



CPS Arts Education Plan 2.0: *Cultivating Creativity*

July 2025 CPS BOE Meeting



ARTS
EDUCATION



Role of the CPS Department of Arts Education



Facilitating professional learning for arts teachers and schools



Providing city-wide arts programming for students, especially those lacking access to arts education



Guiding schools toward high quality practices, especially those with a Fine & Performing Arts School designation



Collecting and analyzing arts education data to inform policies and recommendations



Supporting schools to partner with external arts organizations



Leverage district data, such as the Creative Schools Certification, to create more equitable resource distribution

“

**Arts education is
not extracurricular—
it's essential.**

”

Building on Progress

Staffing



90%

Of all schools with at least 1 arts instructor in SY24, out of 632 total schools



77%

Of district-managed elementary schools met staffing recommendations in SY24



1,359

Total arts instructors across all disciplines in SY24



92%

Of district-managed high schools met staffing recommendations in SY24



47%

Of elementary schools had 120 mins or more of weekly arts instruction in SY24



75

Schools with a Fine and Performing Arts designation

Arts recognized as a Core Subject (2012)



\$24+M

Invested in CPS schools through the Creative Schools Fund since 2013

49% Ingenuity/Private Funding
34% CPS
16% City of Chicago



Engagement

2,000+

Students participate in the annual RE•VER•BER•ATE festival

94%

Of schools offering family/ community engagement in SY24

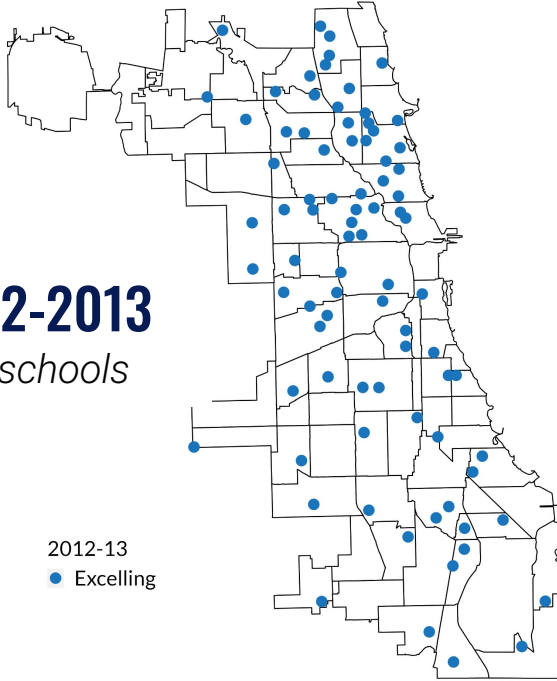
12

College credits earned by individual students enrolled in the RE:ALIZE Early College Arts program

Today, **96,000** more students now have access to schools rated as **Excelling** in SY24 compared to SY13.

