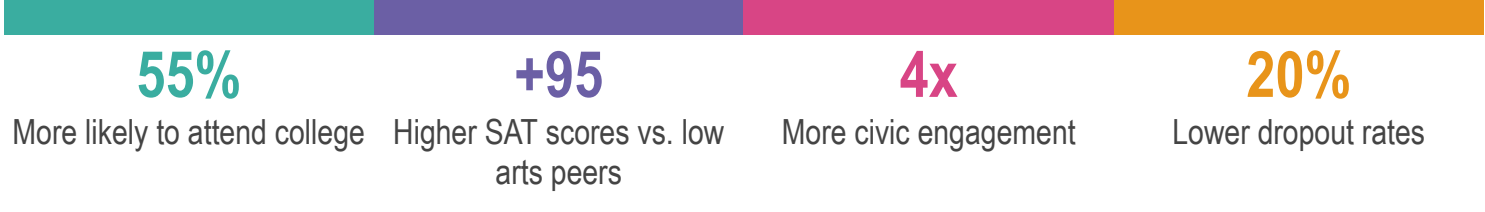


ARTS ED NEWARK partners call for **EQUITY** in **HIGH-QUALITY ARTS EDUCATION** for **ALL YOUTH** in Newark. We believe the **ARTS CAN TRANSFORM** young people and help them **THRIVE!**



WHY ARTS EDUCATION?



Arts education plays a critical role in the future of Newark:

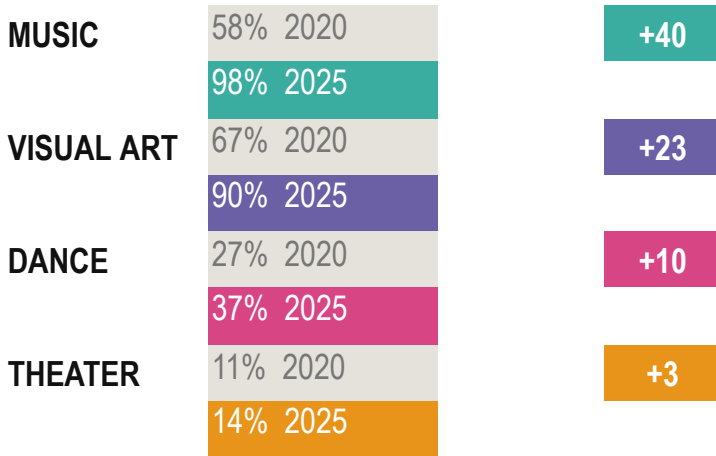
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING
Arts education increases non-academic, interpersonal skills — focus, empathy, and collaboration.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
Students with access to arts education show higher language development and literacy outcomes — supporting Newark's multilingual learners.

BETTER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
Experiencing and creating art stimulates critical thinking, expression, and problem-solving.

NBOE DISTRICT SCHOOLS: ARTS ACCESS

42,440 students in Newark Board of Education schools
% of NBOE students with access (2020 vs. 2025):

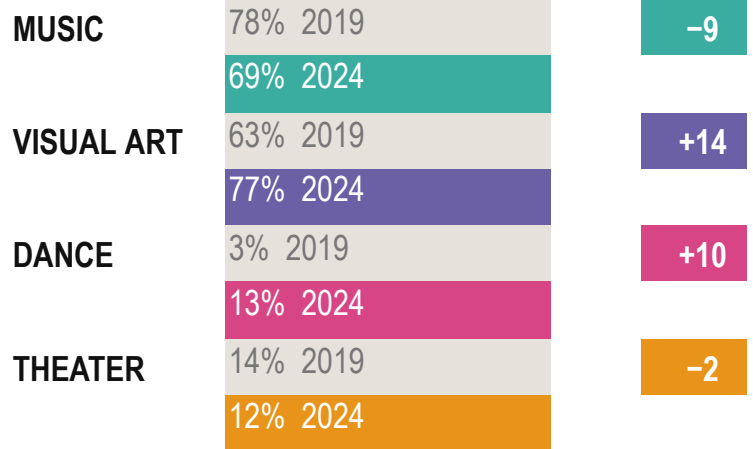


DISTRICT TAKEAWAY

Music and visual arts access have surged. Dance and theater remain underserved — the next frontier for district advocates.

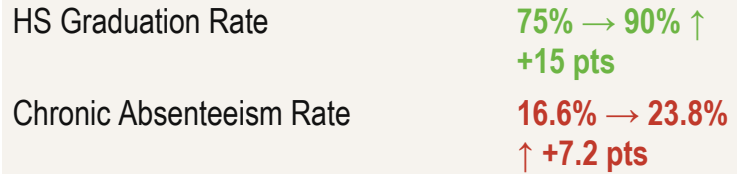
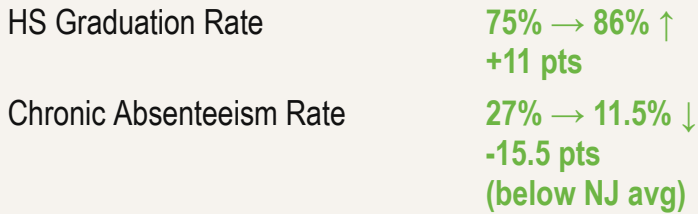
NEWARK CHARTER SECTOR: ARTS ACCESS

20,879 students in Newark Charter Schools
% of charter students with access (2019 vs. 2024):



CHARTER TAKEAWAY

Visual arts is the strongest discipline sector-wide. Music access declined, driven by near-zero access at KIPP TEAM (6,241 students) and North Star (6,404 students) — together serving 68% of all charter students.



