



TO: Capital District Region High School Principals
MasterMinds Coaches

FROM: Annie Gersztoff, Program Manager
Scott M. Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner

RE: Registration for the 2026-2027 MasterMinds and Chess Season

Planning is underway for the 2026-27 MasterMinds and Chess programs. MasterMinds is a team-based, quiz bowl-style academic competition. It provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students. Students benefit from the opportunity to develop teamwork and learn the value of sportsmanship.

Program fees are: \$814 per Varsity team and \$359 for an optional Junior Varsity team (varsity participation is a prerequisite). Teams will play a 12-game regular season. Schools are responsible for their own transportation.

We also offer participation in the Albany Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) to all schools. The ICL allows students to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of the brightest students from other schools. The fee for this year will be \$393.00. Like MasterMinds, the league would consist of a 12-game season. If multiple leagues are necessary, there will be post-season playoffs.

Please know that if you choose to do both MasterMinds and Chess concurrently, you have the option for the teams to travel together.

If you are unsure of interest among your students, you can schedule a demonstration where we come to your school, either during lunch or after school, and show your students what the programs are like. If you are interested, please contact Scott Kroner as soon as possible to schedule a demonstration.

If you are interested in finding out more about the program, you can request additional information by checking the appropriate box on the registration form, or by contacting the MasterMinds Commissioner at masterminds@nymasterminds.com.

To register, complete and return the attached Registration Form **no later than Friday, September 25, 2026**. Once registered, coaches can submit their [Prescheduling Form](#).

For more information contact Scott Kroner at the state MasterMinds office at (585) 473-0864 or by email masterminds@nymasterminds.com. The MasterMinds website also offers answers to a host of questions, as well as a link to the prescheduling form. www.nymasterminds.com.

If you have any questions about cross contracts, billing or submitting your forms to BOCES, please reach out to Clare Dollard (clare.dollard@neric.org) or Colleen Meharg (colleen.meharg@neric.org).