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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad Distinctions Between Summer School vs. Summer Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer School</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Remedial education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic, drill and skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School building and district based</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Disengaging and punitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mandatory for some students</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adult-Driven</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Feels like traditional school</td>
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Adapted from NSLA’s vision of the distinction between Summer School and Summer Learning.
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.

### Key Levers for Successful Elementary Grade Summer Learning Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Planning Early</th>
<th>Structure Program for Sufficient Academic Time on Task</th>
<th>Use Effective Student Recruitment Practices</th>
<th>Hire Effective Instructional Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Start cross-department planning by January</td>
<td>● Schedule academic instruction for three to four hours per day</td>
<td>● Develop clear and timely recruitment materials that explain program requirements and features</td>
<td>● Develop rigorous processes to recruit and hire effective, certified teachers with grade-level and content experience for academic classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Make key programmatic decisions, such as targeted student population and program duration, upfront</td>
<td>● Schedule the program to span five to six weeks</td>
<td>● Personalize recruitment of students and their families</td>
<td>● For enrichment classes, hire instructors with strong content expertise</td>
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<td>● Meet regularly and plan for both academics and enrichment activities</td>
<td>● Provide teachers with strategies for maximizing instructional time</td>
<td>● Follow up with enrollees before the program starts</td>
<td>● Train enrichment instructors in behavior management strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Engage in a continuous improvement process</td>
<td>● Ensure smooth site operations from Day 1</td>
<td>● Additional guidance on student recruitment and a summer learning recruitment guide</td>
<td>● Additional guidance on staffing</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Additional guidance on summer program planning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Additional guidance on academics</td>
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<tr>
<th>Foster Positive Summer Site Climate</th>
<th>Maximize Attendance</th>
<th>Strive for Cost Efficiencies</th>
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<tr>
<td>● Train all staff on the importance of positive adult engagement with students throughout the day — not only in classes</td>
<td>● Establish firm enrollment deadlines and keep electronic student records</td>
<td>● Capitalize on existing district experts and systems</td>
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<td>● Develop a clear, positive message about the summer site culture and ask staff to consistently convey it to students</td>
<td>● Establish a clear attendance policy and track student-level attendance data</td>
<td>● Hire staff based on projected daily attendance, not on the initial number of enrollees</td>
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<td>● If resources allow, consider hiring staff to support positive student behavior</td>
<td>● Provide free meals and transportation</td>
<td>● Connect summer and school-year curricula</td>
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<td>● Additional guidance on curricula and on providing professional development</td>
<td>● If resources permit, provide field trips, enrichment activities and other incentives to attendees</td>
<td>● Partner with community-based organizations to provide enrichment activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Additional guidance on site climate</td>
<td>● Additional guidance on budgeting for summer and enrichment partnerships</td>
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Vision Team Sub Committee Members involved in the 21st CCLC Summer Learning Journey

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

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

Respondents Shared:

- Planned to do in Summer 2021
- Added with additional funding

- Offer more summer hours than stated in their original applications: 60% (14% added with additional funding)
- Offer more summer days than stated in their original applications: 59% (13% added with additional funding)
- Increase the number of summer staff: 52% (12% added with additional funding)
- Provide additional planning time to staff: 52% (12% added with additional funding)
- Purchase summer curriculum: 47% (11% added with additional funding)
- Offer summer family engagement opportunities: 27% (5% added with additional funding)
- Increase summer enrichment opportunities: 60% (13% added with additional funding)
- Provide additional summer training to staff: 33% (12% added with additional funding)

Source: Data from 21st CCLC Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021
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
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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