



Beyond the Stage

State of the Arts in Fort Worth ISD

October 28, 2025

Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FWISD Commitment to Arts Education



Fort Worth ISD is committed to ensuring that every student, from kindergarten through 12th grade, has access to high-quality arts education. This commitment reflects our belief that the arts are essential not only for fostering creativity but also for educating the whole child by enhancing academic achievement, promoting cultural awareness, and supporting overall student development.



Our Numbers

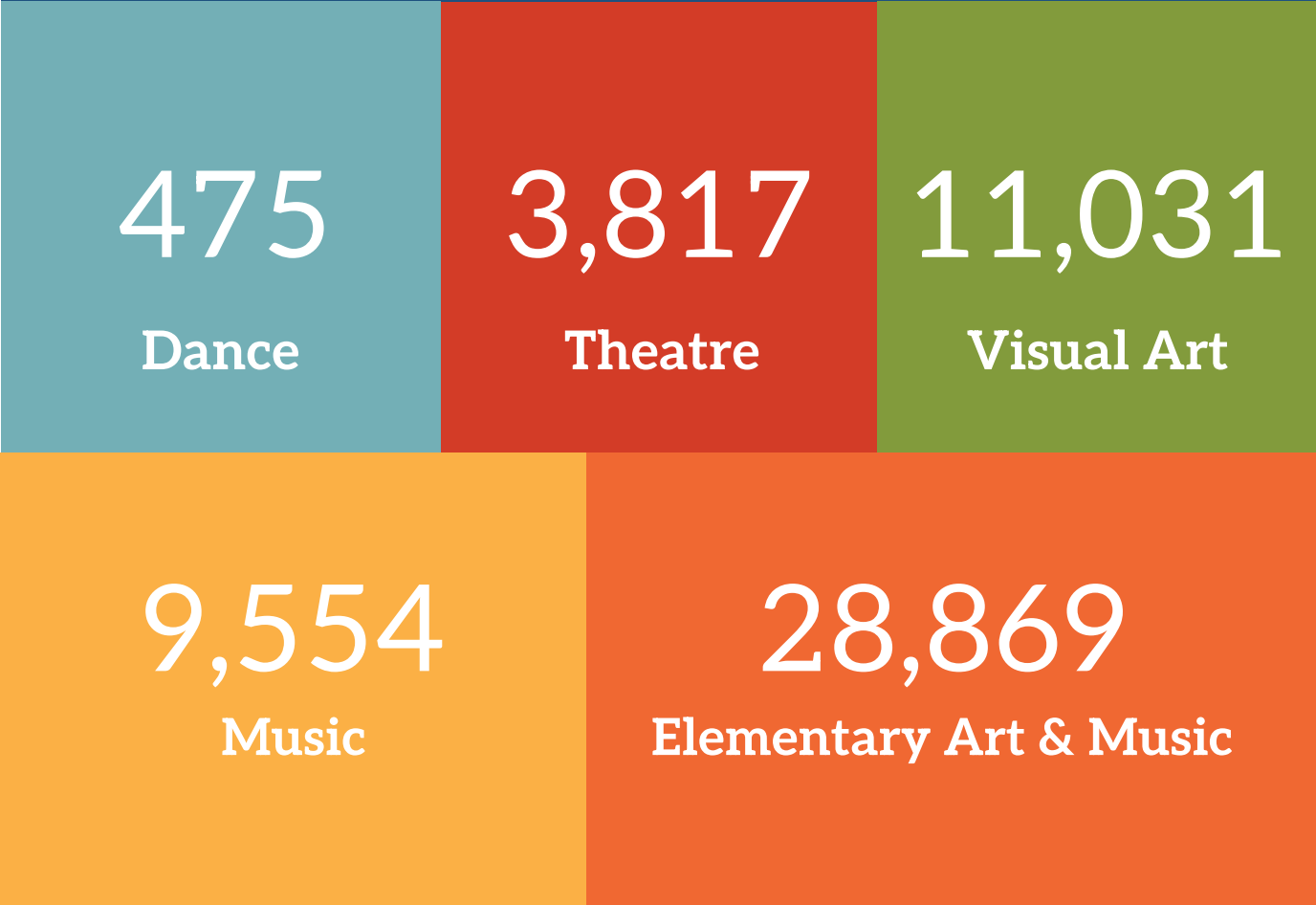
Elementary Students receive art and music instruction at every campus in the district.

