ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON

2026 Greater Houston Arts Forum
Deep Dive: Activate Your Data

Arts Connect Houston: Collecting Arts Education Access Data

Source: Houston ISD & Texas Education Agency
Data: 2024-2025 School Year

Arts Connect Houston collected the data (i.e., administrative data) in this report through publicly available Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) reports obtained through a request to the TEA. PEIMS encompasses all data requested and received by the TEA about public education, including student demographic and academic performance, personnel, financial, and organizational information. In compliance with the Texas Education Code, PEIMS contains only the data necessary for the legislature and the TEA to perform their legally authorized functions in overseeing public education.

Arts Connect uploaded this data to the artlook® platform and audited the data through a process developed by Parliament Collective Intelligence. To supplement PEIMS data and provide additional context for what is happening across campuses, Arts Connect administers the Houston Fine Arts Education Access Survey through both the artlook® platform and an alternative survey platform where principals, teachers, or other administrators can complete the survey on behalf of their campus. The survey data is then audited and erroneous data removed.

The data below reflects the 2024-2025 school year.

For our full report, visit:
Arts Connect Houston 2024-2025 State of the Arts in Houston Independent School District Report

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HISD By the Numbers
HISD ranks 11th among the largest school districts in the nation and was made up of 274 campuses with 176,727 students as of the 2024-25 school year.
According to HISD, of their 274 campuses, there were 37 high schools, 39 middle schools, 160 elementary schools, eight early childhood centers, and 30 combination campuses or alternative programs.

We have categorized these into two early childhood centers (pre-kindergarten only), 168 elementary schools (K-5), 41 middle schools (6-8), 40 high schools (9-12), 15 combination schools (elementary and secondary grades taught on the same campus), and eight alternative programs depending on which grades are taught at each school in alignment with TEKS fine arts requirements.

In 2024-25, the majority of HISD students identified as Hispanic or Black. Nearly 62% of HISD students identified as Hispanic and 21% of students identified as Black. Students identifying as White made up 10% of the total, while students identifying as Asian made up 5% of enrolled students. Students identifying as Multiracial, American Indian, or Pacific Islander represented 2% of the district's students. These demographics are similar to the previous school year

Fine Arts Disciplines
The State of Texas recognizes and assesses four fine arts disciplines: music, theatre, visual arts, and dance.

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ARTS CONNECT DATA CATEGORY: STAFFING

Arts Connect collects student population numbers and staffing numbers per campus to derive a key data point: the student-fine arts teacher ratio.

The student-fine arts teacher ratio is the total student enrollment on a campus divided by the number of fine arts teachers. This ratio allows us to compare fine arts education access across campuses of varying sizes.

Arts Connect's Houston Arts Education Framework defines classifications of Arts Emerging, Arts Committed, and Arts Vibrant to assist HISD in determining how to support each campus. We define these classifications on a rubric over multiple data categories.

For Staffing:

For elementary schools:

- Fewer than 500 students per fine arts teacher is classified as Arts Vibrant;
- 501-800 students per fine arts teacher is Arts Committed;
- Above 800 students per fine arts teacher is classified as Arts Emerging.

For secondary schools:

- Fewer than 145 students per fine arts teacher is classified as Arts Vibrant;
- 146-220 students per fine arts teacher is Arts Committed;
- Above 220 students per fine arts teacher is classified as Arts Emerging.

Key Takeaways:

- The percentage of arts deserts, or campuses that reported no fine arts teachers, decreased from 19% in 2023-24 to 15% in 2024-25.
- Overall, 50% of HISD schools were categorized as Arts Vibrant regarding their student-fine arts teacher ratio
- 20% were categorized as Arts Committed
- 16% of HISD campuses were categorized as Arts Emerging.
- Nearly 31% of HISD schools needed more fine arts teachers on campuses to meet the Arts Committed student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark.
- A total of 7% of students (i.e. 12,417) attended campuses with zero reported fine arts teachers.

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- Students that attended campuses with an Arts Vibrant student-fine arts teacher ratio made up 41% of the total
- 22% of students attended campuses with an Arts Committed student-fine arts teacher ratio
- 30% attended campuses with an Arts Emerging student-fine arts teacher ratio.
- All (100%) alternative programs reported no fine arts teacher in 2024-25, which is consistent with findings in prior years.
- Overall 13% of elementary schools, 10% of middle schools, and 8% of high schools reported no fine arts teachers in 2024-25.
- A total of 68% of elementary campuses had an Arts Vibrant student-fine arts teacher ratio and 17% met the Arts Committed student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark.
- Only 2% of elementary campuses met the Arts Emerging student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark.
- Only 15% of middle schools and 15% of high schools met the Arts Vibrant student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark.
- A total of 46% of middle schools met the Arts Committed student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark
- 65% of high schools met the Arts Emerging student-fine arts teacher ratio benchmark.

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ARTS CONNECT DATA CATEGORY: ACCESS TO FINE ARTS DISCIPLINES

The State of Texas recognizes and assesses four fine arts disciplines: music, theatre, visual arts, and dance.

Arts Connect's Houston Arts Education Framework defines classifications of Arts Emerging, Arts Committed, and Arts Vibrant to assist HISD in determining how to support each campus. We define these classifications on a rubric over multiple data categories.

For Access to Fine Arts Disciplines:

- A campus that offers, on average, four fine arts disciplines is classified as Arts Vibrant
- A campus that offers, on average, two to three fine arts disciplines is classified as Arts Committed
- And a campus that offers, on average, one fine arts discipline is classified as Arts Emerging.

Key Takeaways

- In 2024-25, only 13% of campuses in the district reported offering four or more fine arts disciplines and were categorized as Arts Vibrant.
- Overall, 35% of campuses offered two to three fine arts disciplines, thus falling in the Arts Committed category.
- Arts Emerging campuses, which reported offering only one fine arts discipline, made up 37% of all campuses.
- No elementary or elementary combination campuses reported offering courses in more than three fine arts disciplines.
- Nearly 55% of elementary campuses reported only offering courses in one fine arts discipline (Arts Emerging).
- A total of 65% of high schools, 50% of middle/high combination schools, and 20% of middle schools reported offering four or more fine arts disciplines (Arts Vibrant).
- The Arts Committed category represented 59% of middle schools, each of which reported offering two to three fine arts disciplines.
- The percentage of high schools and middle schools that offered only one fine arts discipline (Arts Emerging) was 8% and 12%, respectively.

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