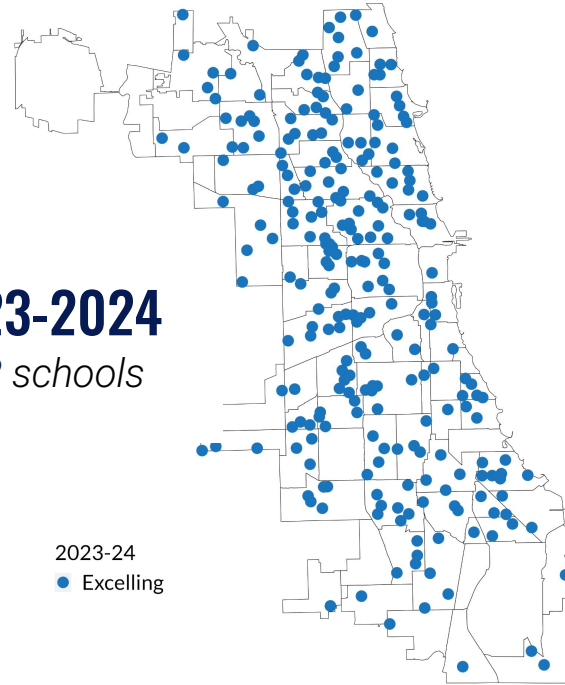
2012-2013
84 schools

2012-13
● Excelling



2023-2024
252 schools

2023-24
● Excelling





Cultivating Creativity

CPS Arts Education Plan 2.0



Arts Education Plan 2.0



Chicago
Public
Schools

ARTS
EDUCATION

Plan Overview

Goal 1: Access to Arts Education

- 1.1: Staffing
- 1.2: Minutes of Instruction, Elementary Schools
- 1.3: Arts Courses, Disciplines & Depth, High Schools
- 1.4: School-level Conditions to Support Arts Education
- 1.5: Resources and Dedicated Spaces
- 1.6: Strengthening Data Systems for Access

Goal 2: High Quality Arts Education

- 2.1: Comprehensive Arts Curriculum
- 2.2: Instructional Approaches
- 2.3: Professional Learning
- 2.4: Arts Partnerships
- 2.5: Strengthening Data Systems for Quality

Vision for CPS Students' Experience in the Arts

Every student in Chicago Public Schools will experience equitable, rigorous, and joyful arts learning that cultivates creativity, curiosity, empathy, and confident self-expression.

Through bold artistic practice and deep personal exploration, students will become critical thinkers, imaginative problem-solvers, and engaged citizens, ready to thrive in a dynamic world.



Developed through Inclusive Partnerships

Leading Organizations



**Civic
Consulting**
alliance

in^ogenuity

Supporting



ZENO
Communications
Agency

Local Philanthropy

Contributing

Arts Educators
Students
Families
Arts & Culture Organizations
Educational Institutions
Professional Artists

How Stakeholders Shaped This Plan

Our Reach:

OVERVIEW

2,683

Community members engaged

17

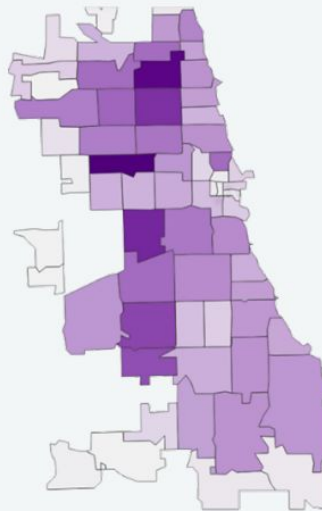
Sessions hosted

364

Schools reached

162

Arts organizations engaged



Density of engagement shows higher engagement on the North and West sides.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Students

Arts Partners

Arts Teachers

Non-Arts Teachers

Families

Network/CO Staff

Elected Officials

School Leaders

The Big Shift

True equity in arts education requires that both access and quality be prioritized.