Secondary Participation

- + Middle School —
 - + Specialized Programs
 - Dance, Mariachi, Orchestra
- + High School
 - + Specialized Programs
 - Dance, Mariachi, Orchestra



53,746 Total Number of Students enrolled in VPA Courses



Data Source: FOCUS Report as of 9/26/25

VPA Staff by Content Area



Visual Art - 153 teachers

Dance - 11 teachers

Music - 212 teachers

Theatre - 39 teachers

Course Offerings – Visual Art

- Elementary Art
- Middle School – Art I, Art II, Art III
- High School
 - Art I, Art II, Art III, Art IV
 - Drawing I, II, III
 - Painting I, II, III
 - Photography I, II, III
 - Sculpture I, II, III
 - Ceramics I, II, III
 - Jewelry*
 - AP 2D, AP 3D, AP Drawing
 - AP Art History

*only offered at Arlington Heights HS



Isabella Martinez, Paschal HS



Olivia Mar, Arlington Heights HS

Course Offerings – Instrumental Music

- **Middle School (Level I-III)**
 - Band
 - Mariachi*
 - Orchestra**
- **High School (Level I-IV)**
 - Band
 - Jazz Ensemble
 - Mariachi***
 - Orchestra****

*MS Mariachi offered at Elder, Forest Oak, James, Meacham, Riverside, Rosemont, and WLI

**MS Orchestra offered at ALA, Benbrook, Daggett Montessori, Elder, James, Kirkpatrick, McLean 6, McLean, McClung, Meacham, Monnig, Riverside, Rosemont, Stripling, Wedgwood, and YWLA

***HS Mariachi offered at Carter Riverside, Diamond-Hill Jarvis, OD Wyatt, South Hills, North Side, Paschal, Polytech, and WLI

****HS Orchestra offered at Arlington Heights, Benbrook, Carter Riverside, Diamond Hill Jarvis, Eastern Hills, IMTVPA, North Side, Paschal, Polytech, Southwest, South Hills, Trimble Tech, and YWLA



Stripling MS Band



FWISD All-District Orchestra



WLI Estudiantina



South Hills HS Marching Band

Course Offerings — Choral & Elementary Music

- Elementary Music
- Choir I (MS), Choir II (MS), Choir III (MS)
- Show Choir II (MS), Show Choir III (MS)*
- Choir I (HS), Choir II (HS), Choir III (HS), Choir IV (HS)
- Show Choir I (HS), Show Choir II (HS), Show Choir III (HS), Show Choir IV (HS)*
- Piano (HS) - IMT
- Music Theory (HS)
- AP Music Theory (HS)**
- Dual Credit Music Appreciation (HS)***

*only offered at SWHS, PHS, WJMS, Wedgwood

**only offered at IMT, CRHS, AHHS, PHS, YWLA

***only offered at O.D. Wyatt, IMTVPA, SWHS, WHHS

No Choral Program: Polytechnic HS, Morningside MS, YMLA



Benbrook MHS 24 Treble Choir



FWISD Lone Star Youth Chorus

Course Offerings — Dance

- Middle School
 - Principles of Dance I – III*
- High School**
 - Principles of Dance I – IV
 - World Dance
 - Health & Wellness for Dancers
 - Dance Production
 - Dance Company/Ensemble
 - Dance Genre Specific Courses
 - Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap

*only offered at Forest Oak MS (LAN) & Monnig MS

** only offered at Arlington Heights HS, Diamond Hill-Jarvis, IMTVPA, O.D. Wyatt HS, Paschal HS, and South Hills HS



Brooklyn Fox, I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM & VPA

Course Offerings – Theatre

- Middle School Theatre I – III
- High School Theatre I – IV
- Technical Theatre I – IV
- Musical Theatre I – IV
- Theatre Production I – IV
- Playwriting & Directing
- Dual Credit Theatre I*
- Dual Credit Technical Theatre I*

*Course only offered at Western Hills HS, Southwest HS

Theatre not offered at Forest Oak MS (LAN)



