

STEP IT UP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Step It Up is an afterschool arts audition-prep program from Oakland School for the Arts, established in 2014 with a goal to make arts education accessible to Oakland youth.

What grade level does my student need to be in order to participate in the program?

Fourth and fifth grade students at **specific Title 1 Oakland schools** can apply for the Step It Up program.

What if my student attends a Title 1 school that's not on your your specific list, or is outside of Oakland?

The program is intended for Oakland-resident students only, however as SIU is targeting **specific Title 1 Oakland schools**, not all Oakland-resident students are eligible to apply. At times we will consider a student from another district outside of Oakland. This district must serve a similar demographic as SIU's specific Title 1 school list. Please contact OSA's Diversity and Equity Coordinator, Cava Menzies at cmenzies@oakarts.org for more information.

Do I need to provide proof that my child attends one of OSA's specific Title 1 schools?

OSA's Step It Up program asks for a copy of your child's student ID from their current school. If unavailable, we also accept proof of mailing address (ie billing from PG&E, water, etc).

What if my child attends one of OSA's Title 1 Oakland schools and is not in the specified grade levels?

We encourage your child to apply for OSA's general audition, which is open to all grade levels. *Additionally, your child can still apply for the SIU program, but is not guaranteed a place in the program, and cannot participate in the SIU-only audition.

Are current OSA students eligible for the program?

No, SIU is only available to prospective OSA students.

How does my child apply?

OSA accepts both digital applications and paper applications. To apply online, please go to oakarts.org/stepitup. To turn in a paper application, please mail completed application and copy of transcript or student ID to:

Attn: Cava Menzies
Diversity and Equity Coordinator
Oakland School for the Arts
530 18th St.
Oakland, CA 94612.

Applications are available in English, Spanish, and Cantonese. If you would like a physical application to be dropped off at your school, please contact stepitup@oakarts.org.

Do students need prior experience in the art area for which they sign up? What if my student is a beginner?

We highly recommend that students have some prior experience in their desired art area, however, this prior experience can come in many different forms. We are looking for students who are dedicated and passionate about their art form, regardless of their current level.

Does the program cost money?

No. OSA is able to offer the program free of charge.

What are the program dates?

The Step It Up program meets on the following 14* Mondays: Sept. 16th, 23rd, & 30th; Oct. 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th; Nov. 4th & 18th; Dec. 2nd, 16th, & 19th; Jan. 6th & 13th. *Please note that Literary Arts, Digital Media, Production Design, & Fashion Design will only meet for the first 7 dates (Sept. 16-Nov. 28th), and that the Dance Training Program meets 3 days a week on Mon., Tues., and Thurs. from 4:45-6:15 throughout the aforementioned 14-week dates.

What can we expect from the Dance Training Program?

The Dance Training Program is a rigorous program that focuses on ballet, modern, and contemporary dance in order to prepare students for pre-professional dance programs.

When do I find out if my student is enrolled in Step It Up?

Accepted students will be notified by email by September 16th depending upon application submittal date. Please note that SIU reserves the right to close an under-enrolled class (less than three students).

What supplies does my student need?

Once registered, your instructor will contact you with detailed information on supplies needed. These supplies will be minimal as we are able to provide most of the materials for each art area. Instrumentalists, please note that you will be required to use your own instrument. Please contact us if there are any questions or concerns about your ability to procure supplies: jkarnes@oakarts.org.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

You can contact us at stepitup@oakarts.org, or visit oakarts.org/stepitup.

Does my student have to intend to audition to OSA to participate in the program?

Yes, all students within the program must have intent to audition to OSA.

Does participation in this program increase my student's chance of getting into OSA?

No, however, both Oakland residents and SIU students are given a categorical bump on the OSA audition scoresheet. Participation in this program does not guarantee entrance into OSA as space is limited, and some grade levels are completely impacted. However, as part of the program, students will be prepared for auditions and will have the opportunity to formally audition with other program participants.

Is there a special OSA audition for my Step It Up student?

Yes, students who have attended at least 10 out of 14 SIU classes (or 4 out of 7 for the shorter classes) will receive special consideration in one of the two OSA auditions (Jan. 18th & Feb. 15th) as part of the SIU cohort.

What are SIU's specific Title 1 elementary schools?

Acorn Woodland Elementary	Hoover Elementary
Allendale Elementary	Horace Mann Elementary
Ascend Elementary	International Community School
Bella Vista Elementary	La Escuelita Elementary
Brookfield Elementary	Lafayette Elementary
Burckhalter Elementary	Laurel Elementary
Carl B. Munck Elementary	Lincoln Elementary
Cleveland Elementary	Manzanita Community School
Community United Elementary	Manzanity SEED Elementary
East Oakland Pride Elementary	Markham Elementary
Emerson Elementary	Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary
Encompass Academy	Melrose Leadership Academy
Esperanza Elementary	New Highland Academy
Franklin Elementary	Parker Elementary
Fred T. Korematsu Elementary	Piedmont Ave. Elementary
Fruitvale Elementary	Reach Academy
Futures Elementary	Rise Community School
Garfield Elementary	Roses in Concrete
Global Family School	Sankofa Academy
Grass Valley Elementary	Think College Now
Greenleaf Elementary	