



Arizona Department of Education
Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers
presents:

Special Edition Update: Arizona's Summer Learning Journey

September 2021

"Summer Learning Starts in September" – NSLA







21st CCLC is.... Reimagining and Shifting the Climate and Culture of Summer Learning

Summer Learning, traditionally known as “summer school” was thought of as a requirement for students making up for failing a class during the school year and used “drill and kill” style remedial work. Awareness is building that rich opportunities are available to maximize summer by providing high-quality summer learning programs that mix academic and enrichment activities. This blend of activities can reduce summer learning loss in a captivating and engaging way.

While most students learn at a similar rate during the school year, when school ends, students in underserved environments struggle to continue learning throughout the summer. As we reimagine summer learning we are recognizing the opportunity to create safe, developmentally rich settings for learning and growth during the summer months. Summer can be used to re-engage students and provide a meaningful boost to help close opportunity gaps, lead to higher graduation rates, and increase college and career readiness in students. For more information on summer programming going beyond academic supports visit

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/education/summer-learning.aspx>

 Broad Distinctions Between Summer School vs. Summer Learning 	
Summer School	Summer Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remedial education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on new and accelerated learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic, drill and skill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive, project-based, hands-on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School building and district based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can take place in a variety of settings and locations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disengaging and punitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exciting, engaging, and attractive program everyone wants to attend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory for some students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong emphasis on student voice, choice, and identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult-Driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique site climate & culture with traditions/rituals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels like traditional school 	<p>Adapted from NSLA's vision of the distinction between Summer School and Summer Learning</p>



Arizona's Summer Journey Begins

In the Fall of 2019, two Education Program Specialists from the ADE 21st CCLC team attended a National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) Conference. There they made connections with Summer Learning experts and researchers and were interested to learn that this extensive research had enabled the development of an evidence-based model of Summer Learning. They brought this information back to Arizona, where they shared with colleagues and with our advisory board, the Vision Team.

Interested in ensuring successful Summer programs, Arizona's 21st CCLC team began to share the model with 21st CCLC grant leaders, working in partnership with the developers of the model (the Learning Agenda, the Wallace Foundation, and the RAND Corporation) as well as a local partner, the Valley of the Sun United Way.

Working with a subcommittee of the Vision Team, the ADE 21st CCLC team has begun an extensive review of our own summer program requirements and best practices in light of this evidence-based model. This Summer Learning subcommittee agreed to meet monthly for one year to develop recommended changes to Arizona's requirements in line with this model. (See the key elements of the model in the graphic below.) Given the significant efforts and resources necessary to providing Summer Learning programs, we are interested to ensure that these efforts result in impact and results for our students.

Arizona 21st CCLC programs have long served as a testing ground for innovative educational practices and Summer Learning is one more area where 21st CCLC programs can continue to be at the forefront of successful models of education.

<div>  Key Levers for Successful Elementary Grade Summer Learning Programs (with links to additional guidance from Summer Learning Toolkit)  </div>			
Start Planning Early <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start cross-department planning by January ● Make key programmatic decisions, such as targeted student population and program duration, upfront ● Meet regularly and plan for both academics and enrichment activities ● Engage in a continuous improvement process <i>★ Additional guidance on summer program planning</i>	Structure Program for Sufficient Academic Time on Task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule academic instruction for three to four hours per day ● Schedule the program to span five to six weeks ● Provide teachers with strategies for maximizing instructional time ● Ensure smooth site operations from Day 1 <i>★ Additional guidance on academics</i>	Use Effective Student Recruitment Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop clear and timely recruitment materials that explain program requirements and features ● Personalize recruitment of students and their families ● Follow up with enrollees before the program starts <i>★ Additional guidance on student recruitment and a summer learning recruitment guide</i>	Hire Effective Instructional Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop rigorous processes to recruit and hire effective, certified teachers with grade-level and content experience for academic classes ● For enrichment classes, hire instructors with strong content expertise ● Train enrichment instructors in behavior management strategies <i>★ Additional guidance on staffing</i>
Provide High-Quality Academic Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select curricula that are aligned to school-year standards and students' needs ● Instruct in small classes or groups ● Provide support to students with special needs ● Give teachers sufficient training and ongoing support <i>★ Additional guidance on curricula and on providing professional development</i>	Foster Positive Summer Site Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Train all staff on the importance of positive adult engagement with students throughout the day — not only in classes ● Develop a clear, positive message about the summer site culture and ask staff to consistently convey it to students ● If resources allow, consider hiring staff to support positive student behavior <i>★ Additional guidance on site climate</i>	Maximize Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish firm enrollment deadlines and keep electronic student records ● Establish a clear attendance policy and track student-level attendance data ● Provide free meals and transportation ● If resources permit, provide field trips, enrichment activities and other incentives to attendees <i>★ Additional guidance on attendance and resources</i>	Strive for Cost Efficiencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Capitalize on existing district experts and systems ● Hire staff based on projected daily attendance, not on the initial number of enrollees ● Connect summer and school-year curricula ● Partner with community-based organizations to provide enrichment activities <i>★ Additional guidance on budgeting for summer and enrichment partnerships</i>

