



School District U-46

Elementary Music Curriculum and Resource Proposal for 2027-2028 Implementation

Board of Education Presentation

Presenters

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Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

January 26, 2026



Purpose

- The purpose of this proposal is to recommend the adoption and implementation of the new Elementary Music curriculum as recommended, starting in the 2026-2027 school year with early implementers and full implementation in 2027-2028 school year.
- In these revised courses, students will develop fundamental musical skills and knowledge in the various elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, form, melody, harmony, timbre, texture, and dynamics. They will experience this learning through a variety of musical experiences including movement activities, singing, and playing instruments.
- At the completion of this elementary course sequence, students will have the fundamental musical skills and vocabulary to support them in successful participation in middle and high school music coursework, as well as the creative perseverance to support them in life.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

GOAL #1



1

**Building
Early
Academic
& Social-
Emotional
Foundations**

GOAL #2



2

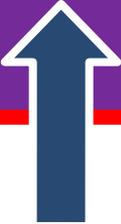
**Safety,
Sense of
Belonging,
& Inclusion**

GOAL #3



3

**Academic
Growth
& Mastery**



GOAL #4



4

**Ready to
Embrace
a Diverse
& Changing
World**

Rationale

Existing Curriculum Adopted in 2016

- No common assessments or specific instructional units.
- Little possibility of alignment across sites.

New/Revised Curriculum

- Includes text-based instructional resources to support teachers at all levels of experience.
- Includes specific instructional units centered on themes and skills.
- Includes rubric-based unit assessments.
- Provides for more consistent student learning experiences and alignment across sites.

Teacher Feedback

CURRICULUM WRITING TEAM:

Beth Ellis

Elementary Music Teacher - Centennial Elementary School

Morgan Lentino

Elementary Music Teacher - Otter Creek Elementary School

Becky Narofsky

Elementary Music Teacher - Horizon and Sycamore Trails
Elementary Schools

Elizabeth Nystedt

Elementary Music Teacher - Coleman Elementary School

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**Zachary Geller**

Fine Arts Teacher Leader

**Jaimie Abney-Giraldo**

Fine Arts Coordinator



**Shared  
Updates:**

Email

Department  
Meetings

TCT Groups



**Feedback  
Provided and  
Refinements  
Made**

# Process Timeline

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|                                                |                        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Call to Committee Issued                       | November 2024          |
| Curriculum Development and Review of Resources | January-September 2025 |
| Instructional Council Steering Committee       | November 3, 2025       |
| Instructional Council                          | November 20, 2025      |
| Board of Education                             | January 26, 2026       |

# Standards

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The Elementary Music curriculum was developed using the grade-level-specific indicators included in the National Core Arts Standards (<https://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>).

- *Music*

# Program Overview

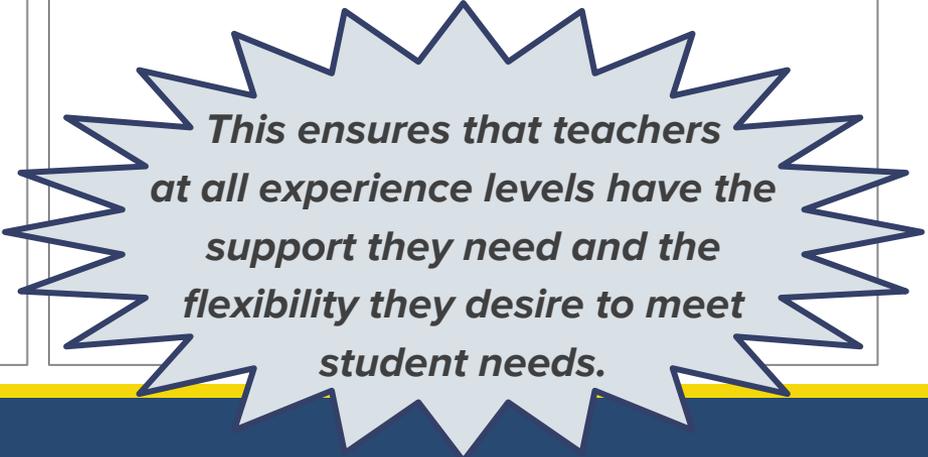
## Course Sequence

### Non-Negotiables

- Why are there non-negotiables?
- What is included?
  - Unit Summative Assessments (reassessment opportunities required)
  - Unit Assessment Rubrics
  - Learning Targets
  - Success Criteria
  - Types of Learning Experiences
  - Instrument Use

