

Arts opportunities in Ontario schools

Gaps and inequalities

June 2024



48% of elementary schools have a music teacher in 2024, down from 62% in 2020.



8% of schools with grade 7 or 8 have a visual arts teacher in 2024, down from a high of 20% in 2019.

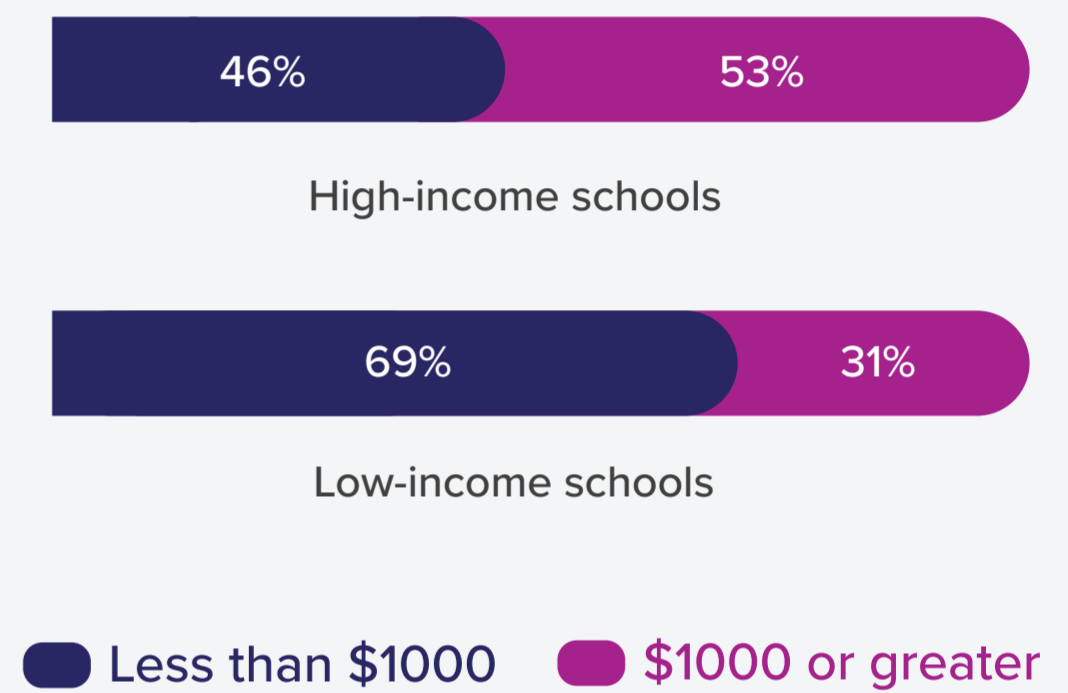


6% of elementary schools with grade 7 or 8 have a drama teacher in 2024 – down from a high of 14% in 2019 and 2020.