Sources: Getting to Work on Summer Learning: Recommended Practices for Success, 2nd Edition, RAND 2018; <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning/toolkit/pages/default.aspx>

Vision Team Sub Committee Members involved in the 21st CCLC Summer Learning Journey

Summer Learning Committee Vision Team Members	
Name	Organization
Erika Hannemann*	Sunnyside USD
Antonio Garcia*	Gadsen Elementary SD
Eileana Felix Gudiño*	Valley of the Sun United Way
Elaine Penn	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Foundation
Gisselle Herrera	Tolleson Elementary SD
Joe Gutierrez*	Flagstaff USD
Marcea Hunter*	Tucson USD
Mark Johnson*	The Be Kind People Project
Martha Damron*	Flowing Wells USD
Regina Hale	Grey Hills (BIE)
Sophie Shorty	Chinle USD
Tami Taylor*	Paradise Valley USD
*Presenting at Vision Team Meeting 9/21/2021	

Ask your
Specialist how
you can get
more involved
with 21st CCLC!



We equip Arizona students
to realize their potential

Arizona's Summer Journey – Significant New Initiative

The COVID-19 Pandemic has put the learning loss usually associated with summer (often called the summer slide) front and center in the minds of educators everywhere. Summer Learning has taken on additional import as across the country, educational leaders recognize the need to support all pandemic-impacted students and give them a boost over the summer months. Summer provides a robust opportunity to mitigate and compensate for the learning loss associated with remote and virtual school as well as lost instructional time due to COVID-19.

With the rollout of pandemic funding, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), the U.S. Education Department and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) developed a series of conversations to highlight and collaborate on best practices for Summer Learning so that states could effectively utilize the funds available for this purpose.

Arizona was fortunate to be selected as one of a nine state cohort participating in this initiative to receive coached support in developing its statewide summer learning strategies. Arizona's 21st CCLC team is participating in this effort, under the lead of ADE's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The 21st CCLC team is jumping in with both feet and is excited to help develop a solid, state strategic plan for Summer Learning statewide!