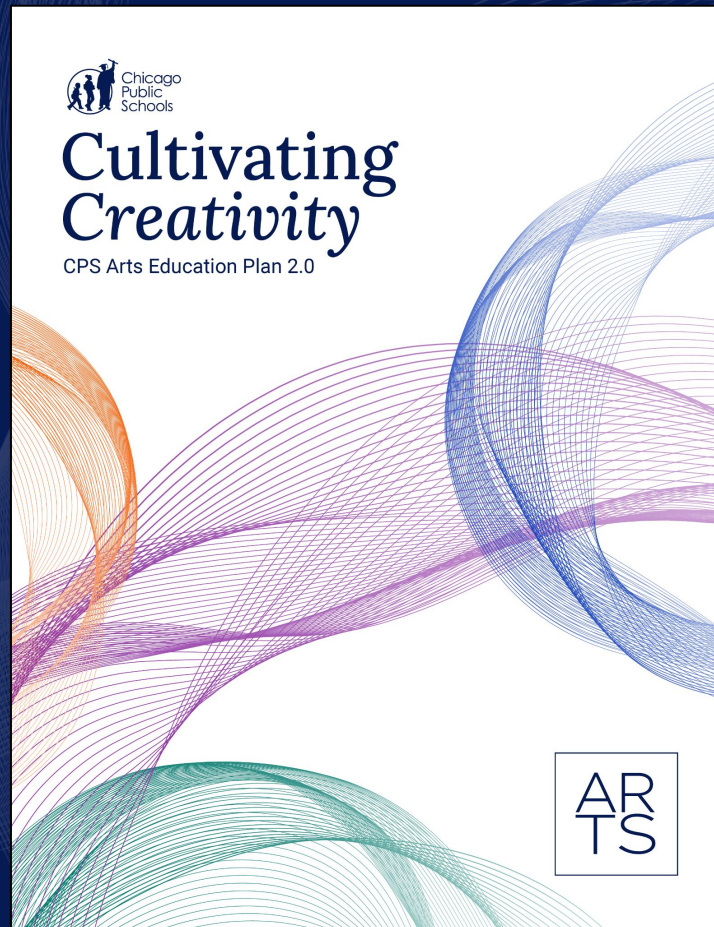
Plan Structure

Goal 1: Access

Aligned to existing *Creative Schools Certification*

Goal 2: Quality

New Focus, alignment with CIDT



Goal 1: Access to Arts Education



Goal 1 – Access

Goal 1: Access to Arts Education

Every student will have equitable access to developmentally appropriate arts instruction delivered by certified educators across a range of disciplines. The plan prioritizes improvements in staffing, instructional time, arts course offerings, teacher recruitment and retention, school conditions, access to facilities and resources, and partnerships targeted to areas of greatest need.



Creative Schools Certification (CSC) Rubric

[Link to CSC Rubric](#)

OVERALL SCORES

Here's how scores get converted to ratings (the grading scale).

CSC Rating	CSC Points
Excelling	90–100 Points
Strong	80–89 Points
Developing	70–79 Points
Emerging	Fewer than 70 Points
Incomplete Data	Did Not Complete Survey

POINTS ARE EARNED IN TWO DOMAINS:

Access – 64 points

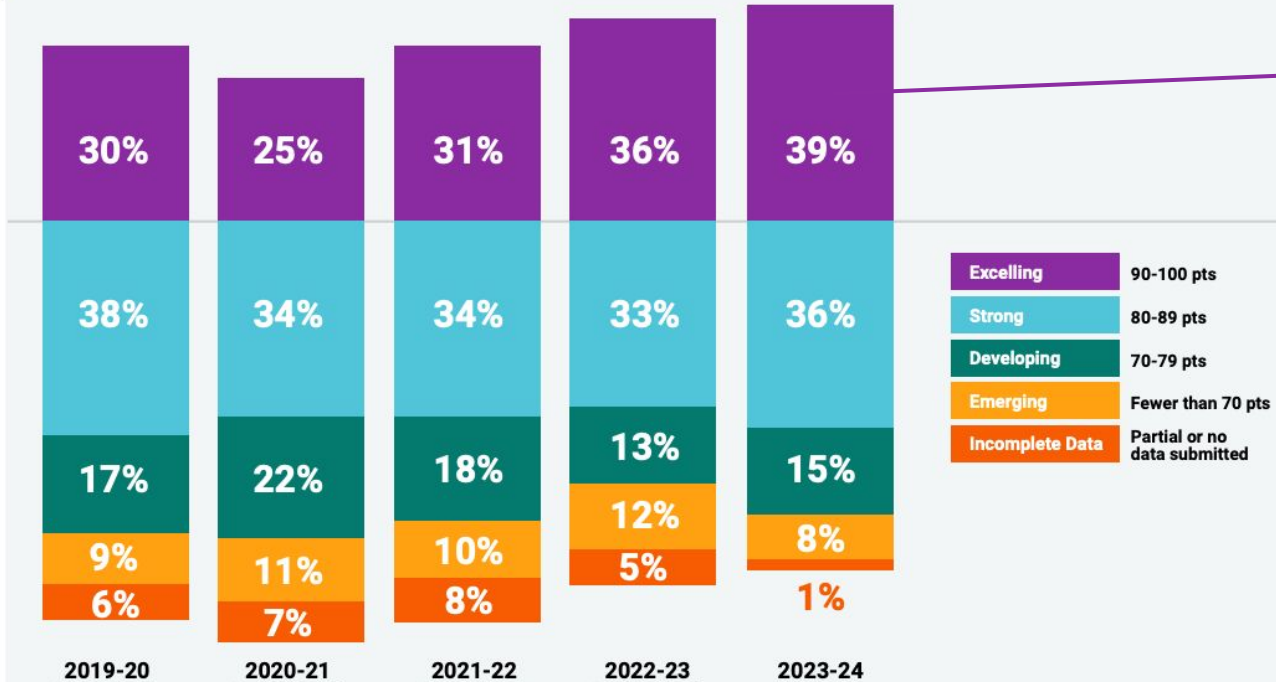
- Staffing (20 points for ES; 30 points for HS)
- Minutes of Instruction (24 points)
- Percent Access (20 points)
- Disciplines and Depth (34 points)