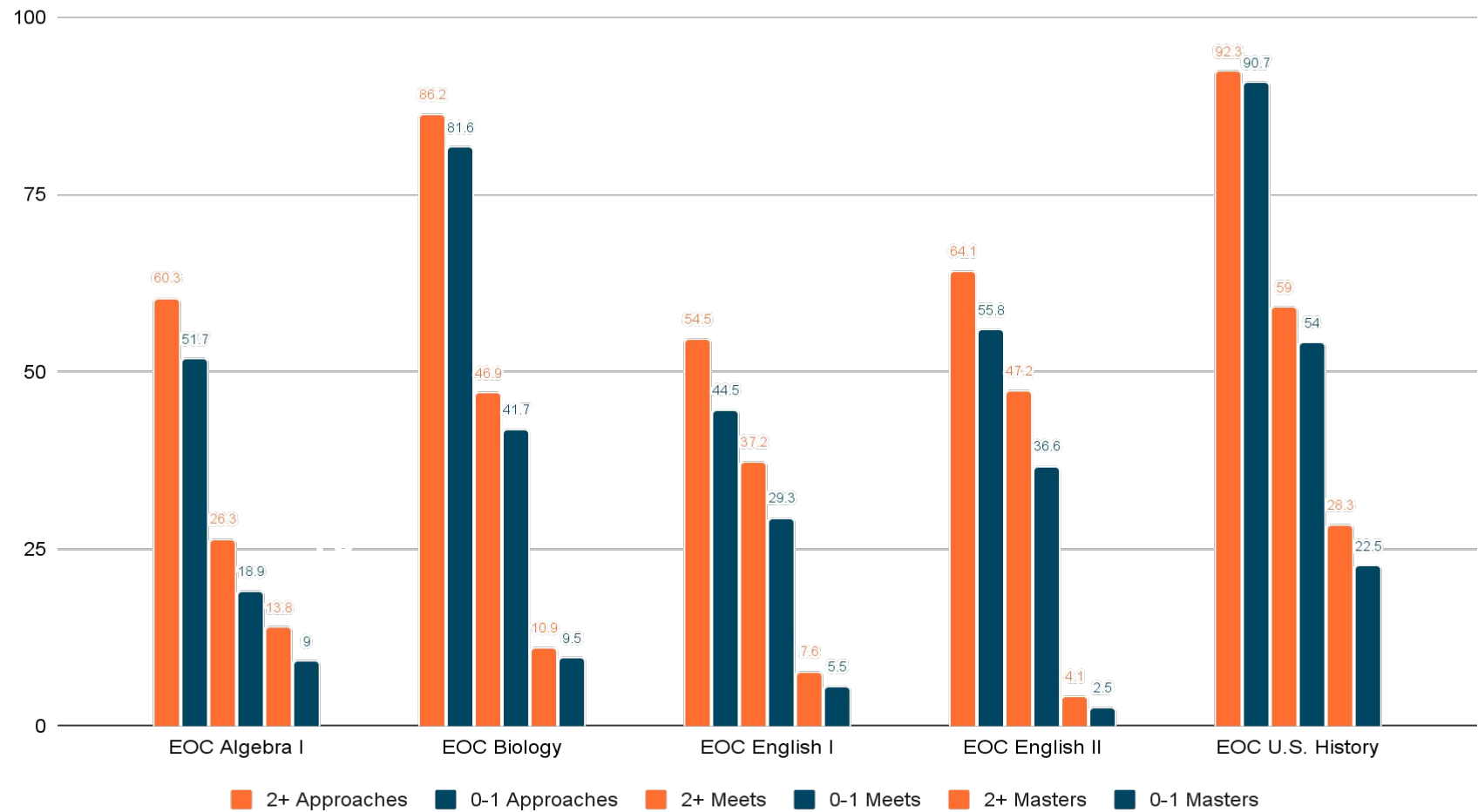
Southwest High School, *Shrek*, 2025

Photo Credit: Guerin's Focus

High School Comparison of Performance of Extended vs. Non-Extended FWISD Fine Arts Students on Spring 2025 STAAR (PEIMS Subset Applied)

