



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Music Education Update

May 15, 2025

Brenda Cassellius, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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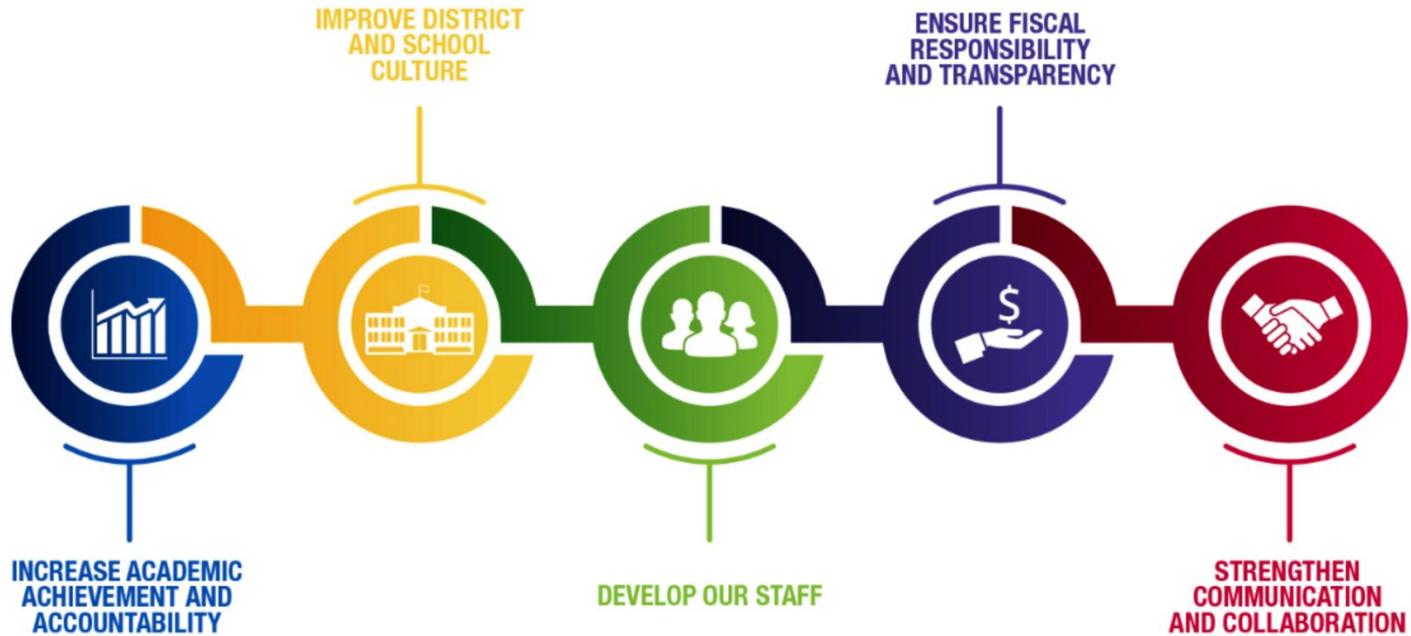
Music Education Update

Presenter

Sharie Garcia

Music Curriculum Specialist

Five Priorities for Success



Strategic Plan Driving Our Mission



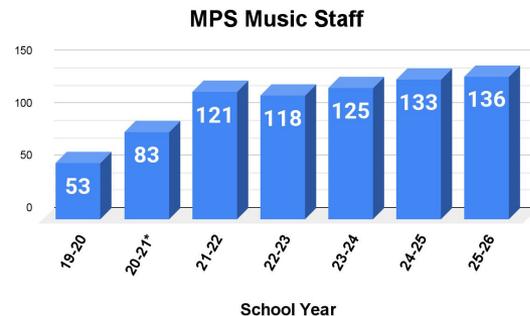
Strategic Plan Driving Our Mission:

MPS is a diverse district that welcomes all students and prepares them for success in higher education, post-education opportunities, work, and citizenship.

Music School Staffing: 2024–25

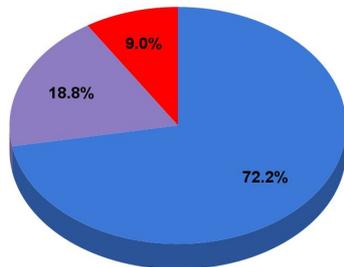
Total of 133 music staff:

- 105 classroom teachers serving 95 schools
- 24 traveling music teachers serving 54 schools
- 2 music teacher leaders coaching 11 new teachers
- 2 instrument specialists serving all schools



Music vacancies as of 5/15/25:

- 6 full-time
- 35 part-time



- Schools with Music Teacher
- Community Partner or TMT
- No Music Instruction for 24-25



District Music Team and Student Opportunities

Two music teacher leaders:

- Supported 11 new teachers with weekly coaching
- Visited 40+ veteran teachers to check in
- Conducted 227 district walk-throughs

Two instrument specialists:

- Fulfilled 534 requests for instruments, equipment, and supplies
- Fulfilled 296 book orders
- Fulfilled 135 music library requests
- Assembled new music stands, chairs, risers, and racks to hold them
- Maintained district inventory of over 7,000 instruments for distribution, cleaning, and repair