CCSSO, NSLA Launch Network to Support Summer Learning

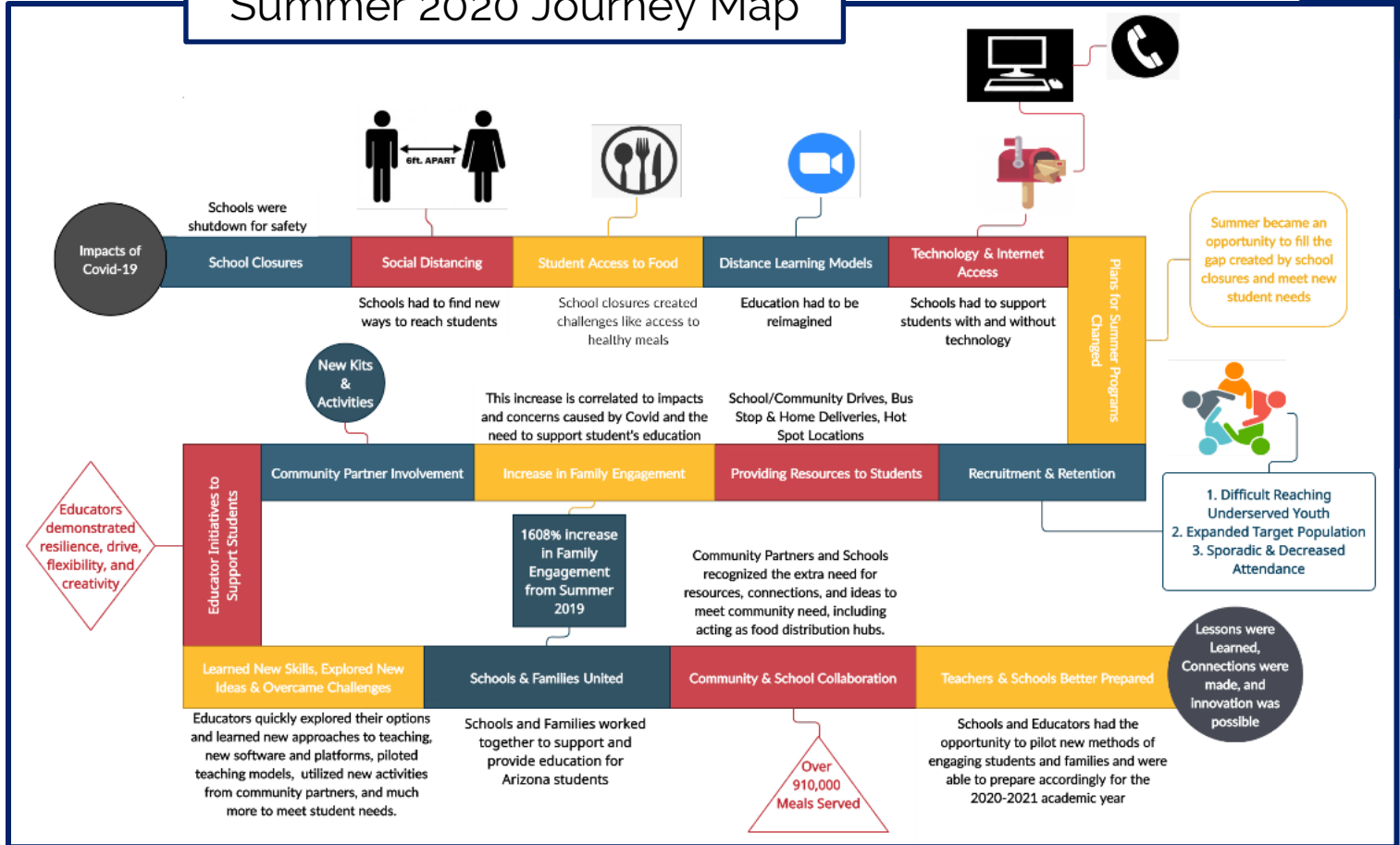
WASHINGTON, DC (April 26, 2021) – The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) are launching new efforts to support states with long-term strategies to transform how they leverage the summer months to improve student achievement.

The organizations have convened a network of nine states to promote community system-based strategies for summer learning. The partnership will also offer broad support to all states through webinars and dissemination of guidance and technical assistance.

9 STATE COHORT ON SUMMER LEARNING

<https://www.summerlearning.org/ccsso-nsla-launch-network/>

Summer 2020 Journey Map



In the Spring of 2020, people across the world were suddenly faced with a dramatic and all-encompassing challenge that altered every aspect of daily life. Arizona's schools and 21st CCLC programs continued to serve students. With this shift, the planning for Summer 2020 programs abruptly changed as well.

This Journey Map illustrates the monumental shift 21st CCLC Summer programs undertook as they quickly transitioned from their already planned in-person programs to something new and never before attempted, with staff testing ideas and confronting challenges with each step. The goal of offering strong, supportive summer learning to 21st CCLC students was lofty and was achieved with absolute success, serving students, families, and communities in new and exciting ways and ensuring that Arizona's students were not left behind. The lessons we learned from Summer 2020 carry us forward into the future and the innovation and dedication shown during this time is something we can all learn from as we look ahead to summer learning in years to come.

Arizona's Impact on Summer Planning

Arizona 21st CCLC team has been working to broaden the impact of summer learning in 21st CCLC programs since early 2020. At the end of the 2020-2021 program year, the 21st CCLC team decided to look at the progress being made in this effort so far.

