

Save The Music

FOUNDATION

West Virginia Music Saves 2009-2021

In partnership with the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History led by its Curator Randall Reid-Smith, Save The Music has jump started over 100 school music programs in West Virginia, with investments and partnerships in each of the state's 55 counties.



Impact Highlights

IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

+8.4 points increase in math proficiency rates among Save The Music WVA schools 2015-2019

POSITIVE IMPACT ON CRITICAL THINKING

84% of music teachers expressed that Save The Music affected student skills such as critical thinking and the ability to complete a task.

MORE ENGAGED STUDENTS

83% of music teachers agreed or strongly agreed that Save The Music increased student engagement overall.

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

83% of Superintendents expressed that Save The Music grants gave sense of pride in the community.

Our Impact

Save The Music Foundation's 12-Year Partnership with West Virginia Arts & Community Leaders Improves Student, Teacher, & School Outcomes in Over 100 Schools – On Our Way to Music in Every Middle School



BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL CHAMPIONS FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Since the 1970s, school music programs all over West Virginia had slowly been deteriorating. Though initial research pointed to a clear statewide commitment to music education, many schools were equipped with dated and damaged instruments– or none at all.

In 2009, Lyell Clay, a local businessman, musician and composer, and Randall Reid-Smith, the leader of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History began a partnership with Save The Music Foundation to advance a vision for the statewide rebuild of school music programs.

Over the past 12 years, Randall Reid-Smith and Save The Music have built a lasting set of impactful partnerships at the state, county and local levels– including U.S. Senators, West Virginia First Ladies, businesses, nonprofit organizations, individuals and educators around the state.

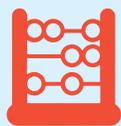
Student Impact



+12.8

POINTS

increase in graduation among Save The Music schools in WVA from 2012 to 2020 compared to + 10.0 points for the state overall (from 2012 to 2019)



+8.4

POINTS

increase in math proficiency rates among Save The Music schools in WVA from 2015 to 2019



88%

of music teachers agreed or strongly agreed that Save The Music increased student social-emotional learning skills, such as confidence and creative expression.



84%

of music teachers expressed that Save The Music affected student skills, such as critical thinking and the ability to complete a task.

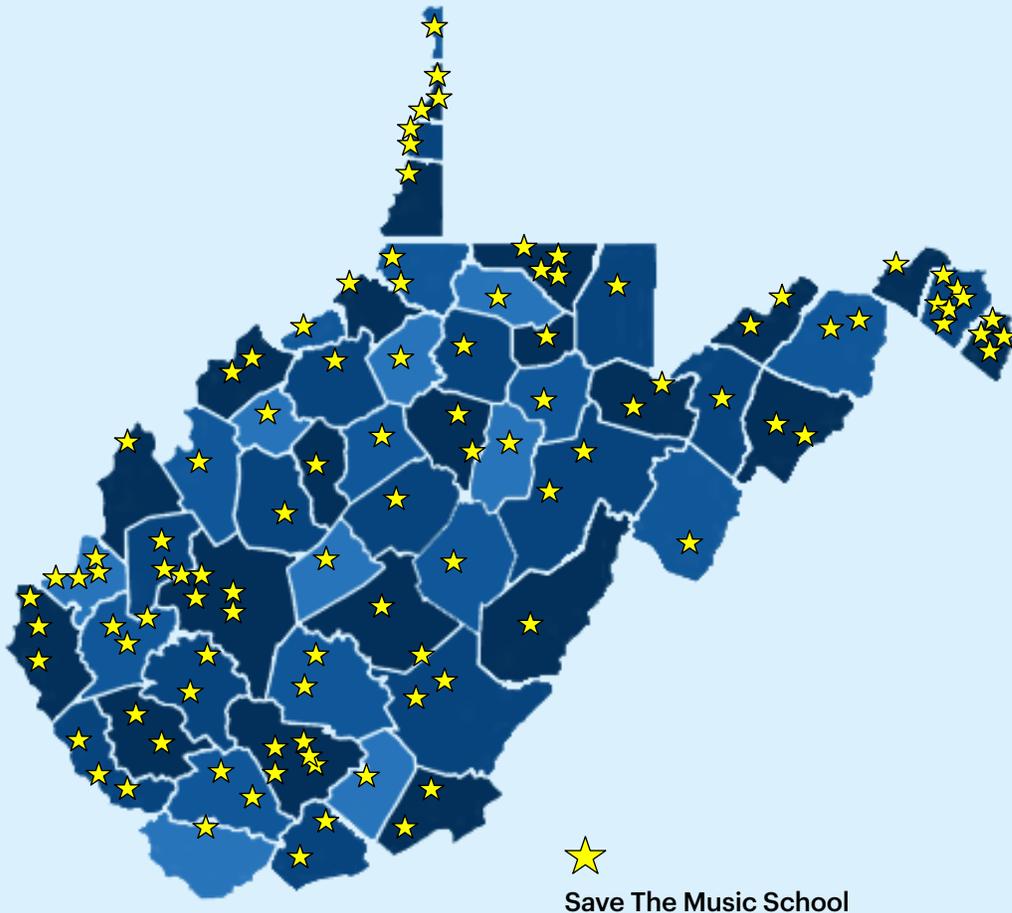
“Our students feel empowered as soon as they hold the new instrument in their hands.”
–*Superintendent of Cabell County Schools*

