

High-Quality Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

Ensuring students and families are supported in out-of-school time learning with programming that is partnership driven, widely available and student success-focused.

WHY IS THIS INITIATIVE NEEDED?

Over 80% of students' waking hours are spent outside the school day. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the role community partners play in ensuring students learn and have their social-emotional needs met in a variety of settings.

HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE WORK?

The OSDE is investing in community and school partnerships that provide evidence-based, comprehensive afterschool and summer learning and enrichment programs. This work will occur in [three phases identified by the Brookings Institution](#) as critical to success in federal relief fund investments:

Stabilize (Phase 1): During summer 2021, the OSDE invested in existing enrichment programs for students and families, granting \$5.8 million in a statewide partnership with the Oklahoma Alliance of YMCAs and the Oklahoma Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs to provide evidence-based summer enrichment programs targeted to at-risk youth.

Strategize (Phase 2): During fall 2021, the OSDE developed strategies and a comprehensive plan for remaining funds. Innovate grants of \$2.7 million were awarded to four programs with proven records of success in out-of-school-time learning – Stillwell, Colcord and Idabel Public Schools and Youth at Heart – to serve as mentors in Phase 3.

Organize (Phase 3): Over a three-year period, the OSDE will invest \$21 million in partnerships between schools and community organizations to develop or expand high-quality afterschool and summer programs. This investment will be made via a competitive grant process. Two levels of applications, Ignite and Expand, will be accepted for programs serving students who were disproportionately impacted by COVID and did not engage consistently in school during closures. Technical assistance and professional learning, data collection and program evaluation supports will be provided to all grantees.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH BASE FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

- National research identifies [the key principles of comprehensive, high-quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities](#).
- High-quality afterschool programs can lead to [improved attendance and behavior](#), while summer programs have shown a [positive effect on math and English language arts](#).

WHAT IS THE OSDE'S TOTAL INVESTMENT IN THIS INITIATIVE?

Approximately \$28 million through summer 2024.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can interested parties be considered for this initiative?

The OSDE has released a [Notice of Grant Opportunity \(NGO\)](#) for Phase 3 competitive grants. To apply for funding, a partnership between a school and at least one community partner is required. Funding from this grant must be used to establish or expand [comprehensive afterschool and evidence-based summer learning and enrichment](#). It must provide direct services to meet the needs of students who have been traditionally underserved and disproportionately impacted by disruptions to learning resulting from the COVID pandemic.

Who can participate in this initiative?

Student learning happens across communities and in a variety of settings. In addition to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), applications will be accepted from community and faith-based organizations such as libraries, museums, parks, churches, youth programs and other youth-serving organizations.

How important are school-community partnerships for starting and expanding afterschool and summer learning programs?

[Research identifies strong school-community partnerships as a key principle in defining high-quality programs](#). Therefore, Phase 3 competitive grants require school-community partnerships. A wide variety of organizations such as local government entities, local universities, faith-based organizations and other community organizations make quality out-of-school partners with the local school. These partnerships can improve students' academic and social competence and strengthen their ties to the local community.

How will this initiative impact Oklahoma students?

[Unmet demand for out-of-school time programs in Oklahoma is high](#). For every child in afterschool, four are waiting for an available program. The OSDE will award funding through a competitive grant to encourage local schools and community partners to establish or expand current evidence-based programs to serve more Oklahoma students, building towards comprehensive, high-quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities that facilitate student learning and ensure their social and emotional needs are supported.

What is an evidence-based afterschool or summer learning program?

[The evidence base](#) for high-quality afterschool and summer learning [has been demonstrated through numerous evaluation models](#). Federal relief funds designated for this initiative emphasize activities, strategies or interventions that demonstrate one of four levels of evidence base: 1) strong evidence; 2) moderate evidence; 3) promising evidence; and 4) a rationale.

For questions, contact Sonia Johnson, Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement, at Sonia.Johnson@sde.ok.gov.

For information about federal relief funding, see the [American Rescue Act FAQs](#).