- **Battle of the Drum Lines**

December 13, 2025

@ Rufus King

- **WSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest**

February 28, 2026

@ MHSA

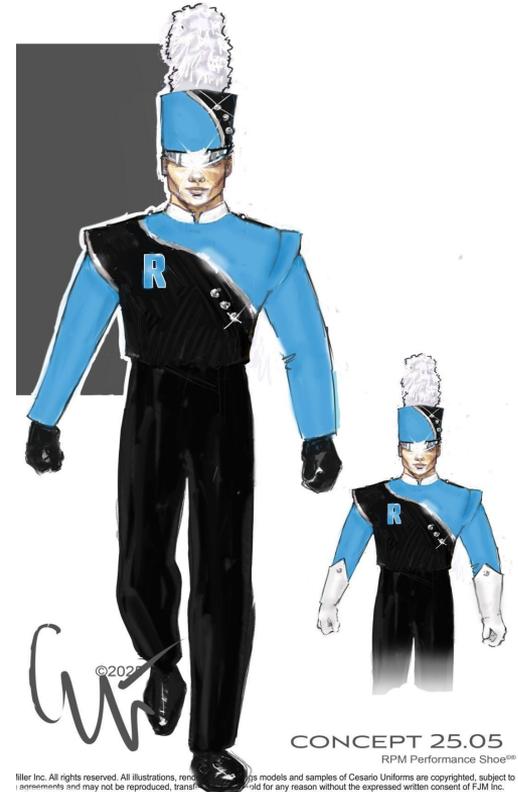
- **51st MPS Biennial Music Festival**

May 6 and 7, 2026

@ UWM Panther Arena

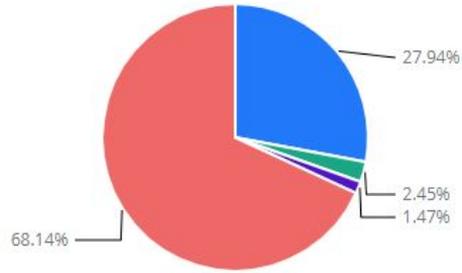
2025–26: Future Music Highlights

- Traveling music will increase from 282 hours in 2024–25 to 425 hours in 2025–26.
- Reagan will be starting a marching band.
- Pulaski is adding choir and music technology (they already have band and piano).
- South Division added a second music position.
- Rufus King High School is building a shared visual art/music technology lab.
- Milwaukee High School of the Arts is building an upgraded piano lab and jazz room.
- Saturday lessons will now offer all-city indoor percussion.



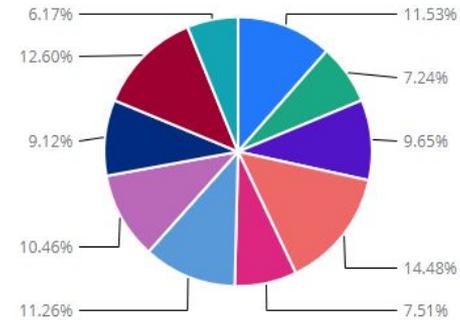
Music and Ambitious Instruction

Align instruction to grade-level standards:



- Developing Some of the instruction is aligned to grade-level stand...
- No Evidence/Needs Support Instruction observed is not aligned to g...
- Exceed Expectations Instruction is consistently aligned to grade-level...
- Meets Expectations Instruction is consistently aligned to grade-level ...

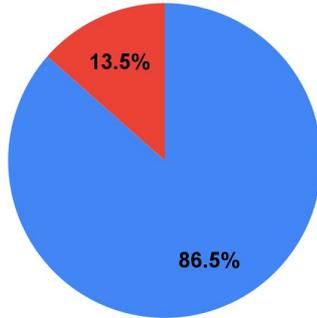
What type of differentiation was observed:



- Content - Student Interest
- Content - Student Learning Style
- Content - Student Readiness
- None observed
- Process - Activities for All Learning Styles
- Process - Flexible Grouping
- Process - Variety of Materials
- Product - Ongoing Formative Assessment
- Product - Student Choice
- Product - Students Demonstrate Mastery

Feeder Pattern Study: Aligned

Milwaukee School of Languages Middle School

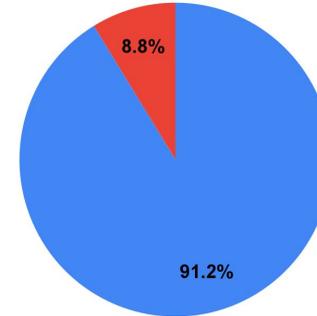


● Language Immersion School ● Neighborhood School

- 86.5% language immersion schools
- 13.5% neighborhood schools
- General music is offered in each K–grade 5 feeder school:
 - Robust programs with experienced, long-term teachers

MSOL High School Feeder Schools

40 different schools send students to MSOL.



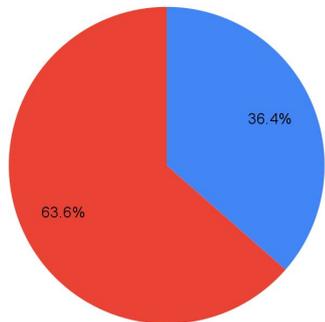
● MSOL ● Other

- The Milwaukee School of Languages high school feeds itself:
 - Band, orchestra, choir, and music technology are offered in grades 6–12

Needs Alignment: Arts Schools Proposal

Milwaukee HS of the Arts Feeder Schools

80 different schools send students to Arts.



● Arts Schools ● Other schools

- 36.4% arts schools
- 63.6% other schools
- Missing art areas in feeder schools, fewer established music programs

Currently, no arts feeder school offers a complete arts program.

Proposed solution:

Funding from the 2020 referendum could

- add dance at Elm;
- merge Roosevelt and Lincoln and provide a complete arts program in one building;
- provide additional supports for dance, theater, and music at Parkside and ALBA;
- provide additional supports for the musicals at Kluge, Manitoba, and Sherman.



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Questions?