### Room for Autonomy

However, the songs, tools, supplemental resources, and additional learning activities leading up to the unit assessments are left to teacher discretion.



*This ensures that teachers at all experience levels have the support they need and the flexibility they desire to meet student needs.*

# Program Overview

## Course Sequence

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### U-46 Elementary Music

#### Unit Grading Spans

| Trimester 1 |               | Trimester 2 |        | Trimester 3 |  |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--|
| Unit 1      |               |             |        |             |  |
|             | Unit 2        |             |        |             |  |
|             |               | Unit 3      |        |             |  |
|             |               |             | Unit 4 |             |  |
|             |               |             |        | Unit 5      |  |
|             | Unit 6 (Flex) |             |        |             |  |

# Program Overview

## Course Sequence

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### Kindergarten

- U1:** Student-Generated Beat (5 wks)
- U2:** Fragment Song/ Echo Singing (5 wks)
- U3:** Hear/Maintain a Steady Beat (5 wks)
- U4:** Sing a Simple Song from Memory (5 wks)
- U5:** Artful Movement (5 wks)
- U6:** Review/Performance (5 wks)

### 1st Grade

- U1:** Review/Beat (5 wks)
- U2:** Fragment Song/ Echo Singing (5 wks)
- U3:** Perform Beat vs. Rhythm (5 wks)
- U4:** Read/Perform Quarter & Eighth Notes (5 wks)
- U5:** Sing So & Mi Melodies (5 wks)
- U6:** Performance (5 wks)

### 2nd Grade

- U1:** Review/Prepare Quarter Rest (5 wks)
- U2:** Read/Perform Quarter Rests (5 wks)
- U3:** So, La, & Mi Literacy (5 wks)
- U4:** Read/Perform Half Notes (5 wks)
- U5:** Perform So, La, Mi, & Do (5 wks)
- U6:** Performance (5 wks)

# Program Overview

## Course Sequence

### 3rd Grade

- U1:** Review/Reinforce (5 wks)
- U2:** Read/Perform 16th Notes (5 wks)
- U3:** Read/Perform Mi, Re, & Do (5 wks)
- U4:** Movement in Meter (5 wks)
- U5:** Read/Perform Do, Re, Mi, So, & La (5 wks)
- U6:** Performance (5 wks)

### 4th Grade

- U1:** Review/Reinforce (5 wks)
- U2:** Read/Perform Mi, Re, Do Melodies on Recorder (5 wks)
- U3:** Read/Perform Low La & Minor Melodies on Recorder (5 wks)
- U4:** Visual/Aural ID of Instruments of the Orchestra (5 wks)
- U5:** Read/Compose Meter & Dotted Rhythms (5 wks)
- U6:** Performance (5 wks)

### 5th Grade

- U1:** Review/Reinforce & Ukulele Intro (5 wks)
- U2:** Read/Perform Syncopated Rhythms (5 wks)
- U3:** Read/Perform I, IV, & V Chords on Ukulele (5 wks)
- U4:** Compound Meter & Rhythms (5 wks)
- U5:** ID/Use Low So (5 wks)
- U6:** Performance (5 wks)

# Program Overview

## Course Sequence

### **EN2 Primary & EN2 Intermediate (Self-Contained)**

- Follows the ULS (Unique Learning System) curriculum unit themes that are used in the EN2 program.
- Includes 3 separate classes that follow the ULS 3-year rotation.
  - The content is similar, but not identical for each year in the rotation.
- Focuses on musical/sensory experiences and exploration.
- Consistent lesson structure and activities to reinforce concepts and learning.
- Includes steady beat activities, songtales, sensory instrument exploration, and choice-making activities.

