SERVING MORE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS THAN ANY CHICAGO THEATER

We believe in the transformative power of theater. Chicago Shakespeare Theater's education programs support the development of young people's crucial skills, including social-emotional competencies, critical literacy, and meaningful collaboration in classrooms and in life.

Nearly 20,000 students and teachers engaged across student matinee performances, Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, Bard Core, and workshops—more than any other theater in Chicago

262 public, private, and parochial schools participated from across Chicagoland

108 students participated in Chicago Shakespeare SLAM

16 educators completed the Sheldon and Bobbi Zabel Bard Core Program, a yearlong professional development intensive for Chicago Public Schools teachers.

546 students and teachers experienced a FREE performance by Sir Ian McKellen

38 dedicated student matinee performances this season

7% increase in student attendance since FY25

83% of students said they would like to attend another CST production

"Events at CST show my students that the arts, especially Shakespeare, are for everyone! It's both deeply personal and a shared social experience to go to the theater."

Teacher, Morgan Park High School

"Experiencing an exciting live performance is so different from students' everyday life and it reminds them of the power of human connection. To be honest, putting their screens away for an hour or more is a gift to them as they get to enjoy something very real in the moment."

Teacher, Sullivan House High School



SLAM 2026, photo by Justin Barbin