Tabletop Session Summary

August 12, 2021

Strengthening Year-Round Out-of-School Programming

Presenters: Erik Peterson, Afterschool Alliance; Dr. Janice Flowers, LaDaphne Hall, and Dr. Tracey Muff, Bibb County School District (GA); Lakshmi Hasanadka, Indiana Afterschool Network; Christen Peterson, Indiana Department of Education; Dr. Katari Coleman, National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE)

This tabletop discussion examined approaches for leveraging summer partnerships to improve and expand out-of-school programming in the coming school year.

Session Highlights

» The Indiana Department of Education supports out-of-school time programming in the state through grant initiatives and guidance resources. For example, it created implementation guides to support school and community-based out-of-school time program development. Their work has included sharing best practices like strong family engagement, school/community partnerships, and supporting youth voice (e.g., allowing youth to select activities after academic programming is completed).

» Created from relief funding set aside for after school and summer, Indiana's Re-Imagining Enrichment, Academics, and Community Health (R.E.A.C.H.) Grant focuses on supporting continuous programming throughout the year, with summer as a priority. While modeled after the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, R.E.A.C.H. has some additional elements. It has provisions for grantees to focus on staff salaries and paying sustainable wages, to give attention to fundraising so that they can financially sustain their programs beyond the life of the grant, and to devote time to developing program culture and supporting staff mental health. The grant also has a provision for other activities that grantees identify as priorities in their communities. Data will be collected on the impacts of R.E.A.C.H. on staff salaries, the student experience, youth voice, and on academic, social emotional, and behavioral outcomes.

» Also in Indiana, the Indiana Afterschool Network helps to build a coalition of out-of-school time providers and other community stakeholders for the purpose of improving outcomes for students. They help, for example, connect community-based providers with local resources and schools.

» In Macon, Georgia, the Bibb County School District has received funding under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program to provide high-quality enrichment at 10 of their schools. Last year, more than 900 students registered to attend their program. Most of their afterschool staff are district employees, which allows them to focus on core content by providing learning support throughout the year. They try to align their programming with district targets for student outcomes. Moreover, their summer program (Unplug to Unleash or U2U) was designed

to provide students time away from electronic devices to engage in creative activities and to accelerate their learning.

» Finally, the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) provides technical assistance to state-level agencies and related networks and helps to ensure that quality out-of-school time experiences are accessible to underserved children.

Shared Resources

» 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)
» 21st CCLC Fact Sheet
» 21st CCLC Research Brief
» Afterschool Alliance – Community Learning Hubs
» Afterschool Alliance School District Outreach Toolkit
» Afterschool Implementation Guide
» Help Kids Recover
» Indiana Afterschool - Standards
» Indiana Afterschool Network - Academy for OST Learning
» Indiana Afterschool Network - Quality Tools
» Indiana Afterschool Network - School Community Partnerships
» Indiana Afterschool Network - Summer Learning
» Indiana REACH Grant Application
» Making Afterschool and Summer Happen
» MIT Living Wage Tool
» National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) Resource Library
» NCASE Funding Resources
» NCASE OST Professional Development System Building Toolkit
» NCASE State School-Age Data Profiles
» NCASE Workforce Resources
» Navigating the Transition to Kindergarten and School-Age Care
» School & Community-Based Organization Partnerships Case Study
» Summer Implementation Guide
» Supporting Afterschool & Summer Learning with ESSER II
» Transition to Kindergarten and OST Programs: Tips for Parents and Caregivers