# Recommended Resources

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## **Kindergarten - 1st Grade**

*First Steps in Music for Preschool & Beyond* (GIA Publications)

- Enhanced Package includes:
  - Curriculum Book
  - Songtales Books
  - Movement Activities
  - Music Recordings
  - Assorted Teacher Resources

## **1st - 5th Grades**

*Purposeful Pathways* (Music Is Elementary)

- Books 1-4
- Electronic Visuals for Books 1-4

# Recommended Resources

## **All Grades and Programs**

- *Alabama Gal and Sashay the Donut* (New England Dance Masters)
  - movement choreography, songs, and directions
- *Essential Elements Music Class* (Hal Leonard)
  - online singing repertoire repository
- Music Classroom Library Books
- Manipulatives, Storage Bins, and Movement Tools
- Music Equipment/Instruments
- Consumables Budgetary Allocation (recorders and other supplies)

## **EN2 Self-Contained**

- Extended Music Classroom Library Books
- Adaptive Movement Tools
- Experiential Adaptive Music Equipment/Instruments

# Implementation Plan

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## Spring 2026

- Teacher Professional Learning - Initial Implementation Support (1 Day)
- Resource Purchase

## 2026-2027 school year

- Early Implementers
- Teacher Professional Learning - Resource Training (2 Days)

## 2027-2028 school year

- Full Implementation

# Professional Learning

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Required professional learning will include:

- Initial implementation support (one full day)
  - Unpacking standards and curriculum documents
  - Unpacking unit assessments and rubrics
- Resource training (two full days) - DCD, PPD, and/or pull-out
  - *Purposeful Pathways* training (one day)
  - *First Steps in Music for Preschool and Beyond* training (one day)

Additional support will be available on an ongoing and as-needed basis.

# Cost

|                | Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Initial Cost        | Annual Cost        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| SY25-26 Budget | <b>Textbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>First Steps in Music for Preschool &amp; Beyond</i> by GIA Publications</li> <li>Includes <i>estimated</i> shipping cost of \$279.22</li> </ul>                                           | \$12,119.22         | N/A                |
|                | <b>Textbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Purposeful Pathways</i> by Music Is Elementary</li> <li>Includes one full day of in-person professional learning</li> <li>Includes packaging &amp; shipping cost of \$2,041.80</li> </ul> | \$27,564.40         | N/A                |
|                | <b>Textbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Essential Elements Music Classroom Licenses</i></li> <li>15% Discounted Rate Locked in for 5 Years, Paid Annually</li> </ul>                                                              | \$9,657.70          | \$9,657.70         |
| SY26-27 Budget | <b>Music Classroom Library Books &amp; Movement/Folk Dance Books</b><br>(Including the extended needs for sites hosting the EN2 program)                                                                                                             | \$7,661.96          | N/A                |
|                | <b>Music Equipment, Instruments, &amp; Storage</b><br>(Including the extended needs for sites hosting the EN2 program)                                                                                                                               | \$48,088.48         | N/A                |
|                | <b>Consumables Budgetary Allocation<br/>           (for Student Recorders and Classroom Supplies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on estimated enrollment 15,000 students at the rate of \$4/student</li> </ul>                     | \$60,000.00         | \$60,000.00        |
|                | <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>\$165,091.76</b> | <b>\$69,657.70</b> |

# Evaluation of Change

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The implementation of this curriculum will be evaluated over the first full curriculum cycle to ensure impact on Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan - Academic Growth and Mastery - based on the following considerations:

- Course Assessment Data
- Teacher Feedback

At the completion of the initial curriculum cycle, based on the collected data, the Curriculum and Instruction Department will work with District leadership to determine needed adjustments to course/program structure or resources to ensure that the objectives are being met with fidelity and are improving student outcomes, as aligned to the Strategic Plan.



**U46**  
ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS  
FOR ALL

