



Advancing Music Education in Newark 2017-2021

Save The Music Foundation's 5-Year Community-Driven Investment in Newark Schools Improves Student, Teacher, and School Outcomes



SUSTAINABLE AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

Catalyzed by Save The Music's investment, this project has been guided by the Mayor's office, the Board of Education, NJ foundations, performing and teaching artists and local non-profits - particularly Newark Arts and Arts Ed Newark, a group representing 90+ arts education stakeholders

INVESTING IN 45+ SCHOOLS

In the last 5 years, Save The Music has invested in 45 schools – contributing classroom technology and equipment, curricular materials, dozens of hours of teacher professional development and over 2,000 musical instruments

REACHING 98% OF STUDENTS

By Fall 2021, 98% of the more than 35,000 students enrolled in Newark public schools will have access to music education offerings taught during the school day, up from 53% of students at the start of the project

Our Impact



STUDENTS

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

68%

of teachers reported improved student academic performance

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS

94%

of teachers reported improvement in social-emotional skills

TEACHERS

MORE RESOURCES

16+

New music teachers hired by Newark Board of Education

MORE EFFECTIVE

20+

Professional development sessions sponsored by STM

SCHOOLS

BETTER ATTENDANCE

+1.5 POINTS

Observed attendance increase at measured schools

IMPROVED ELA SCORES

+2-5 POINTS

Observed improvement in ELA scores at measured schools

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

19 of 28 teachers reported seeing improvement in at least 50% of their students' academic performance.

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

94% of teachers reported an improvement in their students' engagement with school due to the Save The Music program. At one high school, 1,100 of the 1,600 students expressed interested in Save The Music's Music Tech program.

IMPROVED SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS

94% of the teachers in the first three years of the program felt that STM improved students' social-emotional skills like grit, perseverance and teamwork. In one school, there was a 9X increase in students reporting that they are not afraid of making mistakes.

Community-Driven Success

Save The Music's success is the result of leadership from the Newark Board of Education and partnership with non-profits Arts Ed Newark and Newark Arts, a group of 90+ local arts education stakeholders. The five-year project is closing gaps that existed in schools throughout the district, following 22+ years of state intervention in Newark schools.

"With the support of STM we have been able to reinvigorate interest in music education which has resulted in the hiring of more music educators, an increased number of school-based instrumental music concerts and expanded participation during our annual All-City music concerts. STM's additional commitment through professional development support, ongoing specialized programming and virtual music experiences for teachers and students during COVID-19 demonstrates the foundation's sincere dedication to music education."

*Margaret El, Director, Visual & Performing Arts,
Newark Board of Education*

SCHOOL OUTCOMES

5.9%

Average percentage point decrease in chronic absenteeism rates observed in participating 2018-19 schools after one year of the program

2.5%

Average percentage point decrease in chronic absenteeism rates observed in participating 2017-18 schools after two years of the program

+1.5%

Average percentage point increase in daily attendance rate observed in participating 2017-18 and 2018-19 schools



About Newark Schools

Led by the Newark Board of Education, the Newark public school district is the largest district in New Jersey and one of the oldest school systems in the U.S., dating back to 1676. Barringer High School, a recipient of Save The Music's J Dilla Music Tech Grant in Newark's North Ward, is the third oldest public high school in the nation.



66
SCHOOLS



35,329
STUDENT POPULATION



5,877
EMPLOYEES



82%
OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE
OR REDUCED LUNCH



93%
STUDENTS WITH A LIMITED ENGLISH
PROFICIENT CLASSIFICATION

A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY



51.1% HISPANIC
39.7% BLACK



"I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to be a part of the amazing work that Save The Music does. This is bigger than just teaching kids how to play instruments — it's about using music to bring communities together and giving all children a shot at a brighter future. This work can't stop until every child can access music programs as part of their education." *Queen Latifah, Newark Native*

About Save The Music

The Save The Music Foundation (STM) helps students, schools, and communities reach their full potential through the power of making music. Founded in 1997 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Save The Music partners with school districts and raises funds to restore music programs in public schools. Since inception, the organization has donated over \$60 million worth of new musical instruments, equipment, and technology to 2,201 schools in 277 school districts around the country — impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of students.

Research Methodology

In order to examine implementation of the program and to understand its preliminary outcomes, STM hired Metis Associates, a NYC-based research and evaluation firm to review existing documentation and develop an overview of findings from the first three years. The Metis team reviewed and analyzed extant data from three categories of sources: 1) evaluation reports from the first three years of the program, which were completed by an external evaluator; 2) progress reports completed by participating schools during their involvement in the program; and 3) data from reports published on Newark Public Schools' website, including school-wide attendance rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and annual academic testing scores.