

Getting Ready for Summer Virtual Learning Series
Session #3: Developing Your Approach to Site Climate and Culture
May 2, 2023

Session #3 Agenda

1. Discuss strategies for creating a warm and welcoming summer learning environment.
2. Outline components of a clear, positive message of the summer site culture.
3. Identify ways to equip, train, and support staff for summer academic and enrichment offerings.

Getting Ready for Summer Virtual Learning Series Session Topics

Session 1: Setting up for Summer Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on previous summer learning experiences and consider the summertime learning needs and priorities of students in your community.
Session 2: Supporting Student and Family Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and align key messages tailored to the needs and interests of students and families for student recruitment.
Session 3: Developing Your Approach to Site Climate and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss strategies to create a warm and welcoming summer learning environment, including ways to prepare staff and logistical considerations.
Session 4: Strategies to Accelerate Student Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on the importance of accelerating grade-level learning and reflect on summer learning program structures, practices, and curricula.

Notes

Building Blocks for a Positive Summer Learning Climate and Culture

1. Communicate a Unified Vision and Message

Directions: With your summer learning planning team, discuss your responses to the following questions:

The Goals for the Summer	Community Needs and Priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is your target audience? 2. What do you want to be true for your target audience at the end of the summer learning program? 3. How are you going to achieve the outcome you set forth? Be as specific as possible. 4. What experiences must students have to achieve the outcome you stated? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on the needs and priorities that your community expressed, what words would you use to describe the culture of your program? 2. What do you need from staff to execute your vision? 3. How will you maintain high levels of student engagement? 4. What does joy look like in your program? What (daily/weekly) routines or rituals will you include in the program to inspire joy for students and staff? 5. What do positive student–adult interactions look like?

Work Time – 10 Minutes

Create an overview for your Summer Learning Program

- Consider your responses to the questions above.
- Review the sample program overviews from [Dallas Independent School District](#) and [Pittsburgh Public Schools](#).

2. Equip and Train Staff

Directions: With your summer learning planning team, discuss your responses to the following questions:

Timeline and Logistics	Content of the Training
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where and when is the training happening? Who are your participants? 2. Who is responsible for training staff? How will you ensure that training is high quality and impactful? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you need from adults to execute your vision? 2. How will you differentiate training for directors, coordinators, and teachers? 3. Do you need to train staff to implement new technology or new programming? 4. How will you train and support staff to have positive interactions with students? 5. How will you inspire joy in your training?

Work Time – 10 Minutes

Create a Professional Development Plan for your Summer Learning Program

- Consider your responses to the questions above.
- Review the sample professional development plans from [Dallas Independent School District](#) and [Pittsburgh Public Schools](#).

3. Monitor Progress

Directions: With your summer learning planning team, discuss your responses to the following questions:

Assess Learning	Assess Student Engagement and Joy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What data did you collect during past summer programming? 2. What are you measuring this summer? In what ways is it important for the goal of your summer program? 3. How will you assess how students feel about their learning? 4. What curricula and supplemental programs are you using? How frequently do those programs report student data? What do you plan to do with that data? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your process for collecting, analyzing, and sharing students' behavioral engagement and cognitive engagement data? 2. What is your process for assessing the quality of student–adult interactions? What are you looking for?

Work Time – 10 Minutes

Create a plan to monitor progress for your Summer Learning Program

- Consider your responses to the questions above.
- Use the [Wallace Foundation’s Summer Planning Calendar Workbook](#) to work through your plan for executing evaluation.

Additional Summer Learning Resources

[Wallace Foundation Summer Learning Toolkit](#)

Source: The Wallace Foundation, 2018

Description: Drawing from the work of five urban school districts and their partners, and research from the RAND Corporation, the Summer Learning Toolkit helps educators deliver impactful summer learning programs.

[The Value of Out-of-School Time Programs](#)

Source: RAND Corporation, 2017

Description: To better understand the value and effectiveness of out-of-school time (OST) programs, RAND researchers examined programs through the lenses of content, dosage (the hours of content provided), and outcomes measured, focusing on rigorous (i.e., experimental or quasi-experimental), large-scale evaluations and meta-analyses.

[The National Center Presents: Making Summer a Successful and Sustainable Strategy for Student Growth](#) and [Session Panel \(Video\)](#)

Source: National Comprehensive Center, 2022

Description: This *National Center Presents...* session featured a robust conversation with national summer researchers and local practitioners about what it looks like to design, execute, and sustain summer learning and enrichment programming.