



2019-2020 Outcomes Report

Transforming lives by restoring, expanding, and
innovating music education in our schools.



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Introduction

Little Kids Rock transforms lives by restoring, expanding, and innovating music education in our schools. We do this by providing professional development training and workshops to teachers and then equipping them with the curricular resources and musical instruments necessary to engage their students with music and learning.

One of the great strengths of our approach is the level of programmatic flexibility, which empowers teachers to determine what works best for their classroom and to modify the rest to best meet the needs of their students. As the definition of “classroom” changed drastically over this year, Little Kids Rock is working to adapt our program for this new normal.

In the face of challenges of remote and blended learning, we’ve supported music teachers with online training, technology, and resources to ensure their students do not miss a beat in their music education, even if they are learning from home.

This year, more than most, reminded us of the numerous benefits of music to everyone, especially to children. We are proud to present our 2019-2020 Outcomes Report as our team continues to work hard to utilize the unique power of music to make the world a more harmonious place.

Our Program

Little Kids Rock works with state departments of education, school districts, and higher education institutions to implement modern band music programs in urban, suburban, and rural classrooms across the country.

Little Kids Rock's network of **2,500 K-12 teachers** leads a national movement that brings highly inclusive, culturally responsive, student-centered music education to students. Using genres including rock, pop, Latin, and rap, among others, our program empowers teachers to build music programs as diverse as the students they serve. Little Kids Rock provides these educators with professional development, curriculum, community, and equipment needed to implement modern band programs.

Today, more than **550,000 kids** currently participate in Little Kids Rock programs in more than **500 school districts in 48 states and the District of Columbia**.

Alaska

32 Students
1 District

Arizona

5,237 Students
7 Districts

Arkansas

240 Students
1 District

California

51,580 Students
68 Districts

Colorado

68,644 Students
50 Districts

Connecticut

28,127 Students
46 Districts

Delaware

3,593 Students
5 Districts

District of Columbia

1,471 Students
1 District

Florida

91,418 Students
15 Districts

Georgia

22,353 Students
7 Districts

Hawaii

180 Students
1 District

Idaho

900 Students
3 Districts

Illinois

48,288 Students
11 Districts

Indiana

3,593 Students
5 Districts

Iowa

949 Students
5 Districts

Kansas

5,276 Students
8 Districts

Kentucky

7,215 Students
11 Districts

Louisiana

525 Students
3 Districts

Maine

8,022 Students
38 Districts

Maryland

1,446 Students
4 Districts

Massachusetts

11,335 Students
22 Districts

Michigan

6,785 Students
8 Districts

Minnesota

4,566 Students
10 Districts

Mississippi

75 Students
1 District

Missouri

631 Students
3 Districts

Montana

700 Students
5 Districts

Nebraska

402 Students
2 Districts

Nevada

200 Students
1 District

New Hampshire

75 Students
1 District

New Jersey

17,169 Students
28 Districts

New Mexico

1,712 Students
3 Districts

New York

67,771 Students
22 Districts

North Carolina

16,063 Students
8 Districts

North Dakota

100 Students
1 District

Ohio

2,829 Students
11 Districts

Oklahoma

1,110 Students
2 Districts

Oregon

547 Students
2 Districts

Pennsylvania

33,680 Students
132 Districts

Rhode Island

2,320 Students
3 Districts

South Carolina

725 Students
4 Districts

Tennessee

9,459 Students
6 Districts

Texas

37,801 Students
17 Districts

Utah

2,522 Students
3 Districts

Vermont

1,882 Students
11 Districts

Virginia

839 Students
5 Districts

Washington

1,525 Students
5 Districts

Wisconsin

4,446 Students
6 Districts

West Virginia

1,080 Students
2 Districts

Wyoming

500 Students
1 District

Organizational Milestone: 1,000,000 Students!

In the 2019-2020 school year, Little Kids Rock reached the audacious goal of bringing the transformational gift of music education to our one-millionth student.

