

## Definitions: Arts

The definitions of the variables used in the table District Summary of the Arts are presented in the order in which they appear in the table.

**District** - The name of the school district. This table includes 166 local districts, three academies, 12 charter schools, and the Regional Vocational-Technical School System that were in operation in the 1999-2000 school year.

**ERG** - Education Reference Groups (ERGs) were developed by the State Department of Education to enable educators to fairly compare groups of districts with similar characteristics. The state's 166 local school districts and three academies have been divided into nine groups based on socioeconomic status and indicators of need from the 1990 census, 1994 poverty data and 1994 district enrollment.

**Grade Range** - The grades in a district as of October 1, 1999.

**Number of Pupils** - The number of students enrolled in a district as of October 1, 1999. The count may include nonresident students as well as resident students.

**Professional Staff: FTE Staff Art** - The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of teachers of art in the public schools on October 1, 1999. In an FTE count, the teachers who work part-time in art are counted as a fraction of full time. Thus a half-time art teacher is counted 0.5 toward the staff count.

**Professional Staff: FTE Staff Music** - The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of teachers of music in the public schools on October 1, 1999. This includes the staff recorded as teaching general music, band, orchestra/strings, or chorus/voice.

**Professional Staff: FTE Staff, Students Per FTE Staff** – The number of pupils as of October 1, 1999, divided by the FTE count of teachers of art, music, dance, theatre or video/film. District coordinators of the arts are counted only if they have teaching responsibilities. Unlike most other columns, smaller numbers indicate stronger programs.

**Professional Staff: Percent BEST Trained** - The number of certified staff members teaching in the arts either full-time or part-time who have completed the Connecticut State Department of Education training for mentors, assessors or cooperating teachers, divided by the total number of certified staff members teaching in the arts in the district. The program is open to experienced staff members only. District coordinators are included only if they have teaching duties.

**Instructional Time: Grades 1-5 (Art, Music)** – The average number of hours of art (music) instruction per year in Grades 1 through 5. The instruction must be required of all students and offered by a certified teacher. The average is computed from hours provided in all Grades 1 to 5 in each school of the district. If art (music) is not required in one of these grades or if a certified art teacher did not teach it, a zero will be counted in the average. The Consortium of National Arts Education Associations suggests at least 90 minutes per week of art and music instruction for all elementary grades. This is equivalent to 54 hours per year.

**Instructional Time: Grades 6-8 (Art, Music)** – The average number of hours of art (music) instruction per year in Grades 6 through 8. The instruction must be required of all students and offered by a certified teacher. Thus, time students spend in art (music) electives counts as zero hours. The average is computed from hours provide in art (music) and grade in each school of the district which includes these grades. The Consortium of National Arts Education Associations suggests one semester per year of both art and music instruction. For a school with 900 instructional hours and a seven-period day, the standard equates to 64 hours per year.

**Continuity** – The percentage of grades kindergarten through Grade 8, taken across all schools in the district in which art and music instruction is required of all students and taught by a certified staff member. Thus, if art and music instruction is required of all K-8 students in every grade and school and provided by a certified teacher, the continuity index will be 100. The index will be less than 100 if art or music is elective, if both are not offered in some schools in some of the grades, or if either one is not taught by a certified instructor.

**Music Ensembles: Elementary Schools Start Grade, Chorus** – The earliest grade that chorus is offered in at least half of the elementary schools (with that grade) in the district. “N/O” indicates that chorus is not offered by Grade 8. “N/S” indicates that chorus is available in some schools in the district but not in a systematic fashion.

**Music Ensembles: Elementary Schools Start Grade, Band** – The earliest grade that band is offered in at least half of the elementary schools (with that grade) in the district. “N/O” indicates that band is not offered by Grade 8. “N/S” indicates that band is available in some schools in the district but not in a systematic fashion.

**Music Ensembles: Elementary Schools Start Grade, Orchestra/Strings** – The earliest grade that orchestra and/or strings are offered in at least half of the elementary schools (with that grade) in the district. “N/O” indicates that orchestra and/or strings are not offered by Grade 8. “N/S” indicates that orchestra and/or strings are available in some schools in the district but not in a systematic fashion.

**Music Ensembles: Grade 8 Participation Rate** – The number of Grade 8 students who participate in orchestra/string instruction, band instrumental, and/or vocal music divided by the October 1, 1999 count of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students who participate in more than one activity will be counted once in each activity.

**Facilities: Pct. Elem. Schools with Performance Space** – The percentage of elementary schools in the district with either an auditorium or a multipurpose room with a stage and some degree of acoustical treatment.

