



About

Chicago City of Learning (CCOL)

WHAT?

[CCOL](#) is a free, city-wide, mayoral initiative run by the Digital Youth Network at the Office for Community and Education Partnerships in the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. **Our mission** is to enable *every* Chicago youth to engage in interest-based learning, outside of school, all year long.

WHY?

If we are successful, then *all* of Chicago's youth will...

- Explore multiple possibilities and identities
- Connect with positive peers and adult mentors
- Develop meaningful knowledge, skills and dispositions
- Create their own pathways to future success

HOW?

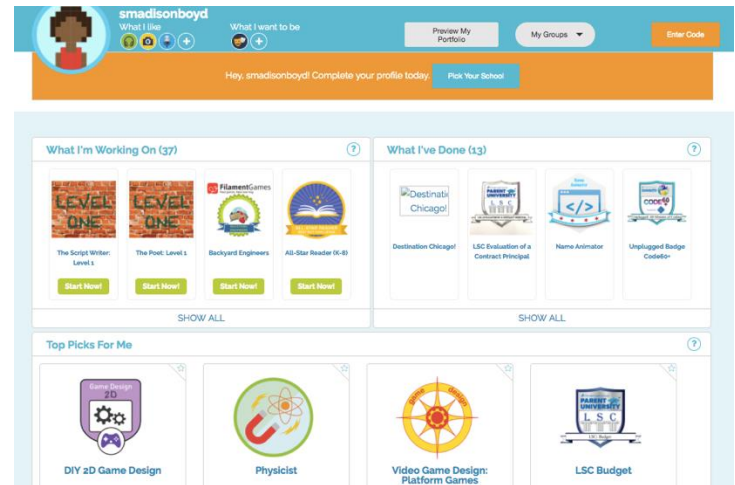
First, we partner with organizations to ensure that out-of-school programs are published in our searchable database. As we become a "1-stop-shop" for informal learning opportunities, we enable more youth to engage in the many opportunities Chicago has to offer.

Second, we help youth create online, personal portfolios, where they keep track of their out-of-school experiences. Youth's portfolios document participation in programs and earned badges, providing them language to use on college and job applications and a record of their passion-fueled journey. We also recommend new opportunities to youth based on their interests and experiences through their portfolios ("Top Picks").

WHO? We need YOU!

- Publish your programs with us so that they are searchable on CCOL. You can enter programs using [this Google Form](#) (1 program per form). Contact us if you have multiple programs to publish, because we can make it easier for you!
- Help youth document their experiences in their CCOL portfolios. Instructions on how to help youth create their portfolios are [here](#).

With your help, we will make it easy for youth to turn Chicago into a campus!



Reach out to us at ccol@digitalyouthnetwork.org.