## Arts opportunities in **Ontario schools**

## Gaps and inequalities

June 2024



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

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

with arts opportunities



- Participate in a performance/exhibition (e.g play, dance, exhibition)
- Participate in a choir, band, or orchestra
- Learn an instrument within school hours



**66** 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** 



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



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

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

Percentage of elementary schools with grades 7 or 8 with visual arts or drama teachers, by region



Percentage of elementary schools with music teachers, by region



**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



**66** Most of our parent fundraising goes to the arts, but why does my school with a healthy fundraising total, get additional arts opportunities and other schools do not?"



**Elementary School Principal**, **Greater Toronto Area** 

**People for O** Education