Since 2002,



1,000,000+

Students Reached



5,800+

Teachers Trained



100,000+

Instruments & Equipment
Donated

2019-2020 Program Highlights

- Launched new music programs in **381 new schools** across **41 school districts** that brought music to more than **87,000 new students**.
- Expanded our national program impact to reach more than **550,000 students** in the classrooms of **2,500 teachers**.
- Provided nearly **6,000 instruments** to more than **500 schools** nationwide.
- Published the first-ever **Modern Band Method Book series** in partnership with music publishing company, Hal Leonard.
- Presented **21 Modern Band 101** introductory professional development workshops to more than **500 teachers**.
- Presented **13 Modern Band 102** continuing professional development workshops and **60 additional** professional development opportunities to more than **500 teachers** to expand their knowledge and skills-training in modern band.
- Produced our **seventh annual** Modern Band Summit, a 4-day professional development conference, which convened more than **550 public school teachers, higher education professionals, and arts education administrators** representing **75 public school districts**, participating in **70+ unique staff and peer-led** professional development workshops and social music making events and jam sessions each day.





Our Impact on Teachers and Students: 2019-2020 Program Outcomes

Year after year, modern band programs engage young people who may feel underrepresented in school music programs as their culture may not be reflected in what they see and hear in the classroom. As well as playing and performing music by their favorite contemporary artists, students enrolled in modern band classes write original music in collaboration with their peers, fostering community and developing vital teamworking skills, musical ability, confidence, and self-respect.

To measure the impact of our program, each year Little Kids Rock conducts a year-end assessment survey addressing four key efficacy markers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <u>Youth Development</u> | 3 <u>Teacher Development</u> |
| 2 <u>Youth Musical Development</u> | 4 <u>School Outcomes</u> |

This assessment tool was developed in collaboration with The Center for Arts Education Research at Teachers College at Columbia University and measures outputs such as key components of musical aptitude and psychosocial development.

Youth Development



85%

of teachers report that since starting Little Kids Rock's program, students are more engaged in school.

84%

of teachers report that Little Kids Rock students are more likely to express themselves.

82%

of teachers report improvements in their students' behavior among students who had previously behaved poorly in school.

81%

of teachers report their students having a stronger social bond with their music classmates since participating in the program.

"[Modern band] has created more confidence - especially in students who are more reserved. I've noticed big changes in those students."

Amy Holderness, Teacher, Grades K-5, New York, NY

"This program has been very helpful for many of my students who have experienced trauma. I've had several students during our rap unit who get to express their feelings in a healthy way."

Theresa Daley, Teacher, Grades K-5, Tampa, FL

"It helps me grow as a person [on] the inside and as if I am learning a new language I never heard of."

Student, 6th Grade, Los Angeles, CA

"I like that I get to communicate with my classmates through music."

Student, 8th Grade, Newark, NJ

Youth Musical Development



99%

of students are motivated to make music since implementing Little Kids Rock's program.

94%

of students feel that they are better at playing a musical instrument since taking Little Kids Rock's program.

92%

of teachers feel that their students will continue playing music after completing Little Kids Rock's program.

88%

of students feel that they are better at improvising since taking Little Kids Rock's program.

"Kids have found their voice through music. Many families have acquired instruments for their students. Students have reported playing music with and developing relationships with family members through their exposure to the LKR program. The program has definitely been a "game changer" for some of my students!!"

Sara Whittle, Teacher, Grades K-8, Indianapolis, IN

"This program serves as a huge platform for my students to find themselves as musicians. The after-school band that was meeting had students in it from very different backgrounds and musical stories as well as musical abilities, but they were unified, quickly becoming a hub of positivity in our building."

Britni Bryan, Teacher, Grades K-5, Fruita, CO

"It's fun to play songs that you enjoy to play with friends. It helps spread our love for music to others."

Student, 9th Grade, Altadena, CA

"The fact that we get to jam and perform for people is incredible!"

Student, 8th Grade, Newark, NJ

Teacher Development



92%

of teachers report that since starting Little Kids Rock's program, they feel more connected to their students.

90%

of teachers report that since starting Little Kids Rock's program, their teaching has become more student-centered.

85%

of teachers report that Little Kids Rock's program has helped them teach genres that are culturally responsive to their students.

80%

of teachers feel that Little Kids Rock's program has provided tools needed to serve a more diverse set of students.

"The free online remote learning that Little Kids Rock provided during the pandemic saved me and got my students taking lessons and playing on their own at home."

Dorothy Glodo, Teacher, Grades K-8, Chicago, IL

"The Little Kids Rock website and the resources made available to both teachers and students is invaluable. Consistent and high quality teaching videos streamlines the teaching process in the classroom and provides support for practice and continuance outside the classroom. It is part of the glue to creating a community and culture of music for our students, families, teachers, and schools."

Ronda Armstrong, Teacher, Grades K-4, Nashville, TN

School Outcomes



Little Kids Rock teachers offer our program for an average of **1.7 hours** per week. The **average number of students they teach is 200**.

100%

of teachers would recommend Little Kids Rock's program to their peers.

77%

of teachers report that since starting Little Kids Rock's program, their students have developed a stronger connection to their school.

69%

of teachers have observed improvement in attendance since beginning Little Kids Rock's program.

65%

of teachers report that as a result of having Little Kids Rock's program, their school environment and/or culture has improved.

"For monthly assemblies, students write songs whose lyrics reflect our units of study. This has not only fostered cooperation between the musically motivated and academically motivated but also allowed expression of cultural pride and individual thought."

Dorothy Glodo, Teacher, K-8, Chicago, IL

"Little Kids Rock has brought attention and admiration to students from their classmates, and it has made students more supportive of each other and more interested in collaboration."

Ronda Armstrong, Teacher, Grades K-4, Nashville, TN

Meeting the Moment: Addressing the Current Needs of the Educational Community

To ensure more children have access to an engaging music education program while providing continuity of programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, Little Kids Rock transitioned from an in-person to fully online model. Since launching new virtual curriculum, professional development, community and other resources, a majority of Little Kids Rock teachers have shared that they are better equipped to engage with their students remotely, and that Little Kids Rock's new resources have contributed to their students' ability to continue learning throughout the pandemic.

"Many of our teachers are finding Little Kids Rock invaluable to their distance learning planning."

Laura Arthur, Teacher, Arts Administrator, Portland, OR

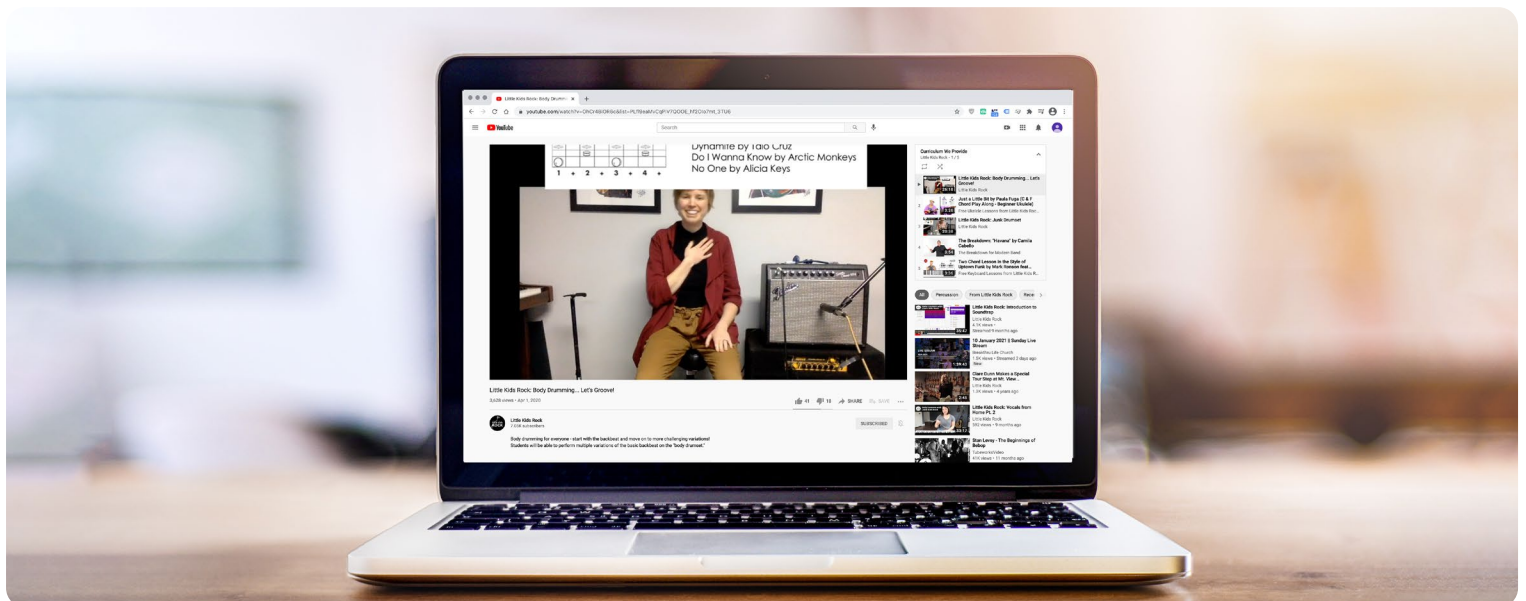
"Your relentless support of teachers and students is what keeps us all going. We could not imagine navigating through this new "normal" without you."

Jill Russell-Benner, Teacher, Arts Administrator, Danbury, CT

New Curricular Content for Distance Learning

In March 2020, Little Kids Rock began producing and distributing digital and distance learning curriculum, launching an online video lesson series, featuring [56 daily lessons on YouTube](#) to meet the needs of teachers and students who were thrust into remote teaching and learning environments. We created these lessons to include activities with or without instruments and genres to be as inclusive as possible—for students, teachers, and parents. As part of our continued commitment to supporting educators, we provide a [weekly roundup of free resources](#) to help teachers bring the joy of music-making to their students.

In addition, Little Kids Rock published a [Remote Learning Music Resource page](#) with free resources for teachers and students regardless of their teaching or learning environment.



Senior Developer of Curricular Programs, Mary Claxton, teaching Body Drumming as a part of the Little Kids Rock Daily Lessons series on YouTube.

Donated Resources

Little Kids Rock is providing creative alternative instruction resources to address the learning needs of students who are home with no instruments. We have leveraged our partnerships to attain immediate resources for our students so they can participate in virtual music classes with their teachers. Since April, we have provided more than **\$4 million worth of musical equipment and complementary curricular offerings** directly to Little Kids Rock students and teachers across the country. These resources include:

10,000 Pairs of Headphones

to help students transition to a virtual music classroom during months of digital learning.

500 Microphones

to help students compose and perform music for classes and events, such as the NAFME All-National Honors Modern Band Ensemble.

15 Speaker Systems

to student composers who entered our annual Songwriting Exhibition.

31,400 Online Software Subscriptions

to digital curricular and professional learning resources for students and teachers.



Cloonan Middle School students in Stamford, CT, with their new Headphones.

Fostering Community

Little Kids Rock hosts and facilitates an online community of practice for more than **2,500 teachers**. To continue to foster this sense of connectedness, Little Kids Rock is organizing virtual community-building events, running the gamut from lesson planning meet-ups, collaborative music making sessions, virtual “office hours,” social events and more. By leading and facilitating the communication across our network, music educators brainstorm and discuss new teaching practices during these unprecedented times. The ability to dialogue with their colleagues has been vital in order to adapt teaching practices, sparking insights and aiding in the discovery of new resources.

During the COVID-19 pandemic this online community has provided a critical support system for educators as they navigate through the most challenging teaching climate of their careers. Little Kids Rock teachers use this platform to share innovative solutions to challenges specific to pandemic uncertainty and its effects on remote and hybrid learning environments as well collaborate on virtual projects to drive learning solutions for their classrooms.

In total we’ve provided **3,284 hours** of community activities in this new virtual reality.



Teacher Expert Panel on Diversity and Inclusion.



Teacher Expert Panel on Remote Learning

Virtual Workshops

Little Kids Rock is creating and delivering new digital professional development workshops designed to build capacity among K-12 music teachers, preparing them to effectively provide synchronous, asynchronous and blended learning to their students. This is essential due to new health requirements for schools, including smaller class sizes, limiting use of certain instruments and prohibiting school visitors (including teaching artists).

We've digitized our Modern Band 101 and 102 workshops, as well as created entirely new professional development courses.

Digital Songwriting and Production is one such course, designed in response to the current climate to address the needs of all music teachers who are providing virtual and/or in-person instruction using modern band. Teachers learn strategies and activities to teach their students to collaboratively compose and produce songs. In doing so, they are able to help students learn how to express their knowledge, emotions, and personal experiences through music and lyrics.

Additional new courses and work sessions include:

- Social and Emotional Learning
- Next Steps on Songwriting
- Student-Centered Learning & Instruction
- Music Listening & Exploration
- Virtual Music Performance

Since March, we have provided **22 courses** to more than **700 teachers**.

While we will resume aspects of our in-person delivery model once safety guidelines allow, the advancements and investments we've made during this time will permanently strengthen our organization and enhance the quality of the services we render to our network of students and teachers for years to come.



Director of Teaching & Learning, Scott Burstein, leading the Modern Band 101 course for a group of New Hampshire teachers.