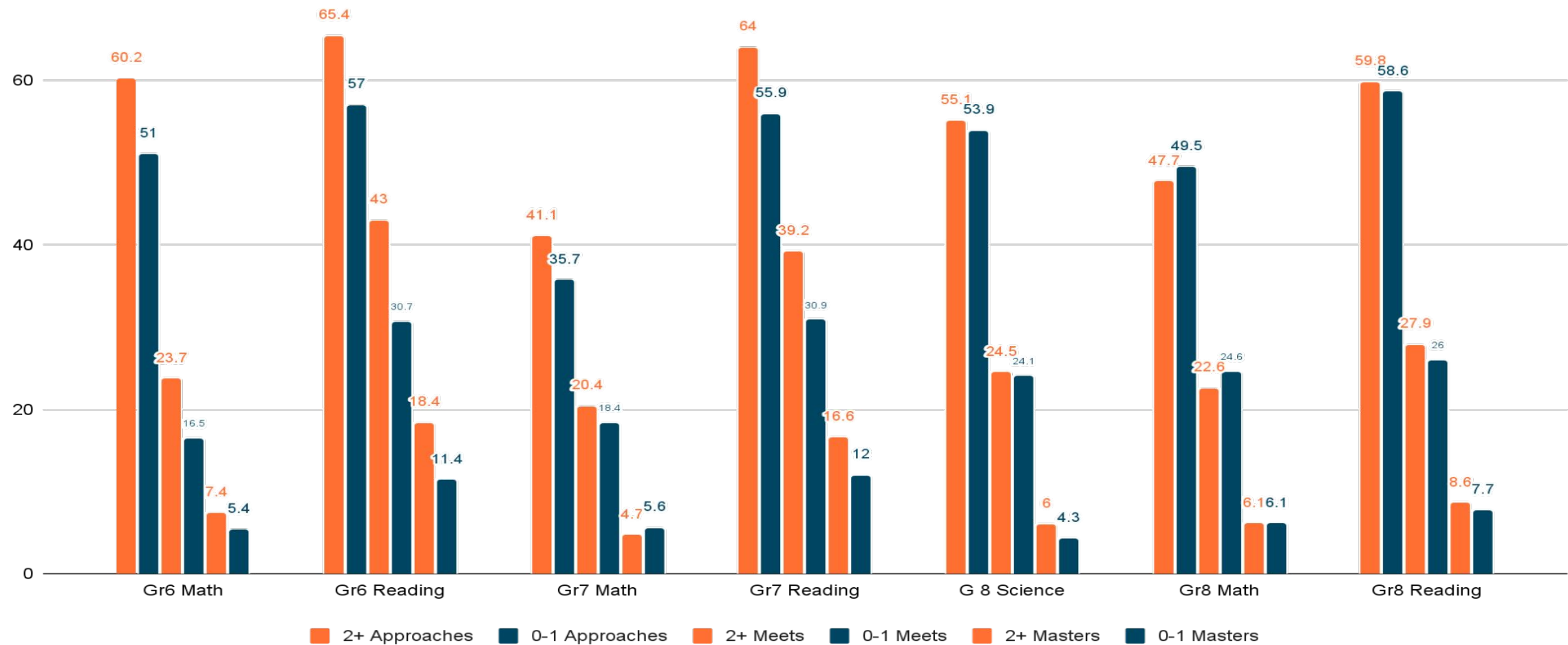
Impact on Student Academic Performance

When comparing students who have completed only the state-required arts courses with those who have been enrolled in Fine Arts courses for two years or more, we observe a significant increase in academic growth across key STAAR performance indicators. Students with extended participation in Fine Arts consistently show higher rates of achievement in the categories of Approaches, Meets, and Masters.



Data Source: FWISD Accountability & Data Quality as 10/2/25

Middle School Comparison of Performance of Extended vs. Non-Extended FWISD Fine Arts Students on Spring 2025 STAAR (PEIMS Subset Applied)



Data Source: FWISD Accountability & Data Quality as 10/2/25

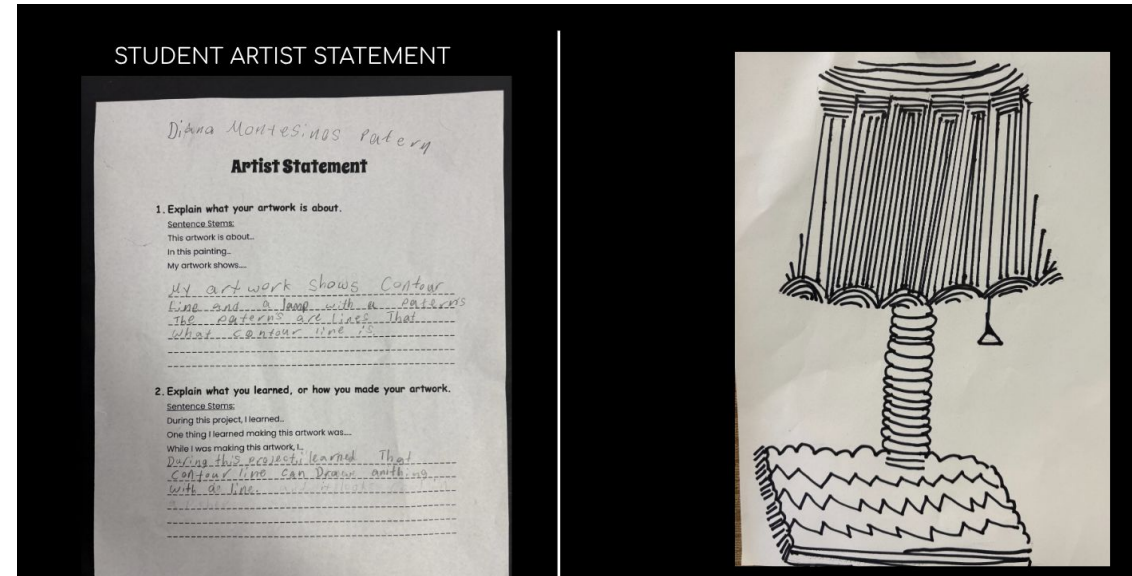
TIA Cohorts

Cohorts build on each other to expand eligibility to more teachers.

| Eligible or Anticipated Eligible Teachers | Eligible Courses in Data Capture Years | |
|---|--|--|
| | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| | | |
| Cohort F | Elementary Music (4th) Instrumental & Vocal Music (MS & HS) | Data Validation Notified Spring 2025 Number of teachers: 49 teachers 10 recognized, 28 Exemplary, 11 Master |
| Cohort G | | Elementary Art (2nd) MS Art, HS Art I Data Validation Notified Spring 2026 |

**We are currently exploring options to include remaining Fine Arts teachers (Dance & Theatre)*

Campus Spotlight - Lowery Road ES



Diana Montesinos, Lowery Road ES

- Jennifer Cowley - Art
- Stacey Redding - Music (Exemplary)
- Literacy

Campus Spotlight - McLean MS Band



- Directors: Christa Martien and Jacob Gandy
- Program Enrollment: 227
- Music for All National Festival