GAPS THAT REMAIN

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

SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

★ BRIGHT SPOTS

Marion P. Thomas — all 4 disciplines gaining
Link Community — 97–98% music & visual arts
Robert Treat — 100% music & visual arts

⚠ NEEDS ATTENTION

KIPP TEAM — only 15% overall access
North Star — only 38.5% overall access
Theater and Dance absent in 9 of 12 schools

“ Art is the window that reveals our imagination. And our imagination determines our future.
— Willie Cole, Newark Native & Renowned Artist

“ 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

CRITICAL EQUITY GAP

KIPP TEAM and North Star together enroll 12,645 students — 68% of Newark’s charter sector. Their low arts access rates represent the single largest arts education equity gap in Newark.

* No data reported: LEAD Charter, Gateway Academy, Philip’s Academy CS. These schools are excluded from sector averages.

SUMMER ARTS INSTRUCTION

Arts Ed Newark has partnered with NBOE since 2012 — as Summer Plus, now SummerQUEST — with annual student surveys since 2017.

Summer arts instruction works.

13 years · thousands of students · zero exceptions

8 yrs

Survey eval

~21K

Students served

30%+

First arts experience

8 CONSISTENT FINDINGS (2017–2025)

► Confidence grows every year

Students report thinking more positively about themselves post-program.

► Making friends is the #1 outcome

“I made new friends” earns the top survey rating every single year.

► Arts support wellbeing in crisis

Even online in 2020, students reported joy, expression, and coping.

► Artist identity strengthens

Matched surveys show gains in “I think of myself as an artist.”

► Parent engagement amplifies

Students with arts-engaged parents score higher on every SEL indicator.

► Satisfaction consistently high

All sites range from Satisfied to Very Satisfied every year measured.

► Students always want to return

“I want to participate next year” — positive at every site, every year.

► Music is the #1 coping strategy

“Listen to music” tops the stress-response list every year since 2021.

“ I made new friends. It made me think in new ways.

— SummerQUEST student

HEALING CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

Since 2020, AEN has led a multi-year HCE training series for educators, teaching artists, and community practitioners across NJ and beyond.

600+

Educators trained

100%

Gained new tools

92%

Increased confidence

p<.01

Significant gains

WHAT THE DATA SHOW

► Knowledge gains are measurable

“Know a lot” about trauma jumped 11%→60% post-training (p=0.001).

► Confidence with youth rises

Pre-training: 42% confident. Post-training: 68–80%. None “not at all confident.”

► Arts use in trauma work doubles

Intentional arts use rose from 30% to 57% of participants post-training.

► 100% gained tools — every cohort

Every year. Every format. Every cohort. Zero exceptions across four years.

“ I now understand what it means to create a safe and healing-centered space through my art form.

— NJ Educator Series Participant

HCE PARTICIPANTS AGREE

Arts provide a vital outlet for expression · Help regulate the nervous system · Build resilience · Are a self-care tool for educators · Create psychological safety

THIS WORK MATTERS FOR:

EDUCATORS

Healing tools & trauma-informed practice

PARENTS

Your child’s growth, identity & confidence

FUNDERS

8 years of proven, measurable outcomes

POLICYMAKERS

Data to drive equitable arts investment

ARTS ED Newark



Achieving the goal of **ARTS ED EQUITY** for all Newark youth is a **COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT.**

HOW YOU CAN BE AN ARTS ED CHAMPION!



WHAT WE DO

SummerQUEST ~2,700 students daily · 15 sites · 8 years of rigorous annual outcome data.

HCE Training 600+ educators trained across NJ. Statistically significant gains confirmed every year.

Arts Advocacy Citywide data, mapping, and policy advocacy for every Newark student.

OUR IMPACT

~**21,000** students served in summer since 2012

600+ educators & practitioners trained

100% of all HCE cohorts gained new tools

+37 pts visual arts access increase 2020–2025

8 years of rigorous evaluation data

GET INVOLVED

- ▶ Spread the Word!
- ▶ Sponsor arts programming.
- ▶ Fund HCE training.
- ▶ Partner with AEN.
- ▶ Advocate for arts access.
- ▶ Share on Social Media.
- ▶ Become a Partner!

*“The arts can **TRANSFORM** young people and help them **THRIVE!**”*

ARTS ED NEWARK AND ITS PARTNERS SEEK TO:

- ▶ **Build Collaboration** Connect arts programs citywide so no student falls through the gaps.
- ▶ **Map Arts Access** Identify which youth have access to arts education in and out of school.
- ▶ **Ensure Quality** Promote standards-aligned, culturally responsive arts instruction.
- ▶ **Advocate for Resources** Push for increased funding, staffing, and equitable access in all schools.
- ▶ **Build Advocate Capacity** Train community partners to speak powerfully for arts education.