



Introduction

Emerging Music Courses (EMCs) - music classes for secondary students outside of traditional ensemble offerings; they include courses in:

- Composition
- Music Theory
- Music Technology
- Guitar
- Piano
- General Music

EMCs give access to music learning for students who:

- Play an instrument not offered in ensembles
- Are not enrolled in traditional ensemble courses
- Have musical or career interests outside of ensemble performance

Problem

Most public schools offer ensemble courses (band, choir, and orchestra), but historically about 20% of students report participating in an ensemble during their high school career.¹

Students are interested in taking EMCs, but music educators lack training in EMC instructional practices.²

We don't yet know how the COVID-19 Pandemic has changed music course offerings for secondary students.

Purpose

This study will examine:

- The prevalence of EMCs in Colorado's secondary schools
- Learning activities in EMCs
- Teacher beliefs about EMCs
- The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on EMCs

Research Questions & Anticipated Results

What EMCs are currently being taught in Colorado secondary schools?

- Evidence suggests that EMCs in CO schools will include mostly music theory, guitar, and music technology courses.
- The prevalence of guitar courses will have likely increased from the 22.6% of schools found in 2006.³

What kinds of learning activities do secondary music teachers in Colorado emphasize in their EMCs?

- Colorado educators likely emphasize activities that fit within the four strands of the Colorado State Academic Standards (Expression, Creation, Theory, and Aesthetic Valuation of Music).

How have these courses been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic?

- It is possible that teachers changed their course offerings because of an inability to safely learn music in large ensemble settings.

What beliefs do secondary music teachers in Colorado have about music learning in the context of EMCs?

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that teacher beliefs are likely mixed and will depend on independent situations and backgrounds.

The Study

Phase I

- Questionnaire sent to music educators employed by a CO secondary school during the 2021-22 school year
- **Data Collected:** questionnaire data including teacher demographics, school & music department information, and details about EMCs

Phase II

- Maximum variation sample of questionnaire respondents
- **Data Collected:** in-depth interviews

Data & Results

Data will continue to be gathered through December 2021. Analysis will be completed by January 2022 at which point data will be made publicly available.

Implications & Future Directions

Implications for Educators

- Empirical data regarding EMCs in CO
- Guidance on incorporating EMCs into public school music programs

Future Directions

- Replicate study in future years or other states
- Study student experiences in EMCs
- Longitudinal study examining the prevalence of EMCs in CO schools over time

References

Scan this QR code for a list of references used on this poster.