School Level Conditions – 36 points

- Arts Learning Standards (8 points)
- Arts Inclusion in School Governance (8 points)
- Budgeting for Arts Education (8 points)
- Arts Partnerships (4 points)
- Professional Learning (4 points)
- Family and Community Engagement (2 points)
- Instructional Approach (2 points)

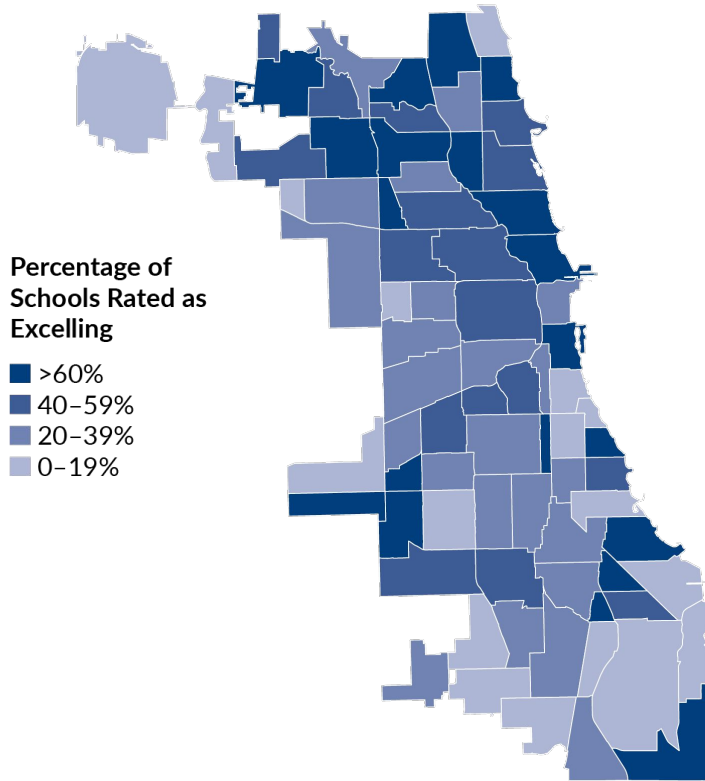
Current State – Arts Access

OVERALL CSC RATINGS



% of schools meeting the Arts Access goals

Access to Excelling Schools by Community Area



Darker shades of **navy** indicate areas with a higher percentages of **Excelling** schools, while lighter shades highlight areas with lower percentages.

