The MPS Harp Program began in the fall of 1974 under the leadership of Dr. George Smith, Superintendent, Ralston Pitts, Music Supervisor, and Karen Miller. One student was enrolled the first semester at Carson Junior High School. The intent of the Program was to develop junior high students' technical and musical skills to ensure that they would eventually be prepared to successfully perform repertoire appropriate for a high school ensemble. The Program grew and expanded to other junior high schools and eventually all senior high schools. Currently, the Harp Program has over 210 students enrolled across ten junior high schools and six senior high schools, and includes a high school harp ensemble with members representing all six high schools.

The Harp Program is recognized throughout the US and internationally. It is unique in that all students play another instrument in their band or orchestra and are required to maintain a level of good standing in that organization. Students in the Program are required to develop communication skills, time-management procedures, and demonstrate self-motivation and dedication to their musical studies. While other school harp programs exist, there is no other that compares to the district's harp program. It stands alone in relation to enrollment and student achievement. The opportunities and experiences offered to harp students and fellow band and orchestra members, as well as the resources made available to ensemble directors (e.g., harp arrangements for ensemble repertoire, education for inclusion of harp within the music classroom) make the MPS Harp Program an exemplary model of harp education in a school system.