

# Music For Social Change: Research in Practice with Kidznotes and El Sistema USA



BASS  
CONNECTIONS

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## RESEARCH QUESTION

To what extent do El Sistema USA member organizations interact with parents, and how can the impact of parent engagement programs be evaluated?

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- El Sistema USA partners have diverse parental engagement strategies
- These partners often lack the means to create evaluative measures

## DATA & METHODS

- Designed interview guides to gauge (1) the extent of parent engagement, (2) expected parent impact and benefits, and (3) evaluative measures towards parent engagement
- Compiled data from interviews to compare methods of engagement and types of evaluation

### Coda Music Program Houston, Texas

#### Background

- Serves 120 students at six schools ranging from 3rd to 5th grade
- Offers string ensemble, music instruction, and performance opportunities

#### Results

- Currently has few parent interactions, except at student performances and parents driving students to and from pickup sites
- Works with the University of Houston, Moore School of Music to employ six evaluative methods for students and teachers
- We are working to provide more accessible evaluative surveys, including bi-lingual text surveys

### Enriching Lives through Music San Rafael, California

#### Background

- Serves 117 students in the Canal neighborhood ranging from 1st to 12th grade
- Offers choir, wind ensemble, string ensemble, chamber ensemble, and orchestra

#### Results

- Currently has expansive parent interaction programs. Parents organize fundraisers, aid new family orientation, serve as 'reps' for their child's section, run tutorials on instrument maintenance, and take ukulele classes to accompany their children in concerts.
- Conducts student performance evaluation and teacher assessment evaluation
- We are working to provide a series of ethnographic interviews to evaluate parent outcomes with respect to peer relationships and sense of community

### EPIC Music St. Johnsbury, Vermont

#### Background

- Serves 20 students in the local area ranging from 1st to 5th grade
- Offers afterschool violin education and orchestra practice

#### Results

- Currently has very little parental interactions
- Has several evaluative measures in place, including measures of the students' musical progression and social-emotional growth. Program directors also have contact with classroom teachers to learn about students' progression in a classroom setting
- We are working to provide them with a more comprehensive measure of student social-emotional growth so they have more qualitative data to present when writing grants