


# Abilene ISD

# Fine Arts Report

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD · 2025-2026

 July 6 2026

 AISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

 ABILENE, TEXAS

# Core Philosophy & Vision

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Believing that every student should possess basic knowledge, skill, and appreciation of the fine arts as a vital pathway to success in life.

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Thriving programs, led by confident teachers,  
making student-centered decisions.

# Multi-Faceted Arts Programs



## Music

Comprehensive secondary-level programs encompassing award-winning band, choir, orchestra, and handbells. Foundational skills taught by Kodaly Elementary Music Educators.



## Visual Arts

Rigorous, curriculum-integrated studio pathways in design, drawing, painting, sculpture, and photography.



## Performing Arts

Theatre Arts for all secondary students, highly dynamic speech and debate instruction, and drill team/dance.

# Excellence by the **Numbers**

**11K+**

**ABILENE ISD STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FINE ARTS**

## **Serving Students K-12**

Abilene ISD Fine Arts serves over 11,000 students through rigorous, award-winning arts experiences, cementing our reputation as a state leader in creative instruction.

These achievements foster the core competencies—self-discipline, focus, and cooperation—necessary for post-graduate success.

# Three Crowns of Distinction



## Visual Arts

**TAEA District of Distinction:** Named a leader in Texas art education for the 5th consecutive year, placing AISD in the top 5.5% statewide.



## Theatre Arts

**TxETA Outstanding District:** Designated as an Outstanding District for the 3rd consecutive year, recognizing superior theatrical programming. Craig MS, Madison MS, and Cooper HS also recognized individually.



## Music Education

**NAMM Honors:** State and national acclaim recognizing unparalleled support for student musicians and curriculum depth in the Abilene community. 9th year recognized.

# Visual Arts Pacesetter

For the 5th consecutive year, Abilene ISD has earned the prestigious **TAEA District of Distinction** designation in visual arts, placing our program among the absolute elite in Texas.

Our curriculum integrates critical evaluation, historical heritage, and creative expression to help students construct original artworks from memory, imagination, and real-life objects.

Percentage of k-12 students earning the top rating (IV) in VASE:

TEAM - 96%

Jr. VASE - 76%

VASE - 75%

State VASE - 100% (Eight students with 10 qualifying submissions)



Total - 82%



# Performing Arts **Victory**

## State & Nationally Recognized

Our programs continue to reach landmark achievements through rigorous instructional standards:

-  **TMEA All-State Choir:** Advanced student placements and accolades. 2 All State Students / 2 Solo State Champions
-  **Superior UIL Ratings:** Standard across all secondary music programs. Band - 100% Division 1 (75/78) & 1 Solo State Champion
-  **Orchestra Growth:** Expanded enrollment by 15%.
-  **Speech & Debate:** Excellence at State and National Levels



# Innovation & Strategic Growth

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Enriching academic rigor with dynamic structural developments  
across our campuses.

# Center for Arts & Innovation - CAI

## The 5th Grade Magnet Pathway

An elite, application-based program that masterfully blends accelerated STEM courses (math & science) with robust, daily fine arts instruction.

Designed for high-achieving student leaders to develop both critical thinking and vibrant creative expression simultaneously.

## Collegiate Level Partnership

Hosted directly on the McMurry University campus, giving young learners access to collegiate-grade facilities, guest mentorship, and university-led instruction.



Expands district academic opportunities for the upcoming school year.

# Empowering Our Educators

## Rigorous Professional Development

Our educators are lifelong learners. AISD actively invests in targeted fine arts professional development to refine instructional methodologies and stay ahead of Texas education standards.

Our teachers regularly participate in:

-  **Statewide Conventions:** Active membership and training at TAEA, TMEA, TXETA, TDEA, TFAA, TBA, TCDA, TODA, NSDA
-  **Collaborative Art Workshops:** Studio training sessions focused on innovative techniques.
-  **Curriculum Alignment & Collaboration:** Continual analysis and refinement of Fine Arts TEKS. Sharing best practices.
-  **Recruit and Hire:** Busy hiring season. Social media recruiting led to deep applicant pools. Fully certified art educators k-12.







# Active Community Connections

## The Museum Pathway & Beyond

We actively extend classroom walls into the vibrant local arts scene. Strategic partnerships provide every student with firsthand exposure to professional institutions.

Key highlights of our collaborative culture:

-  **The Grace Museum:** Annual curations and educational field trips.
-  **NCCIL:** Focused study of children's book illustrations and storytelling.
-  **Young Audiences:** School field trips, after school programs, RAISE (Responsive Arts in School Education).
-  **Abilene Philharmonic, Abilene Ballet Theatre, ACU Opera:** Providing unparalleled performing arts opportunities for Abilene ISD students.



# Board Strategic **Priorities**



**Culture of Collaboration**



**Learner Engagement**



**Strategic Partnerships**



**Unparalleled Opportunities**

# Questions?

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Thank you for your tireless advocacy and investment in Abilene ISD Fine Arts!