Summer learning and out-of-school time (OST) programs are an important way to make up for lost instructional time, build relationships between students and teachers, engage the whole family and community, and prepare students and families for the next school year. Access resources on high-interest topics to plan your strategy, partnership, or program:

- ➤ Policy and Funding
- ➤ Research Evidence
- ➤ Featured Tools and Resources
- ➤ Bright Ideas
- ➤ School–Community Partnerships

- ➤ Learning and Enrichment Strategies
- ➤ Attracting and Supporting Staff
- ➤ Addressing a Range of Student Needs
- ➤ Student Recruitment and Attendance
- ➤ Finance and Budgeting

Policy and Funding

Snapshot of ESSER ARP requirements

State education agencies must allocate:		
1% *for afterschool programs*	**1%** *for summer enrichment*	**5%** *for learning recovery strategies, to include comprehensive afterschool and summer enrichment programs*

Districts must spend at least

20%
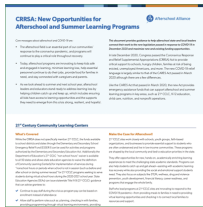
*of funds on **learning recovery strategies**, including **comprehensive afterschool** and **summer enrichment programs**.*

Quick Links

United States Department of Health and Human Services – American Rescue Plan: How to Access Funds for Afterschool and Summer | Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System (hhs.gov)

**CRRSA** - New Opportunities for Afterschool and Summer Programs (nptoolkit.org) *January 2021*

Help Kids Recover - Examples of States Using Recovery Funding

Research Evidence

Multiple studies have documented the benefits of summer learning and OST programs. Studies show that effective summer programs: are voluntary; operate a full-day and last five to six weeks; include three hours of language arts and mathematics taught by a certified teacher each day; and include enrichment activities and experiences. Read on to learn more about the summer learning and OST evidence base and best practices:
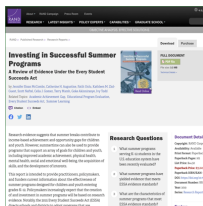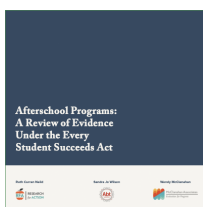
RAND - Investing in Successful Summer Programs: A Review of Evidence Under the Every Student Succeeds Act
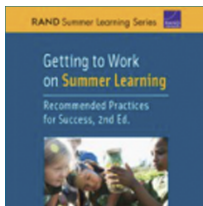
RAND - Getting to Work on Summer Learning, 2nd ed.

Afterschool Alliance - The Evidence Base for Afterschool and Summer *April 2021*

Research for Action - Afterschool Programs: A Review of Evidence Under the Every Student Succeeds Act
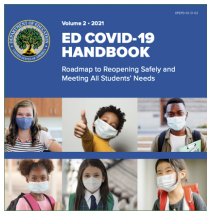
RAND - The Value of Out-of-School Time Programs

Featured Tools and Resources

The Wallace Foundation - Summer Learning Planning Resources and Toolkit

U.S. Department of Education - ED COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2 *(pdf)* (Addressing lost instructional time)

Bright Ideas

Jefferson County, KY is using The Leader in Me curriculum to meet students' social and emotional needs. High school students will complete leadership training and receive payment to lead specific sessions in the summer for younger students.

Programs like the Fiver Children's Foundation and Sherwood Forest use summer learning to support the 8th to 9th grade transition.

Tulsa Public Schools is partnering with a local intermediary, The Opportunity Project, and the **Tulsa United Way** to offer no-cost summer and afterschool opportunities for all students.

School–Community Partnerships

Partnerships between schools and community-based organizations can be an effective way to provide more students with access to high-quality OST academics and enrichment under a more cost-effective and flexible staffing model. Successful partnerships require a cohesive planning team representing leaders from all organizations, including principals, who are dedicated to creating an integrated program.

Tips: Get everyone on the same page with regard to shared outcomes and mutually reinforcing activities. Communication, accountability and transparency are essential. Government Performance and Results Act indicators that are reported semi-annually can serve as a common agenda. When defining your vision for partnership, discuss whether it will include:

- ➤ Shared professional development to ensure evidence-based practices are implemented across agencies and locations
- ➤ Delivery of wrap around services and youth enrichment
- ➤ Space sharing to expand opportunities for learning and engagement
- ➤ Shared staff to maximize capacity and tap into different expertise
- ➤ Coordinated services to meet youth and families' economic, health, food, and other needs
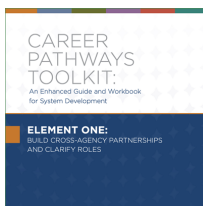
Resources

Afterschool Alliance - Community Learning Hubs
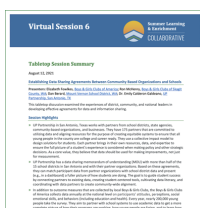
National Comprehensive Center - Establishing Data Sharing Agreements Between Community Based Organizations and Schools Tabletop Summary and Q&A *(pdf)*

U.S. Department of Labor - CAREER PATHWAYS TOOLKIT: An Enhanced Guide and Workbook for System Development [Element One: Build Cross-Agency Partnerships and Clarify Roles]

Learning and Enrichment Strategies

By studying the characteristics of successful summer learning programs, researchers have identified a number of evidence-based practices in program design and delivery.

