

**“Thirteen neighbourhoods identified by the city, are the most needful for violence prevention programs... our students need much additional support”** – Toronto School Principal

There is a painfully high rate of poverty in the school community, leading to very high numbers of at-risk youth. A severe lack of funding results in a lack of resources, leading to lower test scores, high drop-out rates and a tragic increase in violence, bullying and gang activity amongst students.

As an example, the current statistics reported by the Toronto District School Board for one of its elementary schools, paints a dire picture:

**70-80%** of all students at this school are below standard in all areas

**52-55%** of students drop out when they reach grade nine

**45-50%** of Kindergarten students are classified at-risk

**52%** of students are illiterate

**1** book per student per month library sign-out;  
TDSB Average is 34

**10** gun & knife fatalities within the past year were former students

**18<sup>th</sup>** from the bottom ranking on the Howe Report

**2414<sup>th</sup>** rank out of all schools on the Howe Report

**MANY** students live in poverty and come to school hungry

Participating schools report that DAREarts has had an **extremely positive impact** on their students. Many students have come out of their shells, showing more confidence in their work, and are asking to be a part of the program again. Parents stated how proud they are of the success of their children within the program and their appreciation of the opportunity. Many of Toronto’s schools are in dire need of funding towards the arts, including arts programs. Arts programs, such as **DareArts All-the-Arts**, engage even the most violent and aggressive students and allow behavioural problems to dissipate, leading to a happier, healthier, and safer school community that steers students away from violence, gangs, and dropping out. **DareArts is helping to make this a reality.**