Program Spotlight - FWISD Children's Honor Choir



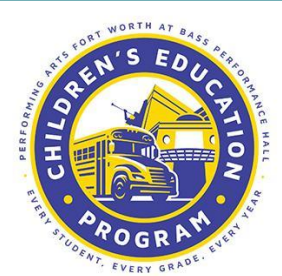
- Elizabeth Thacker, Elementary Music Specialist, FWISD VPA
- 108 students; 36 campuses
- District Strategic Plan - Student and Family Engagement

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra



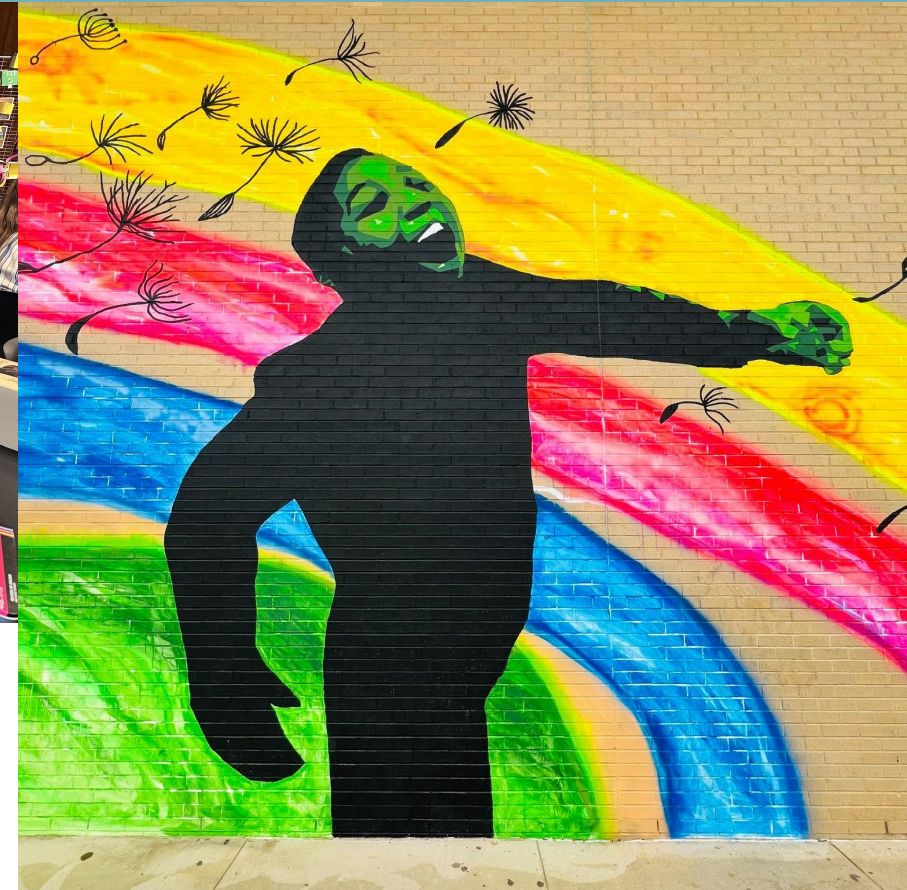
- **Discover Series (Kindergarten):** Students are introduced to the instrument families and receive a book from the Red Oak Foundation. Members of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra visit campuses to read the book and share their love of music.
- **Link Up Concert (4th Grade):** Students perform *in concert* with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra through a program featuring curriculum developed by Carnegie Hall.
- **Side-by-Side Concert:** District orchestra programs perform alongside members of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra—a powerful collaboration that gives students a firsthand professional performance experience.
 - Save the Date: *Benbrook Middle-High School – November 4, 2:30 p.m.*

Bass Hall Children's Education Program



- **Student Intensive Experience:** Students participate in interactive sessions with touring performers, gaining valuable insight and real-world experience directly from professionals.
- **Scholarships:** Opportunities are available for FWISD students and teachers to further their studies and artistic growth.
- **Elementary Performances:** Throughout the year, students attend cross-curricular programs at Bass Hall that connect learning with live performance experiences. (28,869 students)
- **Summer Camp (Choir & Percussion):** FWISD students work with guest clinicians to strengthen their musicianship and prepare for All-State auditions. (450 students)
- **Performance Access:** Students and families receive free tickets to attend productions, expanding access to high-quality arts experiences.

Amon Carter Museum of American Art



- Elementary: Field trips with guided writing about artwork.
- Middle School: Collaborative projects, including campus murals.
- High School: Top 10 Senior Artist event showcasing real-world art skills.