Tip: Adapt summer instructional materials before distributing to teachers so that lesson plans fit the amount of instructional time available, meet student needs, and align to school-year standards. Provide strategies for differentiation, including lesson plans and activities for students who need more practice and those who need more advanced material. Encourage instructional leaders to observe instruction and provide real-time feedback to recognize progress and prioritize improvements.
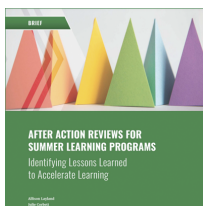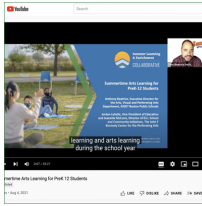
Resources

National Comprehensive Center – Powerful Interventions: The Evidence for Incorporating High-Dosage Tutoring in Summer Programs *(video)*
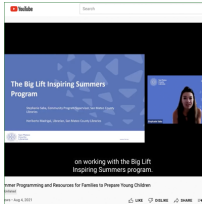
Annenberg Institute at Brown University - Accelerating @Student Learning with High-Dosage Tutoring

National Comprehensive Center - After Action Reviews for Summer Learning Programs

Boston Public Schools - Summertime Arts Learning *(video)*

National Comprehensive Center - Summer Programming and Resources for Families to Prepare Young Children for Success in Early Education *(video)*
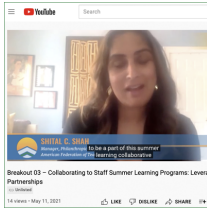

Attracting and Supporting Staff

Just like during the school year, the quality and characteristics of staff in OST programs are related to student outcomes and experiences. Consider using OST programs as a pathway to diversify the pool of educators who work with students.

Tip: Recruit and retain a mix of staff who are connected to the local community and local schools, including current and aspiring classroom teachers, youth development professionals, and community members with content expertise. Ensure all staff participate in the same training and professional development to ensure consistent, high-quality engagement with young people. Consider incentives to help educators maintain their energy and enthusiasm for working with students.
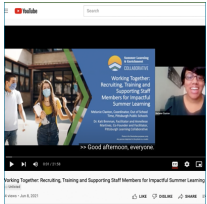
Resources

Tips for Planning High-Quality Professional Development

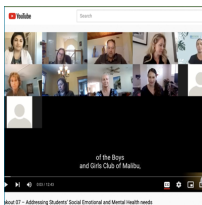**National Comprehensive Center** - Collaborating to Staff Summer Learning Programs: Leveraging Partnerships *(video)*

National Comprehensive Center - Working Together: Recruiting, Training and Supporting Staff Members for Impactful Summer Learning *(video)*


Addressing a Range of Student Needs

Summer learning and OST leaders should plan and implement academic and enrichment programs adapted to students' varying learning needs and educational circumstances. Examples include programs that serve rural and tribal students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

Tip: Meet the social and emotional needs of all learners by cultivating a positive learning climate and ensuring that all students have a "friend from day one" in the program. Design activities and allocate time to build meaningful connections among students and/or between students and staff.
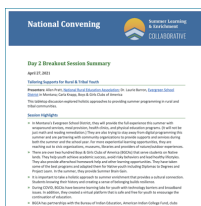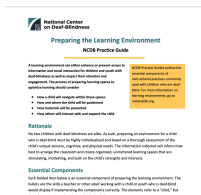
Resources

Boys and Girls Club of Malibu - Addressing Student' Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs *(video)*
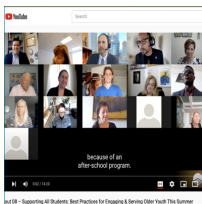
National Comprehensive Center - Supporting All Students: Best Practices for Engaging & Serving Older Youth This Summer *(video)*

National Comprehensive Center - Tailoring Supports for Rural and Tribal Youth

National Center on Deaf‑Blindness - Preparing the Learning Environment: NCDB Practice Guide *(pdf)*

Student Recruitment and Attendance

Research has shown that high attendance in summer learning programs leads to measurable benefits in math and reading for students. To successfully accelerate learning for students, first communicate with families about program offerings that appeal to their needs and interests. This requires a thoughtful marketing and recruitment strategy, with a continued emphasis on attendance and retention throughout the summer.

Tip: Involve key stakeholders such as principals, teachers, youth, and families in the program planning process to better understand their needs and interests. Develop an intentional recruitment strategy with aspirational messaging to highlight the features of the program and how students will benefit.

The Wallace Foundation - Summer Learning Recruitment Guide


Finance and Budgeting

Dedicating sufficient resources to implement a summer or afterschool program with quality and fidelity is critical to its success. Careful resource planning and allocation can also ensure that the program is spending precious funds on the things that matter the most.

Tip: Commit to a multi-year funding plan to avoid a fiscal cliff for OST programs. Consider the total of ARP funds to be disbursed through 2024 and consider a step-down funding model each year. Additionally, consider using the cost per student per hour calculation to assess the appropriateness of costs and various program delivery models.
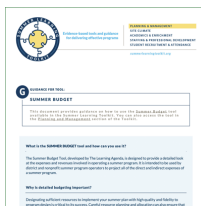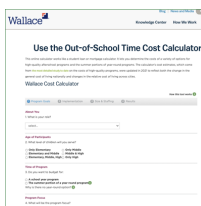
Resources

 National Comprehensive Center - Maximizing Effective Use of Fiscal Resources *(video)*
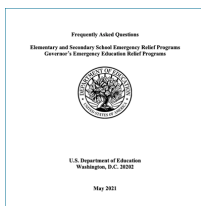
 U.S. Department of Education - Frequently Asked Questions: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Programs Governor's Emergency Education Relief Programs

 The Wallace Foundation - Summer Learning Toolkit: Summer Budget Guidance

 The Wallace Foundation - Out-of-School Time Cost Calculator