



## **Rock For Kids Music Education at Chicago Public Schools**

**Mission:** Rock For Kids provides music education to underserved children in Chicago, sparking creativity and passion, teaching critical thinking, supporting academic achievement and enriching young lives.

Rock For Kids provides comprehensive **choral music education** during school time at Chicago Public Schools in impoverished neighborhoods. Rock For Kids provides a unique curriculum that is interesting to students and gives each student the opportunity to learn to sing as a collaborative group, to read and write music, to identify and discuss a wide variety of historically important world music and to see themselves as creative beings. Rock For Kids also offers adjunct curricula in **Songwriting/Production** and **Blues Workshop**. These musical genres are underrepresented in the music education landscape and are culturally relevant to Rock For Kids students.

**Who are Rock For Kids students?** Rock For Kids is committed to making structured music classes available to students who would otherwise not have access to them. We offer classes at under resourced Chicago Public Schools located in impoverished neighborhoods. The great majority of the students are recognized by Chicago Public Schools as low-income. Rock For Kids provides in-school music classes, and brings the lessons into the students' own schools and neighborhoods to increase ease of participation and negate the risk and cost of transportation.

**Who are Rock For Kids teachers?** Rock For Kids believes that students living in poverty deserve the same quality music education as their more privileged peers. That is why Rock For Kids contracts and pays a competitive wage to professional teaching artists.

**How does Rock For Kids measure success?** Rock For Kids carefully monitors the success of every student in every class, and assesses and updates the curricula and lesson plans to best serve each school. This step is crucial and Rock For Kids builds the cost of evaluation into every school budget. Through classroom observation, performance review, student input and skills testing, Rock For Kids has been able to develop unique methods for addressing lack of access to music education in Chicago.

Studies indicate that music education helps a child's brain to develop analytical skills, improves math and science scores and gives children the 21st century job skills. A lack of music education can put children at a competitive disadvantage in higher education and the job force. This is especially true in Chicago where disparity between neighborhood and school resources is dramatic. Rock For Kids firmly believes that ongoing music classes will over time bolster students' grades and test scores as well as their belief in their own potential and ability to set ambitious goals for the future.