“I am blown away as an administrator of the impact that music can have on the overall growth and learning of our students.”
–*School Administrator*



Community Impact

Save The Music has jump started over 100 school music programs in West Virginia, with investments and partnerships in each of the state's 55 counties.



“The arts are something very special to West Virginia, and the partnership with the Save the Music Foundation is making great strides to preserve and grow that for future generations. I appreciate the foundation for their interest and investment in our state.”
—Senator Shelley Moore Capito



“I could not be more proud of West Virginia’s partnership with the Save The Music Foundation. Making sure that our children have music as an outlet to express themselves is so important. It engages students, drives achievement, and brings off-the-charts goodness to our classrooms. I truly believe that music –and all the arts –are part of the fabric of who we are as a state.”—Governor Jim Justice

Teacher Impact



83%

of music teachers agreed or strongly agreed that Save The Music increased student engagement overall.



88%

of music teachers are full time at their schools.

“A lot of our students were playing on used instruments provided by family members, friends or purchased at pawn shops. Being able to put a new quality instrument into their hands has increased their confidence and improved their playing abilities...The students are so proud of the instruments which has made their attitude toward Band better, and they are so excited to get to come to Band class.” –Teacher

Community & School Impact

“Our biggest accomplishment this year was absolutely our performances for the caregivers and residents at our local nursing homes. The smiles on their faces was worth more than any trophy we have ever won in the past.”
–Teacher



98%

of superintendents reported that the Save The Music partnership impacted the county in a positive way.



83%

of superintendents expressed that the Save The Music partnership gave sense of pride in the community.



63%

of superintendents reported believing that the Save The Music partnership served to better unite the community.

“Save The Music has been a blessing to Wayne County Schools. Seeing the students achieve a sense of pride when they are able to perform for their families as individual schools and combined school ensembles, brightens the entire community.”
– Wayne County Schools Band Director

Research Methodology

In order to examine implementation of the program and to understand its preliminary outcomes, Save The Music hired Metis Associates, a NYC-based research and evaluation firm to review existing documentation and develop an overview of findings. The Metis team reviewed and analyzed data from three categories of sources: 1) annual progress reports of implementation in the state completed by participating schools during their involvement in the program; 2) data from reports published on the West Virginia Department of Education website, including school-wide attendance rates, graduation rates, and annual academic testing scores; and 3) a survey of school superintendents in the state, which was developed for the case study to examine community-level impacts. Music Teachers & Principals from 95 schools (out of 100) and Superintendents from 48 districts (out of 55) responded to the 2021 program survey.