



Board of Education

TO: West Chicago District 33 Board of Education
FROM: Director of Assessment & Accountability, Cathy Park
DATE: June 18, 2026
RE: D33 Performing Arts Program Update

This memo is:

- ☐ Information only.
☒ Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: July 23, 2026

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated. _____
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic information:

The Performing Arts department continues to grow as more students sign up to start band and orchestra in the Elementary Schools. This year, we have a total of 150 4th grade students signed up for Beginning Orchestra and 75 5th grade students for Intermediate Orchestra. In band, we had 100 5th grade students sign up for Beginning Band, which is an increase from last year's number of 63 students. This will impact programming for next year as well as future years at the middle school.

We currently have a supervision and space concern with our Elementary orchestra students who need space to hold after-school rehearsals for all of the new and returning Orchestra students.

Background or historical information:

District 33 provides students with the opportunity to sign up for band, orchestra, choir, and mariachi in the area of performing arts. Students can start orchestra in 4th grade, band in 5th grade, choir, and mariachi in 6th grade. We have also been working to develop choir clubs at the elementary schools so students can have the opportunity to participate in choir before middle school.

☒ **D33 Performing Arts Overview** - This document shows an overview of our current performing arts program as well as the number of students that have participated in each program over the years. For the 25-26 school year, Leman had to have 2 6th grade band classes to accommodate for the large number of students enrolled in band.

Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:

Over the years, we have also started extracurricular activities for the performing arts department. We now have a jazz band as well as two mariachi groups that consist of Leman students who audition to be in the groups each year.

Recommendations:

We would like to spend the 26-27 school year reviewing our current structure of programming for the performing arts department so we can make sure as we continue to enroll more students into these programs, we can continue to provide a high-quality program for each student.

One idea is to hold smaller rehearsals during the day for the 5th-grade students at their home schools to help with space and availability at Leman after school. Students would receive small group lessons and still be able to meet with an orchestra teacher twice a week like they currently do.

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: