

Arts Education in Public Elementary Schools: 1999-2000 and 2009-10

The Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) is releasing a report based on seven arts education surveys conducted during the 2009-10 school year and comparisons with similar data collected in the 1999-2000 school year. The surveys included elementary and secondary schools, elementary and secondary school arts specialists, and elementary school classroom teachers.

Elementary schools

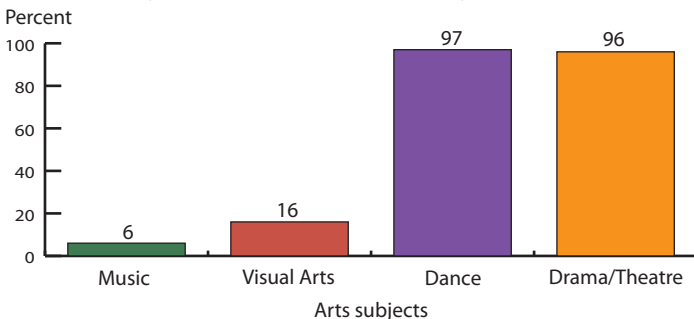
Instruction designated specifically for arts

- Ninety four percent of elementary schools reported instruction designated specifically for music and 83 percent specifically for visual arts in the 2009-10 school year.
- Only 3 percent and 4 percent of elementary schools reported instruction designated specifically for dance and drama/theatre, respectively, in the 2009-10 school year. This represents a decrease from 20 percent of elementary schools offering instruction designated specifically for both arts subjects in the 1999-2000 school year.

Characteristics of arts education programs

- Among elementary schools that offered designated instruction in the arts subject in the 2009-10 school year, 91 percent employed music specialists and 84 percent employed visual arts specialists. Schools with instruction designated specifically for dance or drama/theatre had lower percentages of employed specialists to provide instruction (57 and 42 percent, respectively).
- Among elementary schools that offered designated instruction in the arts subject in the 2009-10 school year, 93 percent offered music instruction at least once a week and 85 percent offered visual arts instruction at least once a week. Schools with instruction designated specifically for dance or drama/theatre had lower percentages offering instruction at least once a week (53 and 58 percent, respectively).

Figure 1: Percent of public elementary school students without instruction designated specifically for selected arts subjects: School year 2009-10



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2006-07, Fast Response Survey System, "Elementary School Arts Education Survey: Fall 2009," FRSS 100, 2009-10.

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Arts Education in Public Secondary Schools: 1999-2000 and 2009-10

Secondary Schools

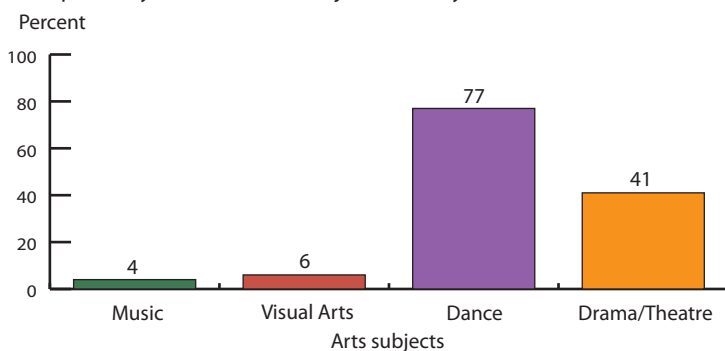
Instruction designated specifically for arts

- In the 2008-09 school year, most secondary schools offered instruction designated specifically for music (91 percent) and visual arts (89 percent). About 12 percent offered instruction designated specifically for dance and 45 percent offered instruction designated specifically for drama/theatre. None of these percentages represent a significant change from the 1999-2000 school year.
- In the 2009-10 school year instruction designated specifically for music and visual arts differed by the concentration of poverty in the school, measured by the percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch. Eighty one percent of secondary schools with the highest poverty levels offered instruction in music, while 96 percent of secondary schools with the lowest poverty concentration offered music instruction. Similar differences by poverty level were observed for visual arts instruction (80 percent vs. 95 percent).

Arts education requirements for graduation

- Fifty seven percent of secondary schools required some arts coursework for graduation in the 2009-10 school year, not measurably different from the percentage of schools with this requirement in the 1999-2000 school year.
- Among secondary schools requiring arts coursework for graduation, only about 15 percent required more than 2 credits for graduation in the 2009-10 school year, not measurably different from the percentage that required more than 2 credits for graduation in the 1999-2000 school year.
- Eighty nine percent of secondary schools included arts classes in the calculation of students' GPA in the 2009-10 school year, not measurably different from the percent that included arts classes in GPA calculation in the 1999-2000 school year.

Figure 2: Percent of public secondary school students without instruction designated specifically for selected arts subjects: School year 2009-10



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2006-07, Fast Response Survey System, "Secondary School Arts Education Survey: Fall 2009," FRSS 101, 2009-10.

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