

STEP IT UP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

5th through 8th grade students at Title 1 Oakland schools can apply for the Step It Up program. (See below for the complete list of included schools.)

What if my student attends a non Title 1 school that's in Oakland, or is at a school outside of Oakland?

The program gives priority to BIPOC Oakland students from OUSD Title 1 schools.

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

Step It Up is only for students who are currently in 5th-8th grade. We encourage your child to apply for OSA through the general admission process, which is open to all grade levels.

Are current OSA students eligible for the program?

No, SIU is only available for non-OSA students.

How does my child apply?

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

Attn: Kevin Choice, Step It Up Program
Oakland School for the Arts
530 18th St.
Oakland, CA 94612

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

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

Prior art experience is recommended, but not required. We only ask that students have shown interest in the art area, are dedicated and passionate about their art form, regardless of their current level.

Does the program cost money?

No. Step It Up is free of charge.

What does the ThPeople's Conservatory's partnership look like?

We partnered with TPC (The People's Conservatory) back in 2020, and they provide instruction and curriculum for the following classes: Spoken Word/Rap, Filmmaking, Anime Design, and Fashion Design.

What are the program dates?

The Step It Up program will meet from 5-7 pm on the following 14 dates (excluding holidays) at OSA (530 18th St):

- October 3rd (first day of classes), 17th, 24th, & 31st
- (Acceptance Cut off November 6th) November 7th, 14th, & 28th
- December 5th & 12th
- January 9th, 23rd, & 30th
- February 6th & 13th (student presentations/performances/party)

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

Students who apply for Step It Up before 9/23 will be notified by 9/30. Those who apply after that date will be notified by the Friday after they apply.

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: cmenzies@oakarts.org

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

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

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

It is the goal and we encourage all students who are accepted into the Step It Up program to apply for enrollment at OSA for the next school year. The program is designed to give students access to the type of arts training they would receive at OSA in hopes they will continue this arts education as future OSA students.

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

Yes. Students who complete Step It Up Program will receive higher consideration in the OSA enrollment lottery.

What are SIU's specific Title 1 elementary schools?

Acorn Woodland Elementary
Allendale Elementary
Ascend Elementary
Bella Vista Elementary
Brookfield Elementary
Burckhalter Elementary
Carl B. Munck Elementary
Cleveland Elementary
Community United Elementary
East Oakland Pride Elementary

Emerson Elementary
Encompass Academy
Esperanza Elementary
Franklin Elementary
Fred T. Korematsu Elementary
Fruitvale Elementary
Futures Elementary
Garfield Elementary
Global Family School
Grass Valley Elementary
Greenleaf Elementary
Hoover Elementary
Horace Mann Elementary
International Community School
La Escuelita Elementary
Lafayette Elementary
Laurel Elementary
Lincoln Elementary
Madison Park Academy.
Manzanita Community School
Manzanita SEED Elementary
Markham Elementary
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary
Melrose Leadership Academy
New Highland Academy
Parker Elementary
Piedmont Ave. Elementary
Reach Academy
Rise Community School
Roses in Concrete*
Sankofa Academy
Think College Now

*Public Charter School