



SMART SPORTS, INC.
3340 N. Hamilton Avenue, Unit 1
Chicago, Illinois 60618

MISSION

SMART Sports uses the power of sports to connect young people to academics, leadership, and career opportunities, creating pathways to economic mobility.

The Problem

Too many young people disengage from school not because they lack ability, but because they do not see the point. Chronic absenteeism affects a significant share of Illinois students. Career awareness among middle schoolers from under-resourced communities is limited. The connection between classroom learning and real opportunity is rarely made explicit.

How It Works

Sports bring scholars in. Every session builds academic skills and career awareness through the lens of the sports world.

- Real math through team budgets and player statistics
- Career exploration in sports medicine, marketing, data, broadcasting, and business
- Financial literacy, communication, and leadership built into every session

By the time they leave a Smart Sports session, scholars have done something academic. They just did not feel like it was school.

Where We Are

Smart Sports launched its first programming at Great Lakes Academy on Chicago's South Side in 2025. We are actively building partnerships to bring the model to more schools and communities.

Get Involved

Bring Smart Sports to your school, partner with us, or support the work by contacting Kelly Mehrtens at info@mysmartsports.org.

VISION

A world where sport's greatest victories happen off the field: in classrooms, careers, and communities.

For School Partners

We work directly inside schools, partnering with administrators and teachers to integrate programming into the school day or afterschool hours. If you serve middle school youth and want to give your scholars a clearer path forward, we want to talk.

For Funders

We are in our second year of programming and building toward scale. Early investment shapes what Smart Sports becomes. We are looking for funders who want to get in before it is obvious.

For Corporate Partners

Sports connect to every industry. If your company wants to build a meaningful relationship with the next generation of talent in Chicago, Smart Sports is a direct line in.

Our Values: CHOICE

- C** Community
- H** Honor
- O** Ownership
- I** Integrity
- C** Commitment
- E** Excellence

About Us

Smart Sports is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization: EIN: 87-3291661. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.