

# Elementary Students, Music Teachers, and Local Songwriters in Partnership to Advocate for Promoting Culturally Inclusive School Music Programs

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This project supports two elementary school music programs in Champaign, Illinois, a mid-sized midwestern city in the United States that is home to the University of Illinois (the grant writer's employer). The Champaign Unit 4 School District (CU4SD) serves approximately 10,000 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 (ages 5-21). The project supports students in Grade 5 within these two schools (~120 students) as they develop their creative musicianship for songwriting. The project features mentorship from local songwriters who will partner with the two elementary music teachers and students in their schools. The project supports teachers' professional learning for songwriting pedagogies and practices. An album of the students' songs and instructional materials will be shared with all 30 music teachers employed in the district. Therefore, the partnership potentially serves many K-12 students in CU4SD and may be adopted as a curricular model for schools and communities across the United States.