

Principal Planning Guidance - Arts Education (PreK-8)

Planning Expectations Synopsis

K-8 Weekly Instructional Minutes and Staffing:

- Minimum of 120 minutes of arts instruction per week at every grade level
- Taught by Illinois licensed/endorsed arts instructors on staff

Beginning in SY18-19, the district will adopt the updated Illinois Arts Learning Standards. These new learning standards encompass Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Dance, and Media Arts. Curriculum must be aligned to these learning standards, which can be found here:

- [Visual Arts](#)
- [Theatre](#)
- [Media Arts](#)
- [Dance](#)
- [Music](#)

A suggested **Scope and Sequence in the Arts** can be found in the [Chicago Guide to Teaching and Learning in the Arts](#).

Overview/Rationale

The arts are a core subject area and align with the Common Core State Standards and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). Schools must have Tier II and Tier III academic supports in place for students in the arts, as well as a structured process for referral and monitoring of these supports. Academic interventions will be most effective when high-quality, arts-integrated, and Common-Core-aligned best practices are in place at Tier I.

A vital element of a 21st century education, arts instruction is critical to engaging students in innovation, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. Research shows that exposure to—and education in—the arts significantly decreases dropout rates, improves college entrance, increases civic engagement, and promotes financial success throughout a person’s lifetime.

Governing Policy/ Regulatory Implications

- **The November 2012 CPS Arts Education Plan Board Resolution ([12-1114-RS1](#))** recognizes the arts as core curriculum, dedicates a minimum of 120 minutes of weekly arts instruction for K-8, and expands the Fine Arts HS Graduation Requirements to include dance and drama as well as visual art and music. The Board Resolution values the critical role of licensed arts instructors and states that every student deserves to receive a comprehensive and sequential study of every art form, including visual art, music, dance, and drama from pre-K through 12th grade. [Read the CPS Arts Education Plan Goals and Recommendations](#).
- **State of Illinois policy** requires school districts “to ensure that each school makes available to all students instruction in the six fundamental learning areas, which include the fine arts.” ([Illinois Administrative Code Title 23, § 1.10](#))
- As identified in the **U.S. Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA, 2015) the arts are part of a core curriculum that provides a well-rounded education to all students.

Staffing Considerations

Personnel: Schools are responsible for providing instruction in visual art, music, dance, and/or drama/theatre by Illinois licensed/endorsed instructors on staff to provide the **minimum of 120 minutes of instruction in K-8**. Licensed or endorsed teachers provide long-term, consistent, and sequential arts instruction from year to year that contributes to overall student success. Per the CPS Arts Education Plan:

- Schools should staff a **minimum of 1 Full Time licensed/endorsed Equivalent (FTE) employee/instructor** per 350 students.

Scheduling Considerations

- **Dedicated space:** Schedule arts instruction in a dedicated, normal classroom space. Occasionally, arts teachers may request different instruction spaces (e.g., auditorium, stage, multi-purpose room), and should be placed

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there only when requested.

- **Accessibility to all learners:** Principals should ensure that all learners' arts education is accessible and consistent with students' learning considerations, such as IEPs or English Learner Programs. Any accommodations and staff supports provided to those students in other core courses should be provided in their arts courses as well.
- **Class size:** Optimal class sizes should be *less than or equal to* district guidelines. Be mindful of "push-in" services or students added to the roster of an arts class.
- **Time between classes:** Provide 2-5 minutes of passing time to/from arts classes. Travelling can impact transition times in arts courses. Classes scheduled back-to-back create challenges for both students and teachers in terms of arts-making, cleanup, and storage of artwork, especially when arts teachers are serving multiple grades and ability levels.
- **Production/rehearsal/exhibition time:** Arts disciplines can add value to the school community by offering student performances and exhibitions. Allow arts educators additional preparation time during or outside of school hours for planning, preparing, and implementing high-quality performances and exhibitions of student work.

Budgeting Considerations

Budget and materials: The CPS Arts Education Plan recommends a minimum budget of at least \$5.00 per student for each arts discipline. *Note: Plan ahead for more costly equipment purchases on a non-annual basis (e.g., kilns, sound systems, sprung floors).*

- Example: A PreK-8 school serving 800 students with 3 sections of 27 students per grade should budget for at least \$5.00 per student per art form offered (\$405 for the year).

FREE additional funding for the arts at your school: Principals should designate an arts teacher as the Arts Liaison to complete the Creative Schools Survey every spring. Completion ensures the school receives the **Arts Essentials Grant**, a yearly per-school award of \$1,000 from the district for the purchase of arts supplies. Nominate or renominate an Arts Liaison here: bit.ly/ArtsLiaisonNomination.

Additional Funding Opportunity: Once the Liaison completes the Creative Schools Survey and the school receives its Creative Schools Certification, the school may be eligible to apply for the **Creative Schools Fund Grant**, awarded by Ingenuity. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and can be spent on building arts partnerships with organizations. Details are available over the summer and can be found here: <https://www.ingenuity-inc.org/apply>

Additional Resources/Opportunities

- **CPS All-City Arts Programs:** Students may participate in [All-City Performing Arts](#) (music, theatre, and dance) and [All-City Visual Arts](#) (visual and media arts exhibitions).
- **Professional learning:** A range of professional learning sessions are available for administrators and teachers on best practices in arts instruction, curriculum development, and assessment throughout every school year.
- **Arts Liaisons:** These principal-designated arts advocates lead arts opportunities for their school communities, connect students to arts resources, and collect and utilize school-level arts data for the Creative Schools Certification. Nominate or renominate an Arts Liaison here: bit.ly/ArtsLiaisonNomination.
- **External partners:** Partnerships supplement existing arts education during in- and out-of-school time through artist residencies, assemblies, or field trips. *Note: Partnerships do not replace arts instruction that licensed/endorsed teachers provide.* For a searchable list of arts partners, see <https://artlookmap.com/>.

Contact Information

Area	Email	Phone	KC Link (and/or external website link)
Arts Education	cpsarts@cps.edu	773-553-2170	www.cpsarts.org