“Each seed is a promise... dandelions”

Rosemont MS

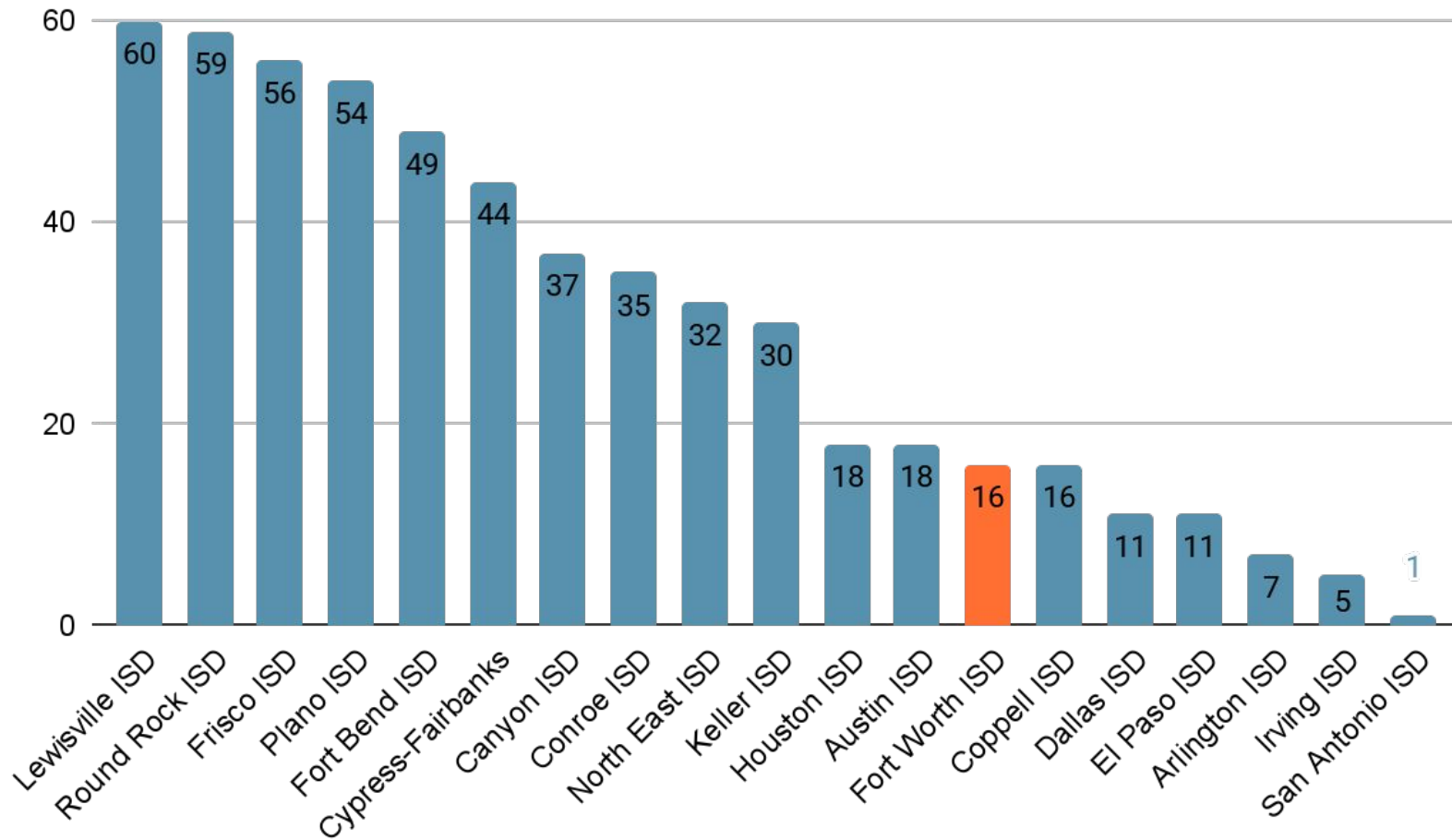
Brenda Ciardiello, Carter Collab Mural Artist

Fort Worth Chorale (Schola Cantorum Project)



