

# ARTS ED Newark



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?

**55%**

More likely to attend college

**+95**

Higher SAT scores vs. low arts peers

**4x**

More civic engagement

**20%**

Lower dropout rates

**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

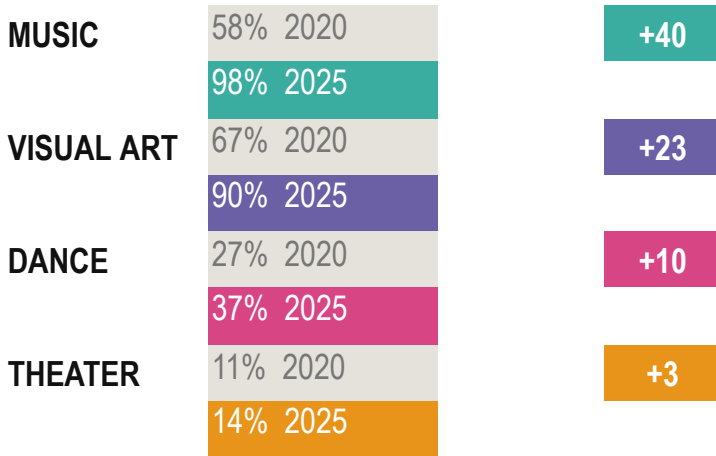
Students with access to arts education show higher language development and literacy outcomes — supporting Newark's multilingual learners.

### 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):

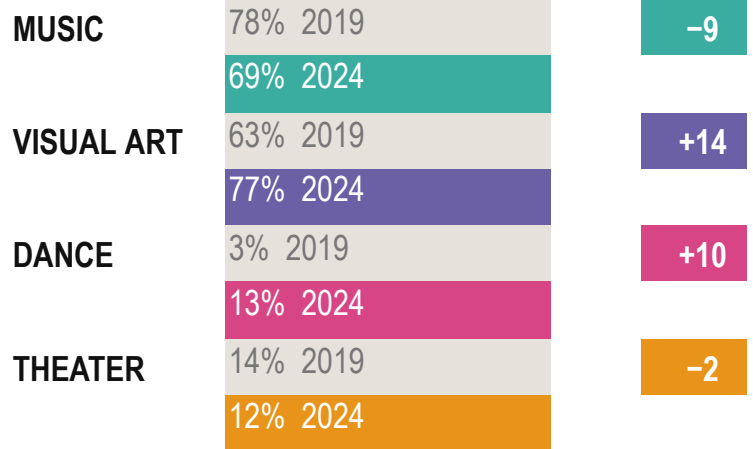


### DISTRICT TAKEAWAY

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

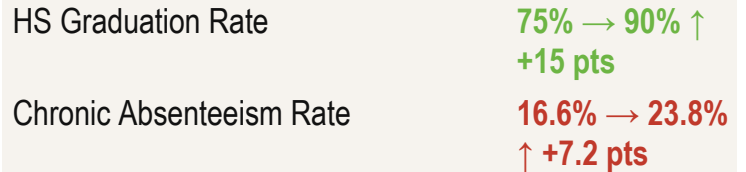
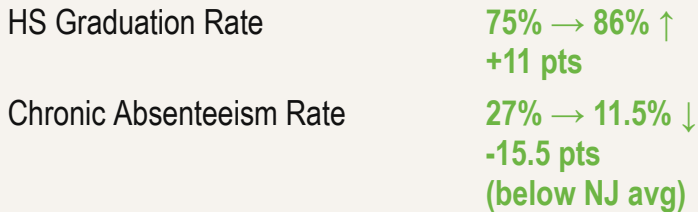
## NEWARK CHARTER SECTOR: ARTS ACCESS

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

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.