When asked on the 2021 21st CCLC Customer Satisfaction Survey "How has your summer program plan changed [this year]," 21st CCLC leaders shared how the conversation around summer learning impacted their planning for the summer 2021 term.



Source: Data from 21st CCLC Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021



21ST CCLC SUMMER LEARNING STRATEGIC PLANNING FOUR-PART SERIES



Registration is REQUIRED in EMS for each session in the Summer Learning Strategic Planning 4 Part Series. Event ID: 3933

All sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Session dates are:

[September 29th, 2021: Calendar Planning \(Section ID: 8851\)](#)

[November 3rd, 2021: Recruiting Staff and Students \(Section ID: 8852\)](#)

[January 26th, 2022: Building Climate & Culture \(Section ID: 8853\)](#)

[March 2nd, 2022: Continuous Improvement \(Section ID: 8854\)](#)

Cost: Free

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Title IV-B (21st CCLC)
Summer Learning Strategic Planning
Four-part Series

Objective: Participants will be able to identify strategies to develop an effective strategic plan for 21st CCLC Summer Learning.

This training is open to Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Title IV-B (21st CCLC) Grantees.

This is a four-part training series on Summer Learning. Please see the dates below and save them to your calendar. All sessions will be virtual and link to the ZOOM meeting will be sent out 1-day prior to the start of each session. All sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

DESCRIPTION:

Are you ready to implement an evidence-based Summer Learning Program for your 21st CCLC site?

- When should your Summer Learning planning start?
- How and when to recruit your teachers and students?
- How to transform your site's climate and culture on Summer Learning?

This four-part series on Strategic Planning for Summer Learning will provide evidenced-based, best practices and tools to develop your 21st CCLC Summer Learning Program.

Summer Learning Planning Teams are encouraged to attend. The target audience is 21st CCLC Site Coordinators, 21st CCLC District Coordinators or Directors, Lead Teachers & 21st CCLC Administrators.

Tools & Resources

Summer Learning Toolkit Evidence- Based Tools and Guidance

The Summer Learning Toolkit consists of a variety of tools to support your summer program, and there are many ways to navigate the Toolkit depending on your role and interests. For example, visit the Summer Planning Calendar in Planning and Management at <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning/toolkit/documents/summer-planning-calendar-workbook-tool.xlsx> to get a comprehensive view of the tasks and timelines associated with planning a high-quality summer learning program.

Need marketing ideas or want help with starting your program and recruiting students? Start with Recruitment and Attendance, learn how to set a strong foundation for your efforts with targeted messages and clear policies. View examples of summer learning catalogs at <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning/toolkit/documents/summer-program-catalogs-guidance.pdf>.

For additional practical tools and resources for summer learning visit, <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning/toolkit/pages/about.aspx>



Summer Learning Toolkit Evidence-Based Tools and Guidance for Delivering Effective Programs

The free, online **Summer Learning Toolkit** features 50+ practical tools and resources to help school districts and their out-of-school partners design and deliver high-quality summer programs.

Resources draw from lessons from the National Summer Learning Project, a six-year Wallace Foundation initiative including five urban school districts and their partners. The toolkit also aligns with research findings by the RAND Corporation, included in *Getting to Work on Summer Learning*, 2nd edition.

In the toolkit, you'll find tools, tip sheets, sample documents and guidance on these topics:



PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: Tools to help you plan, budget for, sustain and assess program quality



ACADEMICS AND ENRICHMENT: Ideas for selecting and modifying curriculum and partnering with enrichment providers



STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Sample job descriptions and staffing agreements and tips for planning high-quality professional development



SITE CLIMATE: Handbook and tips for creating a positive environment



STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ATTENDANCE: Strategies for marketing the program and a summer planning calendar

The toolkit is available at www.summerlearningtoolkit.org or www.wallacefoundation.org

Tools & Resources (Cont.)

National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)

<https://www.summerlearning.org/>



Services

We offer in-depth guides and resources, and can provide your next staff training, conduct a community landscape assessment or an evaluation of your program's quality.



Programs & Events

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to advocacy and awareness aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year.



Research & Policy

NSLA tracks and responds to policy issues that affect summer opportunities at the federal, state, and local levels, with the goal of ensuring high-quality summer learning opportunities reach as many youth as possible.



About Us

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For more information visit:
<https://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/>

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