Community areas on the north and northwest sides of the city are significantly more likely to have at least 60% of their schools rated as Excelling.

These community areas tend to have lower Opportunity Index scores (indicating more access to opportunity).

Why is this important?

In SY24, 39% of CPS schools met the Arts Access goals compared to 14% in SY13. This highlights both the progress made and the work still to be done.

Ideal Future State

We envision a district where **100%** of CPS students attend schools that **meet or exceed our standards for Access**, as defined by the Creative Schools Certification (CSC).

In this future state, every school is **staffed with certified arts educators** across multiple disciplines, and all students receive the minimum recommended **instructional minutes** in the arts. **Course offerings** are broad, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate from pre-K through 12th grade. Schools are equipped with the necessary **resources, facilities, and support structures** to deliver robust arts programming. **Strong partnerships with cultural institutions** further enrich students' learning experiences.

Plan Overview – Goal 1

Goal 1: Access to Arts Education

- 1.1: Staffing
- 1.2: Minutes of Instruction, Elementary Schools
- 1.3: Arts Courses, Disciplines & Depth, High Schools
- 1.4: School-level Conditions to Support Arts Education
- 1.5: Resources and Dedicated Spaces
- 1.6: Strengthening Data Systems for Access

Goal 2: Quality of Arts Education



Goal 2 – Quality

Goal 2: High-Quality Arts Education

CPS will define, support, and scale high-quality instruction in the arts—grounded in rigorous curricula, meaningful assessments, effective instructional models, and sustained professional learning. This goal also underscores the importance of arts partnerships and introduces a new approach to measuring instructional quality through systems of data and research, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with student needs.



Plan Overview – Goal 2

Goal 2: High Quality Arts Education

- 2.1: Comprehensive Arts Curriculum
- 2.2: Instructional Approaches
- 2.3: Professional Learning
- 2.4: Arts Partnerships
- 2.5: Strengthening Data Systems for Quality

Why is this important?

Without a clear and shared **definition of high-quality arts education**—and systems to measure and support it—there is no assurance that CPS students are receiving the kinds of deep, meaningful, and transformative artistic experiences that empower them as creative and confident learners.

Ideal Future State

We envision a district where every student experiences **high-quality, developmentally appropriate instruction** in the arts from PreK through 12th grade, supported by collaborative efforts from educators, families, community partners, and district staff. This approach ensures students' **arts education is rigorous and impactful** by utilizing a flexible, inclusive, and culturally responsive framework that values creativity, student voice, and real-world learning opportunities.



Current State – Goal 2: Arts Quality



- District wide Arts Education curriculum **does not exist**.
- Student-level assessments **are not administered district wide** in the Arts.
- Evaluations of arts partner organizations is **not standardized**.



This Plan seeks to develop these resources, supports, and infrastructure, in order to measure and improve the daily learning experience in every Arts classroom, aligned with CIDT priorities.

Closing Statement

Arts Access + Arts Quality =
**Transformative Arts
Education for Students**

The new Arts Education Plan 2.0 will enable CPS to continue its growth and innovation, building on the solid foundation from the 2012 Arts Plan.

Thank You to our Collaborators



Chicago
Public
Schools

ARTS
EDUCATION

- Arts Educators
- Students
- Families,
- Arts & Culture Organizations
- Arts Partners
- Educational Institutions
- Professional Artists
- Philanthropic Partners



CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION

Civic
Consulting
alliance

ArtsEd
Chi

Arts
Alliance^{LL}



JOFFREY ★ BALLET
CHICAGO

ingenuity

Illinois
ARTS
Council



CITY COLLEGES[®]
OF CHICAGO

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

ZENO

CHICAGO
TEACHERS
UNION

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

THEATRE
GOODMAN



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DCASE

ART
INSTITUTE
CHICAGO

Lyric



Chicago Public Schools
ARTS EDUCATION



Q & A

THANK YOU!



ARTS
EDUCATION