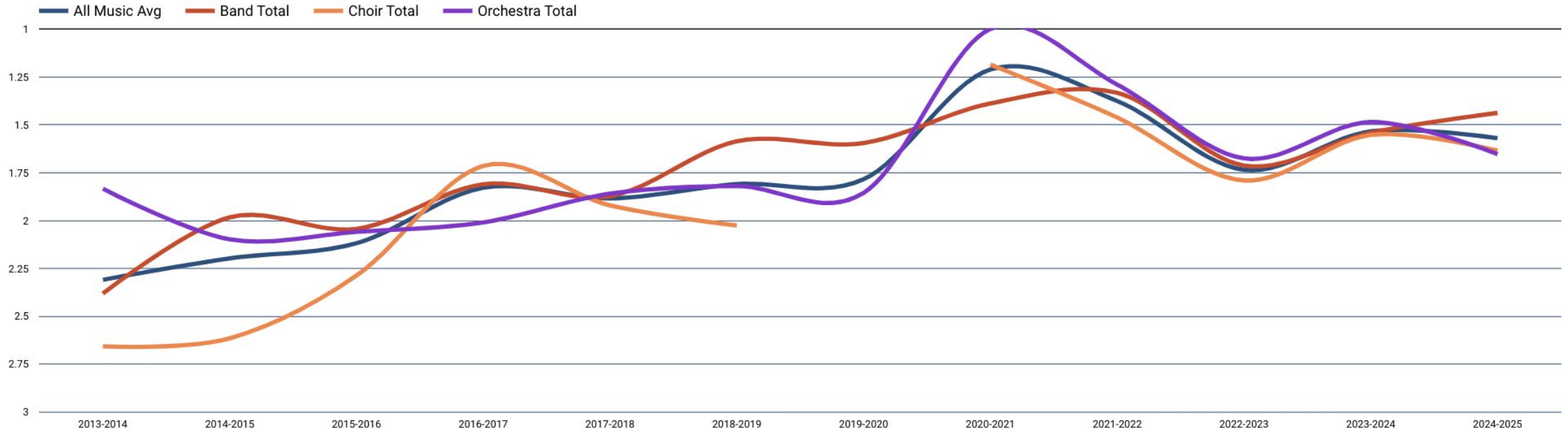
- Schola Cantorum Project: Provides free sheet music to FWISD.
- YMCA Recording Session: Students record music in a professional studio and collaborate with composers.
- Composer Collaboration: Middle school students create original compositions with composers.
- Professional development opportunities for FWISD choir directors.

TMEA – All-State Musicians (2025)



Data Source: Texas Music Educators Association, February 2025

UIL – Average UIL Ratings



Data Source: University Interscholastic League

Our district's UIL results demonstrate consistent growth year over year. More ensembles than ever — including Varsity, Non-Varsity, and Sub Non-Varsity groups — are participating and earning high ratings. Most bands, choirs, and orchestras are achieving 1s (Superior) and 2s (Excellent), with only a few earning 3s (Good), keeping our overall average strong. We are committed to continuous improvement, providing support and collaboration with our teachers, and expanding opportunities for all students to excel.

Valedictorians

Among the Class of 2025, 7 valedictorians and 7 salutatorians, representing 38.6% of all top graduates participated in more than one year of our Fine Arts programs, a powerful testament to the connection between arts education and academic excellence. Participation in music, theatre, dance, and visual arts nurtures the very skills communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking that today's employers value most.



