

THE ARTS ADVANTAGE IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Connectedness, Wellbeing, and Academic Achievement

KEY FINDINGS

The arts are correlated with better student outcomes in CPS, including chronic absenteeism, attendance, test scores, and postsecondary success.

While access to arts education is closely correlated with access to opportunity and resources, arts access remains a statistically significant predictor of these outcomes after controlling for opportunity-related factors.

CPS elementary schools with *higher access to the arts* saw, on average:



70%

higher rates of students scoring at or above proficiency on IAR Math exam



30%

higher rates of students scoring at or above proficiency on IAR ELA exam

CPS high schools with *higher access to the arts* saw, on average:



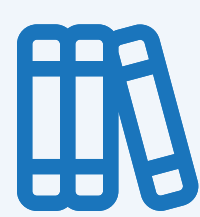
11 percentage point **lower** chronic absenteeism rates



11 percentage point **higher** attendance rates



20 percentage point **higher** college enrollment rates



30% higher rates of students remaining in college after their first year of enrollment

EXPLORE THE STUDY



ingenuity

CONNECTEDNESS & WELLBEING

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

High schools with higher access to the arts had, on average, an **11 percentage point lower** chronic absenteeism rate.

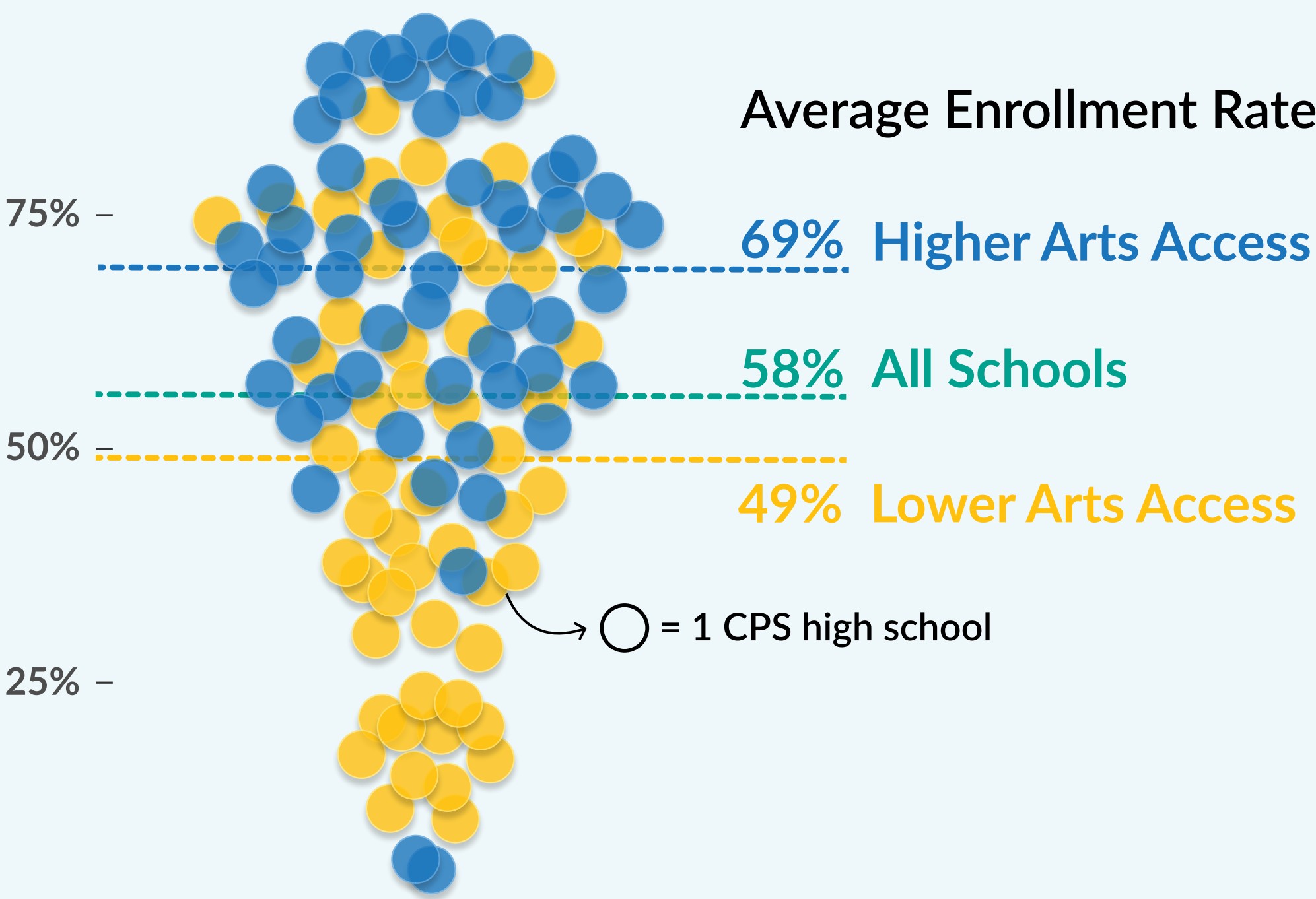


The chronic absence rate is the percentage of students who missed 10% or more enrolled days for any reason.

POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

On average, students in schools with higher access to the arts were **20 percentage points more likely** to enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college.



TEST SCORES

Students in schools with at least one full-time arts teacher were almost **2x more likely to score at or above proficiency** on the IAR Math exam.

DATA & METHODOLOGY:

This study uses the most recent available Creative Schools Certification and CPS data, with 100% of 645 CPS schools submitting arts education data. Most analyses draw on data from the 2024-25 school year. Based on this latest data, 67,000 students had lower arts access. Schools with **higher access to arts education** are defined as those rated *Excelling* on the Creative Schools Certification (90-100 points), while schools with **lower access to arts education** are those rated as *Emerging* or *Developing* (79 or fewer points). See the study for more information.