



Day 2 Breakout Session Summary

April 27, 2021

Collaborating to Staff Summer Learning Programs: Leveraging Partnerships

Presenters: Shital Shah, [American Federation of Teachers](#); Tiffaney Hamm and Darlene Kamine, [Cincinnati Community Learning Centers](#); Jaumall Davis, [Oyler Elementary School](#)

This tabletop discussion focused on establishing partnerships to address summer staffing needs.

Session Highlights

- » The Community Learning Center Institute has extensive experience collaborating and leveraging partnerships. They have operated onsite at schools, leading Community Learning Centers (also called Community Schools in many places across the country). In response to the pandemic, for example, they worked with an elementary school to call every family and ensure all students had a computer and connectivity. They provided outreach and response to basic needs and worked collaboratively to directly boost learning, including virtual and in-person enrichment.
- » Thinking about the summer and going into the fall, localities with the aforementioned established partnerships are best positioned to move forward. The more partnerships that are formed and strengthened, the more robust community ecosystems will be.
- » One recommendation is to partner with organizations in the community that already have relationships with youth. There are afterschool networks in every state that can be an effective resource.
- » Look at what types of holistic skills partners can bring, which may not be academic. There are other supports that help students succeed (e.g., supports to meet social and emotional needs). Teachers are eager to have support from mental health professionals.
- » Employers can also have a role. Many high school students have put their younger siblings ahead of themselves during the pandemic. Connecting with their employers to help support high school students' success as mentors is important.

Shared Resources

- » [Afterschool & Summer in the Time of COVID-19](#)
- » [Maximize Student Recovery: Community-Based Afterschool and Summer Programs Accelerate Student Learning](#)



Questions and Answers on Collaborating to Staff Summer Learning Programs: Leveraging Partnerships

What are some of the partnerships that you've built for early childhood?

The Community Learning Center model, the campus of support, extends from birth to age five as well. It is important that every single moment is used to get kids ready, healthy, and on track and to create all the conditions to make for a successful transition to kindergarten. At Oyler Elementary, they co-located nonprofit early childhood education and intentionally work to ensure alignment. It is a tremendous, critical foundation for a student's education trajectory.

What are some of the ways schools are holding partners accountable and ensuring what partners are providing helps the school's mission?

It is important to figure out your focus and have conversations upfront about goals and desired outcomes. Partnership agreements that set expectations ahead of time are also effective.

Can you share what you are doing to address concerns about lost social relationships this summer and other aspects of social and emotional learning and trauma-informed care beyond academics?

Teachers are very eager to be joined with mental health professionals. In Cincinnati, every school has a team of community partners that includes therapists working with Cincinnati Public Schools to create a social and emotional learning curriculum. Teachers and mental health professionals will deliver the curriculum together.

