



**“Our future does not lie in our children’s hands, but rather, in their creativity.”**

**- David Wish**

## BIOGRAPHY

### **David Wish**

*Founder/ Executive Director*



David is the founder and executive director of Little Kids Rock, a nonprofit organization that funds and operates one of the largest, free instrumental music programs in U.S. public schools, and provides free instruments and curriculum. He has initiated and managed the launch of campaigns to restore and revitalize music education for more than 160,000 low-income children in more than 25 cities in 12 states.

Before founding Little Kids Rock, David spent 10 years as an elementary school teacher, during which time he served his peers as a master teacher, clinician and trainer. While working as a first grade teacher in an inner-city school in California, David pioneered a program to offer instrumental and vocal rock music classes to his students. Demand for the classes was steep and he founded Little Kids Rock in 2002.

David has used his hands-on experience as an educator to develop the innovative methodology that enables Little Kids Rock programs to transform music education in public schools. He is a credentialed teacher in the state of California and holds B.A. in sociology and history from Brandeis University. He also is as a multi-talented musician, playing the guitar, piano, drums and several other instruments. David is a recognized social entrepreneur receiving numerous honors for his work in the field, including prestigious awards from the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, The Goldhirsh Foundation, the Kenneth A. Picerme Foundation and Ashoka’s Global Fellowship.

**For interviews with LKR teachers, photos and video B-roll, please contact Keith Hejna at [keith@littlekidsrock.org](mailto:keith@littlekidsrock.org) or 973-746-8248 x 114.**

## CURRICULUM

With a few minutes of basic instruction, ANY student can rock! Little Kids Rock guitar and keyboard curricula are designed to meet the needs of every student and teacher. Little Kids Rock’s method is a complete departure from the repetition of traditional music methods. Little Kids Rock’s lessons facilitate the creation of music by empowering students to pick up a guitar or keyboard on day one! With simplified navigation of the instrument, students can focus on songs that are student-centered, building on memorable musical concepts.

### **Lesson Plans**

Little Kids Rock gives teachers the tools for student success. With Little Kids Rock lesson plans, students can play songs they love while learning about music, performance and self-expression. Teachers save preparation and class time by utilizing these resources, which incorporate national standards and cross-curricular components. Advanced teaching techniques enable students to learn about themselves while rehearsing, improvising, composing and performing.

### **Modern Band Pedagogy**

Little Kids Rock is adding modern band as a supplement to choir, marching band, concert band and jazz band. Little Kids Rock offers lesson plans and charts that teach students how to play modern music on modern instruments. Each week, teachers receive additional content inspiring students to instantly rock like their favorite artists!