

THE EVIDENCE

Sources: Arts Education Data Project / Arts Ed NJ Interactive Dashboard (2026); ACNJ Newark Kids Count (2020 & 2025); NJ Dept. of Education School Performance Reports (2019-2024)

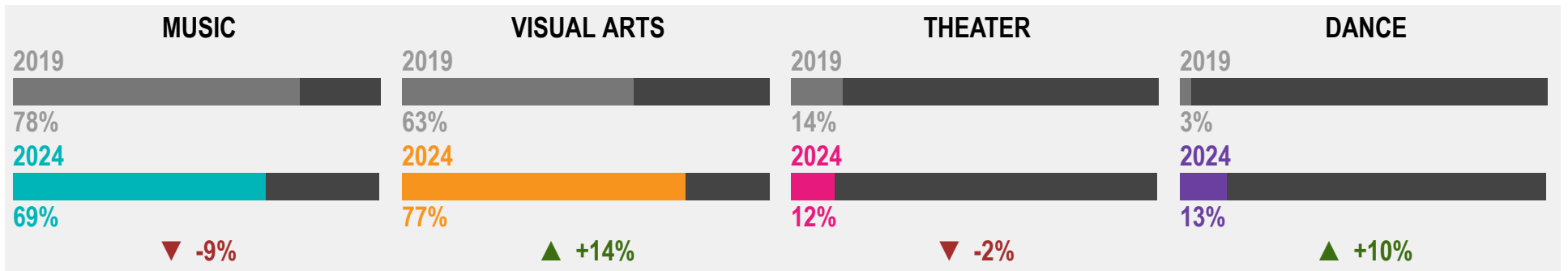


WITH ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION, STUDENTS ARE:



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.*

NEWARK CHARTER SECTOR: ARTS ACCESS OVERVIEW 2019 vs. 2024 | % of charter students per discipline



Key takeaway: Visual arts is the strongest discipline sector-wide. Music is near-universal in smaller districts but low in the two largest (North Star, KIPP TEAM). Theater and dance remain in just one or two districts — Marion P. Thomas and Link Community are bright spots.

NEWARK CHARTER DATA: PROGRESS SINCE 2019

■ BASELINE ■ ■ ■ CURRENT

YOUTH POPULATION		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION		POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT		CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM	
2019 18,477	2023-24 20,879	2019 75%	2024 90%	2019 37%	2024 Not available	2018-19 16.6%	2023-24 23.8%
▲ +13% increase		▲ +15% increase				▲ +7.2% increase	

Sources: ACNJ Newark Kids Count 2020 & 2024; NJ Dept. of Education School Performance Reports (2018–19, 2023–24); U.S. Census ACS. Note: Youth population reflects city-wide Newark (ACNJ 2024). Chronic absenteeism reflects Newark charter sector avg. (NJDOE SPR 2019 and 2024).

<p>PROGRESS 8 of 12 districts at 90%+ overall arts access Marion P. Thomas leads with access across all four disciplines — theater grew from 34% to 72%, dance from 26% to 50% since 2019. Visual arts is the most consistently offered discipline sector-wide.</p>	<p>GAPS REMAIN Scale & Discipline Equity KIPP TEAM (6,241 students) and North Star (6,404 students) serve more than half of all Newark charter students — yet report only 15% and 38.5% overall arts access. Theater and dance are absent in 9 of 12 districts with data.</p>
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<p>OUR PLATFORM Build collaboration among Newark charter arts programs citywide Identify need by mapping arts ed access across all charter districts Ensure quality based on statewide standards Advocate for increased access & resources Build capacity among partners to be the best advocates</p>	<p>VOICES FROM NEWARK <i>“Giving a child the tools to bring their most creative thoughts and ideas to life through arts education is the ultimate gift.”</i> — Porché Hardy, Advocate & Arts High Alum <i>“Art is the window that reveals our imagination. And our imagination determines our future. That is why arts education is so very important.”</i> — Willie Cole, Native Newark & Renowned Artist</p>
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NEWARK CHARTER SCHOOL ARTS ACCESS: DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT PROFILES | 2019 vs. 2024

Discovery 106 students	Gray 325 students	Great Oaks Legacy 2,065 students
Music 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Music 2019: 100% 2024: 100%	Music 2019: 38% 2024: 20% ▼ -18%
Visual Arts 2019: 0% 2024: 99%	Visual Arts 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Visual Arts 2019: 70% 2024: 68% ▼ -2%
Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
KIPP TEAM Academy 6,241 students	Link Community 359 students	Maria L. Varisco-Rogers 582 students
Music 2019: — 2024: 17%	Music 2019: 99% 2024: 97% ▼ -2%	Music 2019: 55% 2024: 56% ▲ +1
Visual Arts 2019: 19% 2024: —	Visual Arts 2019: 100% 2024: 98% ▼ -2%	Visual Arts 2019: 46% 2024: 100% ▲ +54%
Theater 2019: 14% 2024: 6% ▼ -8%	Theater 2019: 97% 2024: 66% ▼ -31%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
Dance 2019: 8% 2024: 2% ▼ -6%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
Marion P. Thomas 1,260 students	New Horizons 340 students	Newark Educators 110 students
Music 2019: 31% 2024: 58% ▲ +27%	Music 2019: 100% 2024: —	Music 2019: — 2024: —
Visual Arts 2019: 32% 2024: 67% ▲ +35%	Visual Arts 2019: 100% 2024: 100%	Visual Arts 2019: 100% 2024: —
Theater 2019: 34% 2024: 72% ▲ +38%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
Dance 2019: 26% 2024: 50% ▲ +24%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: — 2024: 98%
North Star Academy 6,404 students	Robert Treat Academy 698 students	Roseville Community 280 students
Music 2019: — 2024: —	Music 2019: 100% 2024: 100%	Music 2019: 100% 2024: 100%
Visual Arts 2019: — 2024: 35%	Visual Arts 2019: 68% 2024: 100% ▲ +32%	Visual Arts 2019: 99% 2024: 100% ▲ +1%
Theater 2019: 28% 2024: 4% ▼ -24%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Theater 2019: 0% 2024: 0%
Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%	Dance 2019: 0% 2024: 0%

Source: Arts Education Data Project / Arts Ed NJ Interactive Dashboard (2024 SY). 12 Newark charter districts with available data. 2019 = first reported data point; 2024 = most recent year. * No arts enrollment data reported for LEAD Charter School, Gateway Academy, or Philip's Academy Charter School.