



BPS Visual & Performing Arts

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Anthony Beatrice, Executive Director for the Arts

Adalia Martin, Student at Boston Arts Academy

Nivea Williams, Student at the John D. O'Bryant High School

Ella Cascino, Student at the Snowden International School



Four Goals of BPS Arts Education Policy (Adopted June 2018)



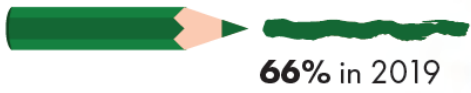
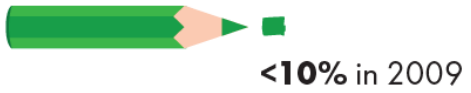
1. Comprehensive and sequential arts education for all students PreK-12th grade
2. Consistent and high quality District arts curriculum, instruction and assessment
3. Strong District/Central Office Capacity
4. Ensure adequate and sustainable arts education funding that is equitably distributed across the district

Goal 1: Comprehensive and sequential arts education for all students grades PreK-12th

% students in PreK-8 receiving weekly arts | Gain 30%



% students in PreK-8 receiving twice weekly arts | Gain 56%



% students in high school receiving any arts | Gain 40%



% high school graduates meeting Mass Core arts recommendation | Gain 10%



BPS Certified Arts Educators

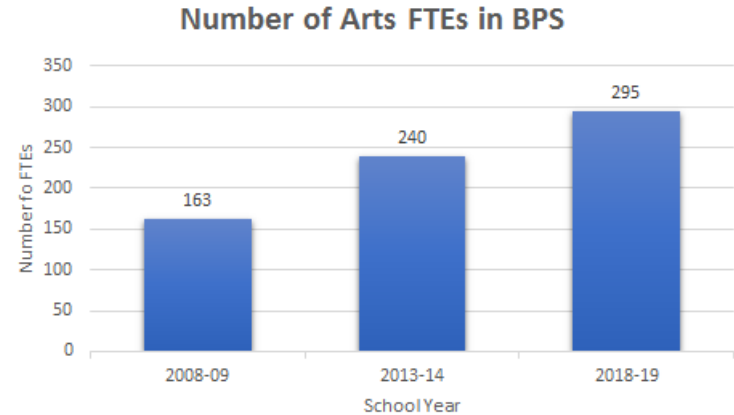
More public funding & arts teachers

130

Additional full-time arts teachers
hired by BPS since 2009

\$26M

Spent by the school district
annually on arts education
(up from \$16M in 2009)



Goal 2: Consistent and high quality District arts curriculum, instruction and assessment

- New Standards-Aligned/Essentials-Informed instructional materials for elementary general music, dance, visual art, media art, and theatre
- New Massachusetts Core Arts Standards
- Job-embedded professional development pilot within Networks 5 & 6 in 2019-2020
- Arts Peer Mentor Program
- Year-Round Professional Development



Goal 3: Strong District/Central Office Capacity

School Arts Index

- Captures a picture of arts education in individual schools using multiple indicators.
- Tool created to align with overall school quality framework.
- Tool for parents and families to understand arts education offerings in individual schools.

	2018-19			
	PreK-8		High School	
	# of schools	% of total	# of schools	% of total
Beginning	9	9%	10	28%
Developing	17	17%	9	24%
Expanding	43	44%	10	27%
Excelling	13	13%	3	8%
Insufficient Data	16	16%	5	14%
Total	98		37	

Strategic Communications

- Continue to broaden parent and community support for arts and arts education through effort in collaboration with EdVestors.
- Emphasize impact of arts education through narratives utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data.



GOAL 4: Ensure adequate and sustainable arts education funding that is equitably distributed across the District

- All schools and Central Office should maintain a budget for arts instructional materials, resources, equipment, maintenance, and repair.
- Well-Resourced Classroom Document for each arts discipline
- Implementation through School-Based Arts Strategic Planning in collaboration with Educators and School Leadership

Highlights



High School Arts Coalition

Research shows the benefits of the arts:

Education:

- According to the NEA, students who had intensive arts experiences in high school were 3 times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree.
- According to artsforlife.org, neuroscientists have found a tight correlation between exposure to the arts and improved skills in cognition and attention for learning.

Mental Health:

- According to the *American Journal of Public Health*, engagement with creative activities has the potential to contribute toward reducing stress and depression and can serve as a vehicle for alleviating the burden of chronic disease.
- According to a 2018 article in *USA Today*, participation in the arts helps young people regulate their anger

High School Arts Coalition

Arts Access Is an Equity Issue!!

- Arne Duncan, President Obama's former Secretary of Education, has stated: "The arts opportunity gap is widest for children in high-poverty schools. This is absolutely an equity issue and a civil rights issue."
- A U.S. Department of Education report stated that over the last thirty years, arts education has occupied a shrinking place in the life of schools. Students designated as "high arts" participants were twice as likely to be from high-income families and conversely low-income students were more than twice as likely to be categorized as "low arts". Clearly, a social justice and racial lens can be applied to this situation.

High School Arts Coalition

Results of BPS Student Survey:

Hyde Square Task Force youth surveyed 640 students from 17 BPS high schools on their perceptions and experience with the arts in school. The demographics of the sample are similar to the overall BPS student population: 36% Latinx; 8.5% mixed race; 31% Black; 12% White; 10.5% Asian, and 2% other.

The surveys revealed BPS high school students are highly conscious of the positive aspects of the arts:

- 90% of students believe that arts add value to their lives
- 78% of students report that they are excited when they participate in the arts
- 86% of students report that the arts help reduce stress in their lives
- 80% of students report that arts help them to express themselves

High School Arts Coalition

The surveys also revealed that high school students believe that BPS can do better in delivering arts offerings:

- Only 38% believe that BPS takes arts education seriously
- Only 35% report that arts classes at their school reflect their cultural background
- Only 20% of students believe that the arts classes at their schools receive enough funding
- Only 38% believe that there is a wide variety of arts classes offered at their school

High School Arts Coalition

Action Steps

1. Collaborative meetings between Citywide Arts Coalition and BPS Arts Department
2. Monitor arts offerings in each high school using the BPS School Arts Index
3. Identify high schools that are most ready for change
4. Meet with student leaders, school-site councils and headmasters
5. Continue to advocate for more arts funding in BPS budget
6. Collaborate with BPS and EdVestors on citywide arts messaging strategies