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Zonal competitions kicked off as part of the Countrywide School Chess Tournament.

The main goal of the tournament is to promote the World Chess Olympiad, which will be held in Azerbaijan, among students, build close relations among school staff and effectively organize their leisure.

This stage, which involves six zones (Baku, Ujar, Guba, Lankaran, Ganja, Oghuz), features winners of the regional competition. In general, 304 pupils in 76 teams compete in the zonal stage.

Each team includes an 8th-grade schoolboy and schoolgirl, a parent and a teacher.

The winners and runners-up in the zonal stage qualify for the final, which will be held in Baku on May 31.