FAQ: SPPS Elementary Instrumental Music Programs

Saint Paul Public Schools supports opportunities in Elementary K-5 classroom General Music and Extended Day for Learning (EDL) Elementary Instrumental Music.

Q: When did SPPS transition from a daytime pull out instrumental program to the EDL Instrumental Music Program?

A: In the 2010-11 school year the district decided to transition day time instrumental pull out programs to an after school model at the elementary school level called the Extended Day for Learning (EDL) instrumental music program.

Q: Are schools able to fund a daytime instrumental music program?

A: Currently schools may choose offerings in Music and Arts during the school day based on their budget and stakeholder input.

Q: What grades does the EDL Instrumental Music Program support?

A: EDL is generally supported in grades 4 & 5, some schools offer strings as part of their EDL Instrumental Music Program.
   • EDL instrumental music program is offered as a supplement in grades 6-8 in K-8 schools and is not intended to supplant middle school daytime instrumental music programs.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in EDL instrumental music program?

A: Since EDL Instrumental Music is dually funded, all interested students in grades 4 & 5 in K-5 schools and students in the grades listed above are eligible.

Q: How many students participate in EDL Music?

A: EDL Instrumental Music is fully supported with 1300-1400 elementary students participating annually, and has increased daytime secondary instrumental music enrollment by 62% over the past 6 years.

Q: How is EDL Instrumental Music funded?

A: EDL Instrumental Music is dually funded through the Department of Alternative Education and the Office of Teaching and Learning.

Q: What is provided through the EDL Instrumental Music Program?

A: All instructors, instruments, supplies, repairs and method books are provided. Transportation is provided.
Q: How much instructional time do the EDL Instrumental Music students get?

A: Students participate in a small group ensemble (with other students who play similar instruments) each week and added to the large ensemble (all instruments) when developmentally ready.

Q: Who teaches EDL Instrumental Music?

A: Whenever possible licensed music teachers are hired to teach the EDL Instrumental Music Program in schools. Some experienced non-licensed music instructors are also employed and supervised by the licensed site leaders at the school.
SPPS Middle School Instrumental Music Programs

Middle School students in Saint Paul Public Schools have opportunities in Secondary Music Classes that may include Choir, Band, Orchestra, Songwriting/Composition, Guitar, Piano/Keyboard, Musical Production, Music Tech/Studio Production, World Music Ensembles, and Music Exploration (6-8).

Q: Who decides what music courses are offered in each middle school?
A: Schools decide which music courses are offered based on student interest and budgets.

Q: Is EDL Instrumental Music offered in the middle schools?
A: EDL instrumental music program is offered as a supplement in grades 6-8 in K-8 schools and is not intended to supplant middle school daytime instrumental music programs. It is not offered in 6-8 schools.

Q: What are the state statutes for music and arts education requirements?
A: Minnesota State Statute is outlined below.

"Several state statutes pertain to the new arts standards. In Minnesota, public elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following four arts areas: dance, music, theater and visual arts. Public high schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater or visual arts." (Minnesota Statute 120B.021, subd.1)

- The District has recommendations (not mandated) for middle school course configurations:
  - 2016-17 MS Course Requirements (Non-Priority Schools)
  - 2016-17 MS Course Requirements (Priority & 6-12 Schools)
  - Re LNFI: LNFI chose to continue supporting instrumental music during the daytime for the past several years even though the District funding for Elementary Instrumental Music during the day as a pull out program discontinued in 2010. It was a school decision to continue and a school decision to change for this year.
  - Re Battle Creek: Battle Creek hose to discontinue Instrumental Music (2016-17) based on stakeholder feedback, which will affect both students from EDL feeding into the program and students' preparedness for the Harding Instrumental Music Program.
  - Re Farnsworth: Farnsworth chose to discontinue Instrumental Music for fifth grade students (2016-17). Farnsworth offers EDL Instrumental Music to students in grade 4 (at the lower campus). This year they want EDL for 5th graders as well (upper campus). Offering EDL at both campuses will take creative scheduling. In the past, transportation to the upper campus was provided to lower campus students.
Re Ramsey and Murray: These schools do not offer Choral music.

Minnesota State Statute is outlined below.

"Several state statutes pertain to the new arts standards. In Minnesota, public elementary and middle schools must offer at least three and require at least two of the following four arts areas: dance, music, theater and visual arts. Public high schools must offer at least three and require at least one of the following five arts areas: dance, media arts, music, theater or visual arts."
(Minnesota Statute 120B.021, subd.1)
EDL Music FAQ:

Q: Who can take band/strings?
A: In K-5 schools, students in grades 4 and 5 may take band through the Extended Day for Learning (EDL) program at their elementary school. In K-8 and PreK-8 schools, students in grades 4-8 may take band through EDL. String instruments are offered in a limited number of schools and sometimes in earlier grades.

Q: When are classes held?
A: EDL classes are held after school for one hour and 45 minutes, and band instruction is a portion of that time. These classes are held two days a week, from October through May.

Q: What are the classes like?
A: Students participate in a small ensemble (with other students who play similar instruments) each week and added to the large ensemble (all instruments) when developmentally ready.

Q: Is there transportation provided?
A: Transportation is provided to students who attend for the entire two hours. In order to be eligible to receive transportation, students are encouraged to sign up for one of the following offerings along with instrumental music:
   • Math and Language Arts academic support classes OR
   • Other enrichment classes that focus on student's interests

Q: Where do students get the instruments?
A: Students do not need to own an instrument to participate. All students will be provided an instrument, method book, and supplies.

Q: Can students choose which instrument they will play?
A: Music Teachers help students choose an instrument that is a good fit for them and would best complement the full ensemble.

Q: Can students take the instruments home to practice?
A: Yes! We strongly encourage students to take instruments home to practice. Parents are asked to support the students in providing time and space for them to practice at home. It is the students’ responsibility to care for the instrument and maintain it in good condition. Instruments are checked out through our Destiny Resources System, much like a library book, and will remain the student’s responsibility until it is returned and checked in.

Q: Who do I contact for more information/questions?
A: Contact your school's EDL site leader for more information.