

Baltimore City's Schools Fine Arts Strategic Plan Fast Facts

DID YOU KNOW?

Arts Education:

- Enables students to learn and pursue the arts
- Develops critical thinking
- Enhances Math and Literacy skills
- Supports social & emotional learning

Arts Education is Required by Law:

- Federal Law: Every Student Succeeds Act
- Maryland State Regulations: COMAR13A. 04.16

Arts Education Access in BCPSS has improved with:

- Adoption of a Fine Arts Strategic Plan in 2018
- Increased arts staffing by 40% in the last 5 years

What families can do?

- View your school's current budget (BCPSS website)
- Talk to your principal about why the arts matter to you and your student
- Participate in annual district and school budget forums
- Volunteer with Arts Every Day: sheena@artseveryday.org

FINE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

GOALS

Grades PK-5

All students receive visual art and music instruction, every year with experiences in theater and dance.

Grades 6-8

All students are able to choose from sequential, instructional courses in visual art, vocal and instrumental music, dance, and theater.

Grades 9-12

All students will have access to sequential instruction that prepares them for college and career in visual art, vocal and instrumental music, dance, theater.

AS OF SY21-22

Schools serving Pk-5:

- 84% offer Visual Art
- 68% offer Music
- 57% offer both visual art & music (goal 100%)
- Less than 10% of schools offer dance, theater, or instrumental music

Schools serving 6-8:

- 78% offer Visual Art
- 63% offer Music
- 65% of schools offered 2 or more fine arts disciplines (goal 100%)
- Less than 10% of schools offer dance, theater, or instrumental music

Schools serving 9-12:

- 40% of schools offer basic graduation requirements but no sequential study in any discipline
- 46% of schools offer sequential study in at least 1 discipline
- 10% of schools offer sequential study in visual art, music, dance and theater

Barriers to Arts Access:

- Fair Student Funding makes the arts difficult to sustain. When enrollment drops or a principal leaves, entire positions can be eliminated due to shifting priorities.
- School-based budget, staffing, and scheduling makes it very difficult to ensure equitable access to the arts at every school.
- Supplies, equipment, and musical instruments are purchased by schools individually leading to inequity across schools.

Ways to Improve Arts Access:

- Prioritize implementation of the Fine Arts Plan in policy and budget making
- Adopt a Fine Arts Policy that will advance equity and ensure sustainability
- Ensure all students have access to college and career pathways by improving high school budget and scheduling
- Advocate for a centralized staffing plan for Fine Arts

MEET THE CANDIDATES

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