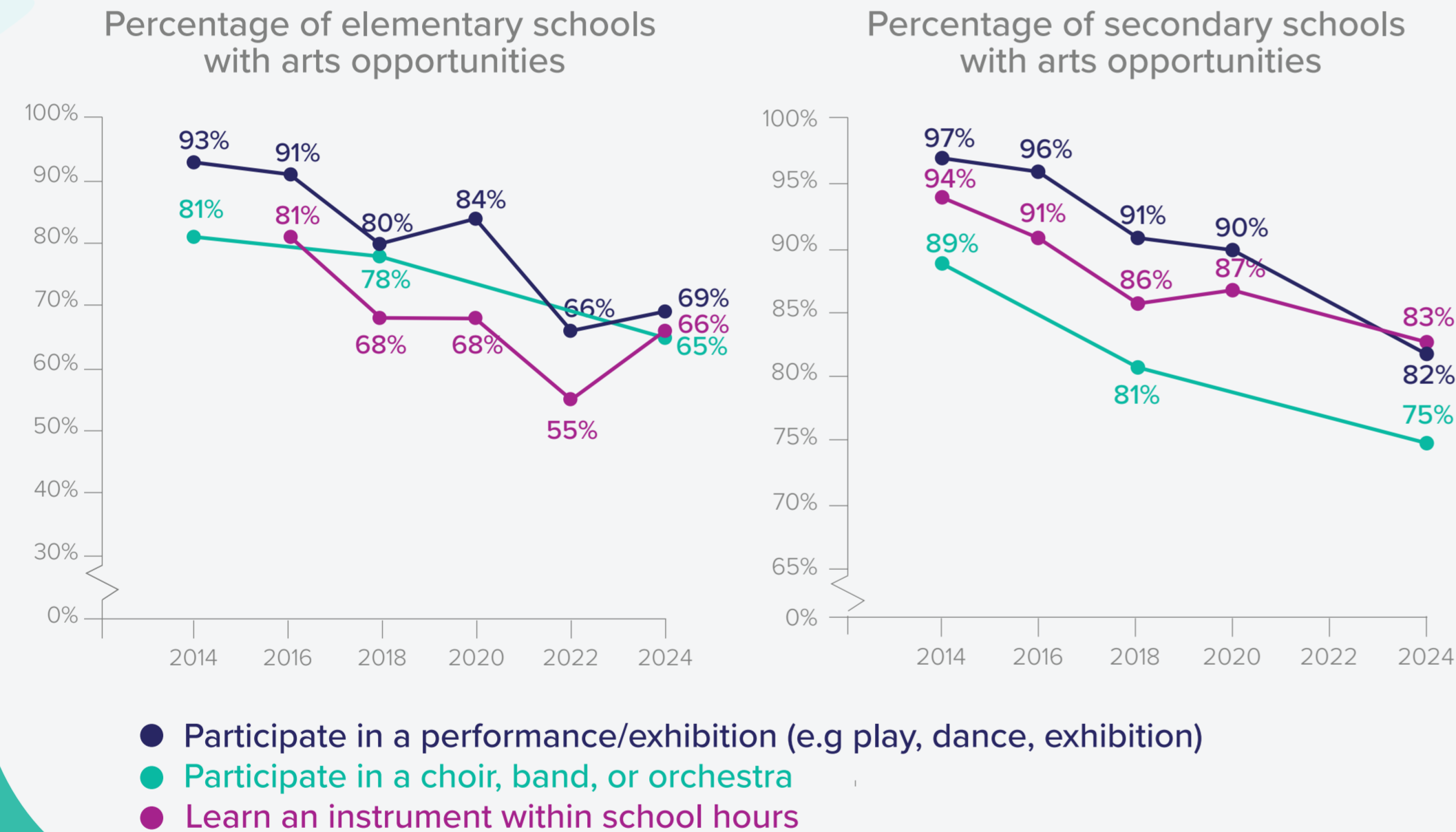


Elementary schools in neighborhoods with a low median family income are less likely than those with a high median family income to have an arts budget greater than \$1000.