**Facilities: Art and Music Rooms (Elem., Mid., High)** – The average self-rating across elementary, middle and high schools of the condition of art and music rooms. The rating scale was 0 = Not Included in the Facility; 1 = Less Than Adequate; 2 = Minimally Adequate; 3 = Reasonably Adequate; and 4 = Well Above Adequate. To earn the top rating of 4, an art room must be a dedicated space to accommodate either individual or small-group projects and specialized equipment. The lighting is brighter than in most other instructional spaces, and water and sinks are provided. There is adequate storage for supplies and ongoing projects. To earn the top rating of 4, a music room must be a dedicated space designed for the music program, both choral and instrumental, with acoustic equipment. There is adequate storage space for sheet music and instruments, along with practice rooms. Charter schools were not surveyed.

**Facilities: Auditorium (Mid., High)** – The average self-rating across middle and high schools of the condition of the auditorium or multipurpose room. The rating scale was 0 = Not Included in the Facility; 1 = Less Than Adequate; 2 = Minimally Adequate; 3 = Reasonably Adequate; and 4 = Well Above Adequate. To earn the top rating of 4, the auditorium must have fixed seating for one-half of the enrollment, with the capacity to do theatre productions as well as vocal and instrumental performances. Charter schools were not surveyed.

**Facilities: Flyspace** – Flyspace is the vertical space above a stage used for specialized lighting and is tall enough to raise and lower scenery. To be counted, the flyspace had to be equal to one-and-a-half times the height of the stage opening. The rating is for the high school auditorium(a) only. If all high schools in the district have flyspace, “Yes” is reported. If only some of the district’s high schools have flyspace, “Some” is reported, and if none do, a “No” is reported.

**Facilities: HS Capacity** – The number of permanent or temporary seats in the district’s high school auditorium(a) divided by the enrollment in all the district’s high schools. If any one high school has a capacity greater than the enrollment, the capacity is set to the enrollment for the calculation of the district capacity.

**Technology: Computers Equipped for the Arts (Mid, High)** – A combined rating of the number of computer workstations equipped and available for use in the study and creation of the art form and the number of areas (art, music, dance, theatre, video/film) in which the computers are available. Art workstations might include a digital drawing tablet, art software, a scanner, or a color printer. Music workstations might include a MIDI keyboard, microphone, headphones and music software. Video/film workstations might include accelerated video processing, digitizing and editing equipment and software. To earn a \*\*\*\* rating, the middle or high schools had to average 10 or more computers available in at least two areas of the arts. To earn a \*\*\* rating, the middle or high schools had to average 10 or more computers available in one area and some computers in a second area. To earn a \*\* rating, the middle or high schools had to average 10 or more computers available in one area of the arts. To earn a \* rating, the middle or high schools had to average three or more computers available in one area of the arts. A – indicates that

the district averaged fewer than three computer workstations available in any one arts area. A blank indicates that the district does not operate a middle (or high) school.

**High School Courses: Art** – The average (across all high schools in the district) number of art courses offered in Grades 9 – 12 that meet at least one semester. Courses with multiple sections are counted as one course.

**High School Courses: Music** – The average (across all high schools in the district) number of music courses offered in Grades 9 – 12 that meet at least one semester. Courses with multiple sections are counted as one course.

**High School Courses: Dance** – The average (across all high schools in the district) number of dance courses offered in Grades 9 – 12 that meet at least one semester. Courses with multiple sections are counted as one course.

**High School Courses: Theatre/Drama** – The average (across all high schools in the district) number of theatre/drama courses offered in Grades 9 – 12 that meet at least one semester. Courses with multiple sections are counted as one course.

**High School Courses: Video/Film** – The average (across all high schools in the district) number of video/film courses offered in Grades 9 – 12 that meet at least one semester. Courses with multiple sections are counted as one course.

**High School Courses: Arts Courses for College Credit?** – If all the high schools in the district offer at least one course in the arts for college credit, “Yes” is reported. If only some of them do, a “Some” is reported, and if none do, a “No” is reported.

**High School Participation: Pct. Enrolled in Arts Courses** – The number of students receiving instruction in art, music, dance, theatre/drama and video/film in the 1999-2000 school year divided by the district high school enrollment. Students who took courses in more than one arts area are counted more than once.

**High School Arts Participation: Pct. of Graduates with 2 or More Years of Arts** – The percentage of June 2000 high school graduates who earned two or more credits in the arts in their four years of high school. The current state graduation requirement is one year of either arts or applied education.