S'nia Harmon

Dunbar HS

Band

Prairie View A&M University

Civil Engineering



Joseph Wilkinson

Benbrook MHS

Orchestra

Texas A & M University

Computer Engineering



Jennifer Ayala

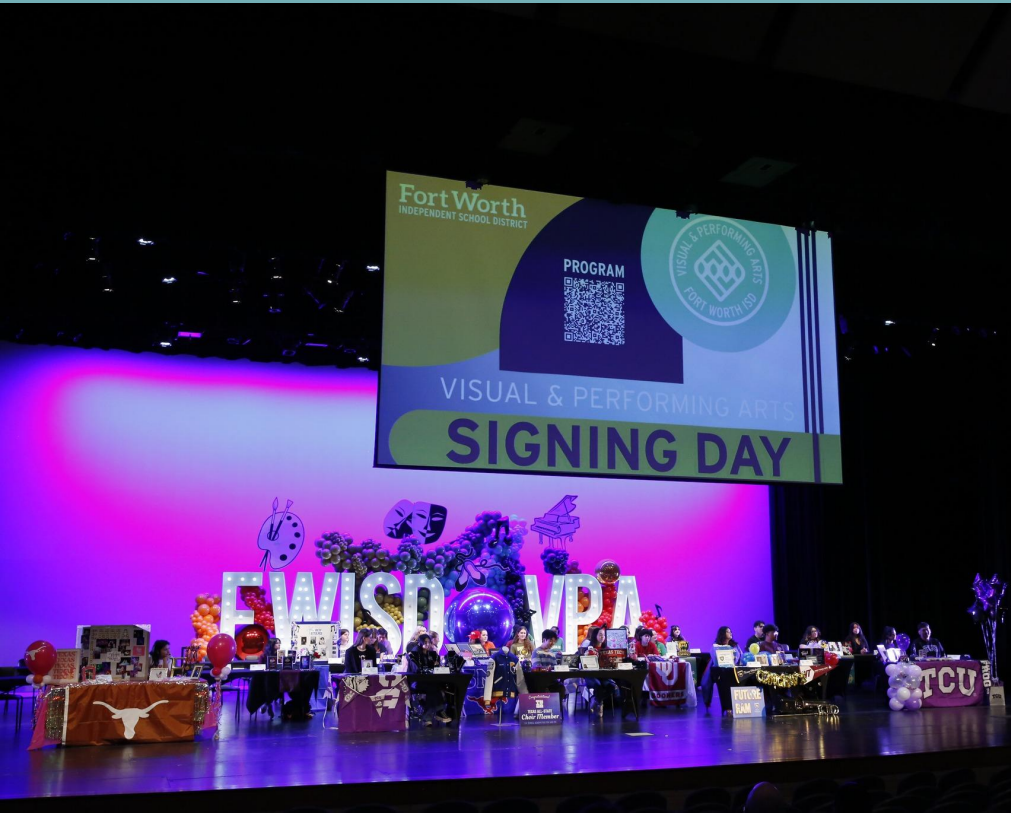
North Side HS

Choir

Texas Christian University

Social Work

VPA Signing Day - May 8, 2026



Fine Arts Signing Day is a celebratory event honoring students who have earned scholarships for their exceptional talents in various fine arts disciplines. As they prepare to embark on their post-secondary journeys, we recognize their hard work and dedication.



Continuous Improvement

How are we getting better?

Instructional Coaching

We are committed to supporting teachers through ongoing instructional coaching to ensure curriculum fidelity across all campuses. This helps guarantee that every student experiences high-quality, standards-aligned instruction in every Fine Arts classroom.

Student Participation

In alignment with the district's strategic plan, increasing student enrollment in Fine Arts remains a top priority. In doing so, we aim to inspire more students to continue their journey in the arts. Higher participation not only enriches our programs but also strengthens the culture across our campuses.



Expanded Partnerships

Building additional partnerships allows us to bring new experiences, resources, and expertise to our students. Collaborations with local arts organizations, higher education institutions, and community partners provide unique learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

AP Performance

We are focused on improving student outcomes in AP Music Theory and AP Art. Strengthening instruction, providing targeted support, and offering enrichment opportunities will help students achieve higher scores and be better prepared for college-level work.

Instructional Support & Resources



Professional Development

Content specific sessions are designed to enhance teaching methods and offer strategies for student growth.



Look-Fors & T-TESS

We support campus administrators by offering clear Look-Fors that outline expectations for student engagement, lesson creativity, and resource utilization in classrooms.

We also provide T-TESS-aligned feedback, helping administrators deliver accurate, subject-specific evaluations and targeted instructional support for fine arts teachers.



Instructional Support

Each discipline within Visual & Performing Arts is supported by specialized staff who provide instructional support and coaching to teachers across the district.



Learning Walks

Campus leaders have the opportunity to collaborate with our staff to observe classroom instruction, student engagement, and curriculum fidelity.



Curriculum & Resources

Provide a comprehensive curriculum aligned with state standards (TEKS) across all levels, along with lesson plans, assessment tools, and pacing guides to support high student achievement.

Curriculum Refresh



IPC

VPA Staff outline pacing, assessments, and instructional checkpoints. Ensure alignment with district initiatives and state standards.

Development

Redesigned lessons built from updated standards and best practices, aligned to the Instructional Framework with MRS and DOL embedded throughout. The focus remains on engaging, equitable, and student-centered instruction.

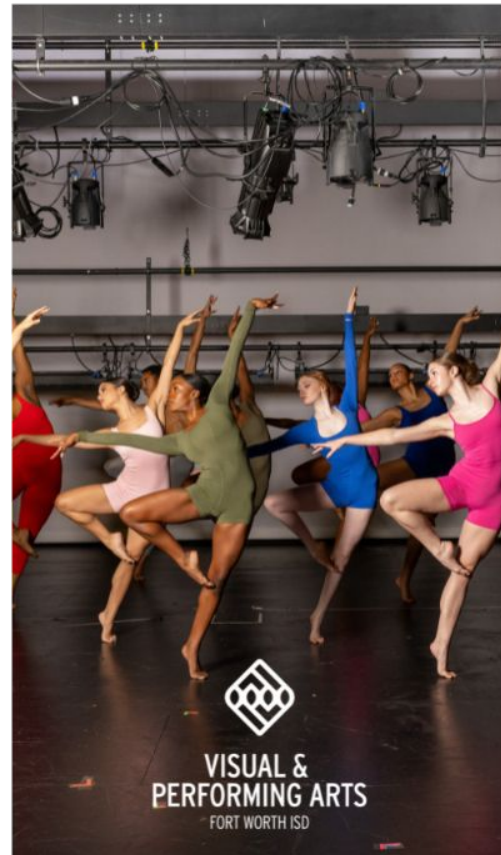
Feedback

Professional learning sessions to explore the refreshed curriculum.
Opportunities for teacher input to refine lessons before rollout.

Implementation

Fall 2026
Utilization of HQIM.
Tracking curriculum fidelity to ensure consistency and impact.

Questions?





District & Campus Event Calendar
www.fwisd.org/vpa

Follow us on social media!
@fwisdvpa

Click [**HERE**](#) for Appendix

Fort Worth

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT