What’s available at afterschool programs?¹

1. Increase federal, state, and local support for expanded learning programs.
2. Utilize the Washington State Quality Standards for Afterschool & Youth Development Programs to provide guidelines for what quality should look like in a program setting.
3. Continue to build partnerships between districts, schools, and expanded learning programs both housed in schools and in community-based organizations.

Fore more information please contact David Beard at DBeard@schoolsoutwashington.org

Afterschool Expanded Learning Opportunities

Washington State faces a widening Achievement Gap. Students of color and low-income students are less likely to meet grade level standards and graduate at lower rates than their white and middle to higher income peers. Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are high-quality afterschool and youth development programs that provide innovative, hands-on learning and strive to be a part of the solution to the opportunity gap.

Washington Parents Support Afterschool Programs¹

- 83% support public funding for afterschool programs.
- 75% agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children during work.
- 69% agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs.

Why Afterschool?
No single learning setting will prepare students for success; rather, an integrated approach to learning across the day, across the year, and across a student’s lifetime is required for 21st century academic and career success.

Decreases Juvenile Crime⁶

The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. represent peak hours in juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, sex, and other risky behaviors.

Academic Impact

- Improved test scores²
- Improved school grades³
- Improved school attendance³
- Increased engagement in learning⁴
- Lower dropout rates⁵

Recommendations

1. Increase federal, state, and local support for expanded learning programs.
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3. Huang et al., 2011.
4. Huang et al., 2007a; Huang et al., 2000.
Every Summer, Washington students lose critical academic skills. The body of research on summer learning loss reveals that young people are falling behind in school at different rates. This research attributes more than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth to unequal access to summer learning opportunities. According to a report by the RAND Corporation, students who attend high-quality summer learning programs have positive academic and behavioral outcomes. Washington State must address summer learning loss to tackle the opportunity gap and support all students in achieving school success.¹,²

Of Washington students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch³

- **ONLY 23%** are reading proficiently by the end of 4th grade.
- **ONLY 30%** are meeting proficiency in mathematics by the end of 4th grade.
- **ONLY 25%** are meeting proficiency in reading or in mathematics by the end of 8th grade.

What makes a program high-quality?¹

- 5-6 consecutive weeks
- 3-4 hours of academic content each day.

Recommendations

1. Address issues of accessibility to high-quality summer programs for low-income youth.
2. Utilize high-quality summer learning programs as an essential component of school reform and improvement.
3. Improve partnerships and coordination between schools, community-based organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to leverage resources at the local level to support summer programs.

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The Growing Gap

- **1976**
- **2001**

The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is **30 TO 40 PERCENT LARGER** among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier.⁴

What makes a program high-quality?¹

- Higher staff to student ratio
- Hands-on experiential learning
- Curriculum that is specific to summer

The effects of summer learning programs can endure for at least two years after the program.¹