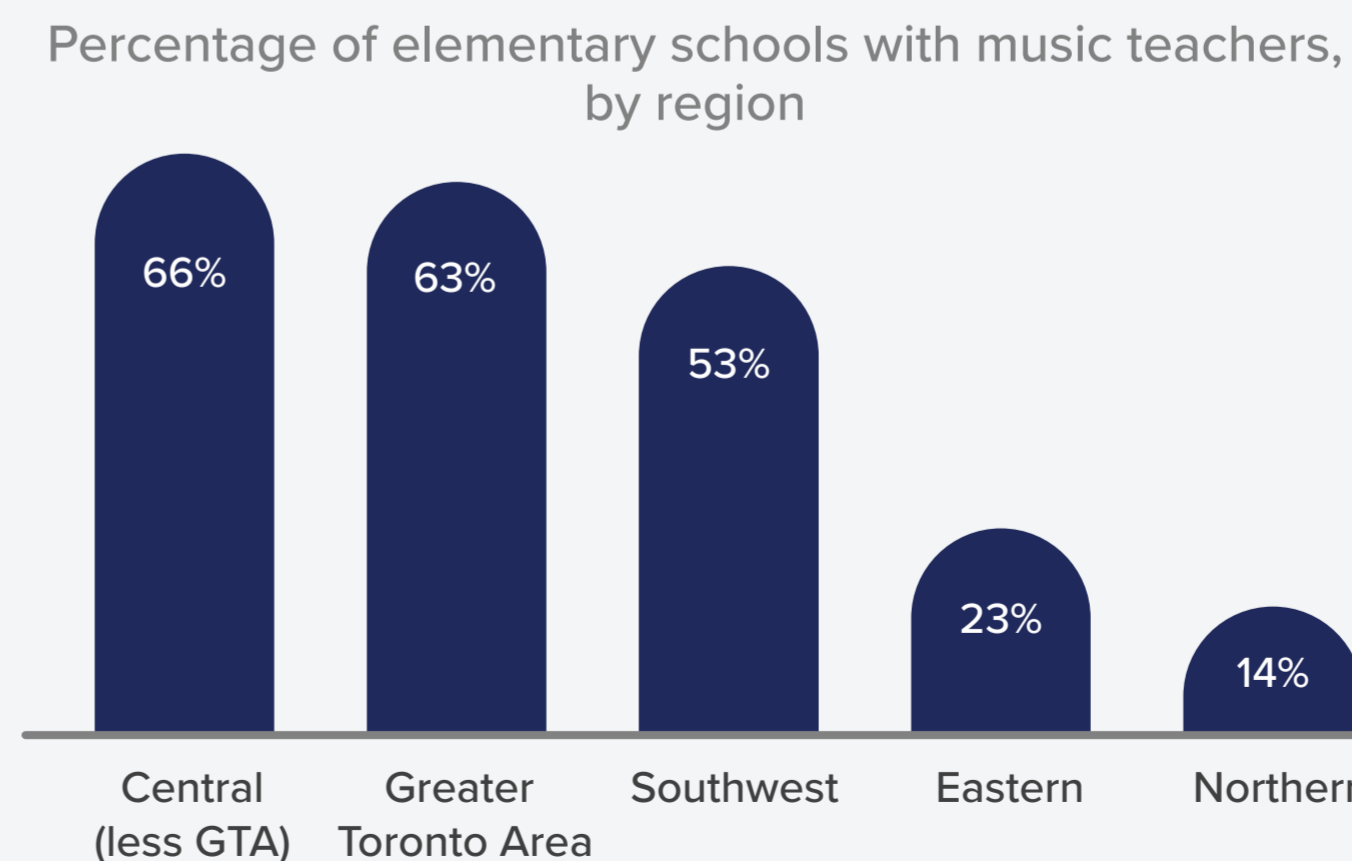
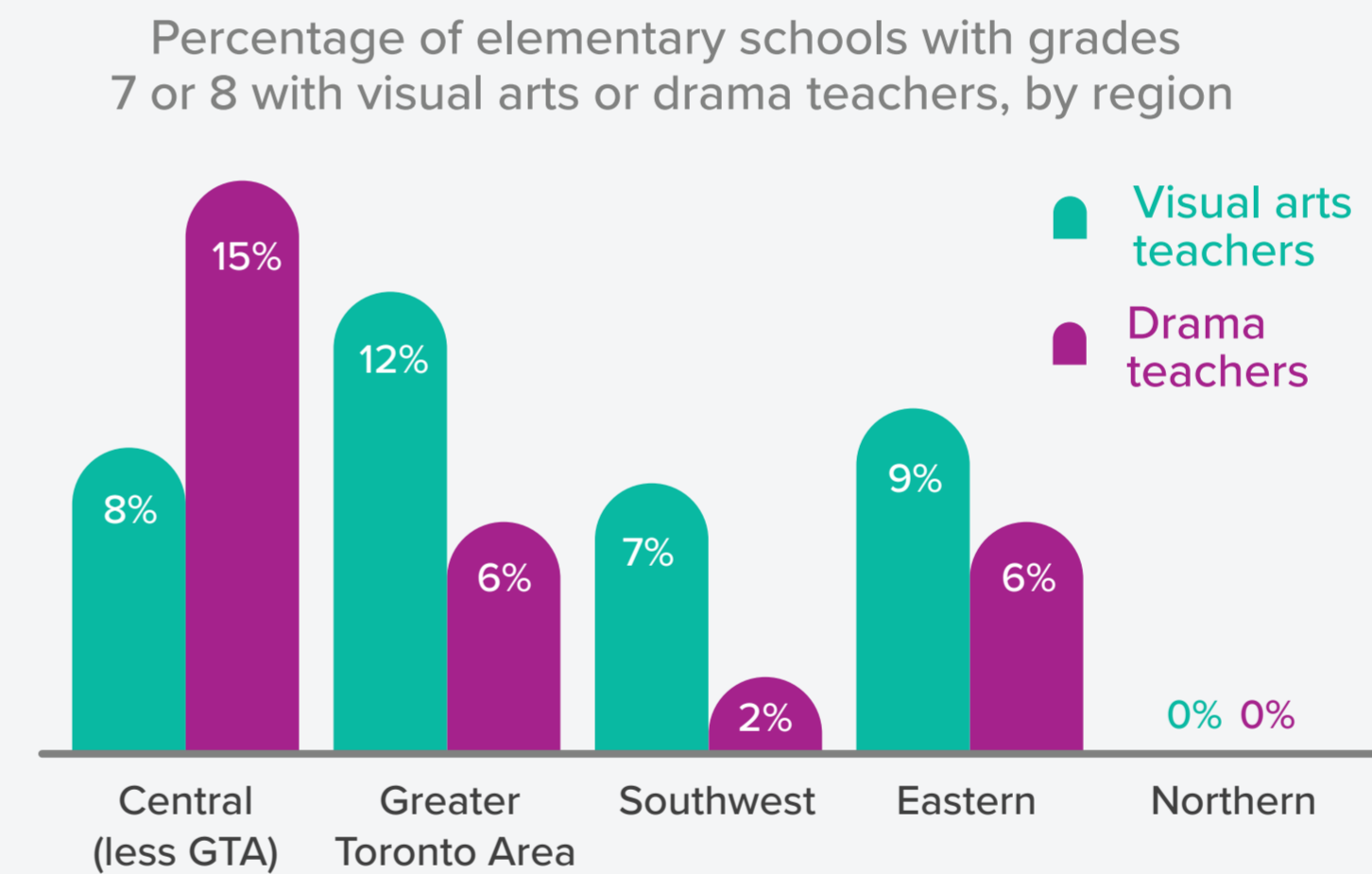
Elementary schools' arts budgets, compared by median family income



The percentage of elementary and secondary schools with arts opportunities has changed over time.



Access to arts, drama, and music teachers differs in elementary schools across Ontario with greater availability in Central Ontario.



“The ability to provide a fulsome Arts and Physical Education program at the elementary level is challenging as there is a lack of commitment through funding for specialized educators.”

Elementary School Principal, Eastern Ontario



Elementary School Principal, Greater Toronto Area

People for Education