

THE EVIDENCE

Sources: Elpus, K (2013); Americans for the Arts (2018); Catterall (2012); National Endowment for the Arts (2019), Arts Ed NJ Arts Education Dashboard; ACNJ (2018-2025); NJ Dept. of Education (2018-2025)

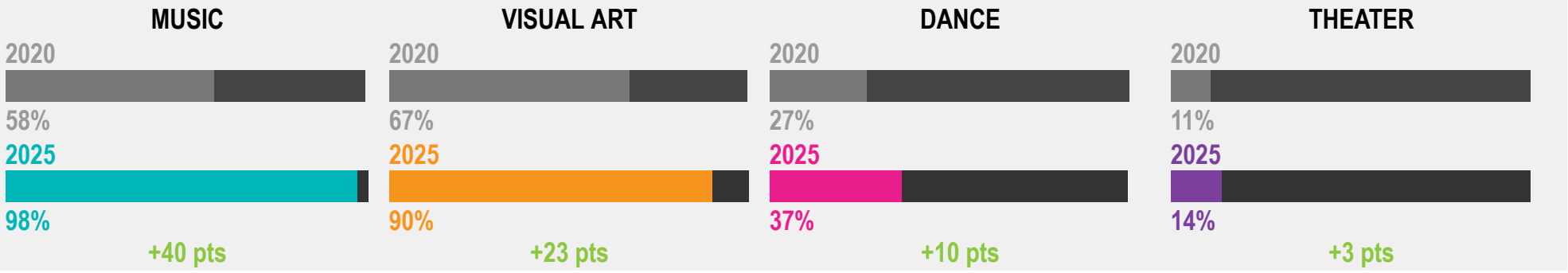


WITH ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION STUDENTS ARE:



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS Arts education builds *focus, critical thinking & collaboration* in young people
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT Higher language gains with arts access — supporting Newark's multilingual learners.
BETTER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE Experiencing and creating art *stimulates expression, critical thinking, and problem-solving.*

ARTS ACCESS IN NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION (NBOE) SCHOOLS: 2020 vs. 2025 | % of NBOE students per discipline



Key takeaway: Music and visual arts access have surged. Advocates must demand more access to dance and theater.

* Charter data was not included, because it was not readily available.

NEWARK YOUTH POPULATION		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION		POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT		CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM	
2018 69,941 25% of city pop.	2025 ~74K 24% of city pop.	2020 75% 25% dropout rate	2025 86% 4-yr cohort rate	2020 13% college grad rate	2025 50% NPS grads in college	2018-19 27% baseline rate	2023-24 11.5% latest rate
<i>Growing child population — arts ed demand is greater than ever</i>		<i>+11 pts — 10 of 20 schools now at 90%+</i>		<i>75% chose 4-year institutions (2023)</i>		<i>Now below NJ state avg of 15% — down from 47%+ for Black male students</i>	

PROGRESS
4 of 4 indicators improving

Graduation, attendance, post-secondary enrollment, and youth population all trending positive 2020–2025.

GAPS REMAIN
Literacy & Equity

Only 23% of NPS 3rd graders meet ELA standards vs. 44% statewide. Multilingual learners grew 17%→24% with bilingual teacher shortage (45:1).

OUR PLATFORM

- Build collaboration** among arts programs citywide
- Identify need** by mapping arts ed access
- Ensure quality** based on statewide standards
- Advocate** for increased access & resources
- Build capacity** among partners to be the best advocates

VOICES FROM NEWARK

“Giving a child the tools to bring their most creative thoughts and ideas to life through arts education is the ultimate gift.”

— **Porché Hardy**, Advocate & Arts High Alum

“Art is the window that reveals our imagination. And our imagination determines our future. That is why arts education is so very important.”

— **Willie Cole**, Newark Native & Renowned Artist