan delivered a moving speech on inclusive diplomacy, followed by keynote speaker Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau, who encouraged students to embrace multilateralism and consider careers in public service. Delegates engaged in seven committees on topics like migration, climate, and peacebuilding. The Educators Session led by Fulbright's Keegan Scott sparked conversation on global learning. The conference closed with remarks from McCoy Pitt of the IO Bureau, who reflected on the lasting impact of MUN experiences.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

BUREAU OF INT'L ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS (US DEPT OF STATE)

GCDC collaborated with the U.S Department of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO) for the 21st year to host the annual Spring MUN Conference. The conference featured six committees focused on topics ranging from climate to peacebuilding.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

GCDC returned to PAHO to host the Winter Training Conference. The conference featured two committees focused on public health issues including the mental health and opioid crisis.

USA FOR UNHCR

GCDC collaborated with USA for UNHCR for the first time on a unit for the GCDC year-round program and a public-facing version for UNHCR's digital platforms. The topic focused on access to education for refugees.

USA FOR IOM

GCDC partnered with USA for IOM for the sixth time on a committee for the Spring 2025 Model UN Conference. Delegates debated how countries can address issues related to "Displacement" in the IOM committee at the conference.

GWU'S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (GSEHD)

GCDC partnered with GSEHD and a capstone group to develop Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks, including a logic model, a survey for quantitative data, and a focus group guide for qualitative feedback.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON US-ARAB RELATIONS (NCUSAR)

For the third time, GCDC partnered with NCUSAR to take members of their summer cohort to serve as program assistants. GCDC also partners on their D.C.- based Model Arab League conferences to open opportunities for GCDC students to participate in additional diplomatic simulations.

GCDC Supporters & Sponsors

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

Global Classrooms DC Team 2024-25

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Alex May, Program Assistant

Cathy Sebastian, Program Assistant

Asher Spivak, Program Assistant

Chelsea Taylor, Program Assistant

Thank you to In-Kind Sponsors & Spring MUN Caterer:



muncheez
middle-eastern food



2024-2025 GCDC Program Donors:

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