

# Baltimore City Budget Guidelines

Per COMAR, all schools with grades Pre-K-8 **must** provide an instructional program in fine arts each year for all students, taught by certified fine arts teachers, which includes access to the fine art forms of visual art, music, dance, theater, and media arts.

In FY22 City Schools will continue prioritizing the hiring of certified fine arts teachers in multiple arts disciplines at each school in order to meet COMAR fine arts requirements. The chart on pg. 2 should be used when making fine arts staffing allocations. When creating new FTEs, **schools should ensure they can offer visual art and music** before adding positions for other fine arts areas.

Schools may employ the services of a fine arts vendor **only after retaining the services of certified arts teachers to the levels indicated in the chart on pg. 2.**

Schools that wish to employ the services of fine arts vendors must demonstrate that their certified fine arts teacher(s) are able to provide comprehensive and sequential fine arts instruction to all students each year. Vendor services are only permitted to **supplement a school's existing fine arts instructional program**. Vendors are not permitted to be listed as "the teacher of record" and may not award grades.

All schools with grades 9-12 **must** offer a fine arts instructional program in grades 9-12 which shall enable students to meet graduation credit requirements, and to select fine arts electives taught by certified fine arts teachers.

Recent changes to COMAR require that high school students have access to fine arts elective courses in all fine arts content areas. To achieve progress towards this, **high schools should budget for multiple fine arts certified teachers,** with priority towards visual arts and music whenever existing scheduling and budgetary constraints allow for this. City Schools is exploring a variety of options to support schools with ensuring access to all fine arts areas over the next few years.

# Fine Arts Certified Teacher Staffing Requirements for All Schools with Grades Pre-k through 8

The below staffing guidance must be used by all schools with grades Pre-K through 8

# of Students (Pre-K-8)	Required Fine Arts Staffing Allocation	Additional Info
300 or fewer	Min. 1.0 FTE	Schools may choose to budget for ONE .5 visual arts teacher and ONE .5 music teacher, OR 1.0 visual arts or music teacher.
301-500	Min. 1.5 FTE	Schools should budget for ONE arts discipline at 1.0 and ANOTHER arts discipline at .5. Visual art and music are recommended.
501-750	Min. 2 FTE	Visual art and music are recommended.
751-950	Min. 2.5 FTE	Visual art and music MUST be included.
951-1250	Min. 3.5 FTE	Visual art and music MUST be included.
1251 or more	Min. 4.5 FTE	Visual art and music MUST be included.

## Academic Other Than Personnel Academic Guidance (OTPS): Fine Arts

Schools are responsible for ensuring that fine arts teachers have the materials and resources necessary to implement district curriculum. The minimum suggested annual supply budget for existing fine arts programs is \$2,500 and \$2,500 for instrument maintenance and repair for band programs. The estimated startup costs for a string orchestra or band program can range from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

All information in this document can be found in the Baltimore City Public Schools FY22 School Budget Guidance Document, published January 2021 (pgs 44, 45, 60)