

Leveraging Partnerships for Summer Learning Success

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National Summer Learning Association*

*Campaign for Grade Level Reading
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SCHOOLS



PROVIDERS



COMMUNITIES



FAMILIES

NSLA's mission is to connect and equip schools, providers, communities and families to deliver high-quality summer learning opportunities to our nation's youth to help close the achievement gap and support healthy development.

NSLA seeks to:

- Improve the quality of summer learning opportunities
- Expand access to summer learning
- Increase demand for summer learning



Objectives

- Discuss indicators of high-quality summer learning partnerships
- Explore the conditions of summer learning systems that support population level change
- Highlight community examples



Poll Question

Which best describes you?

- School/school district
- Public agency
- Nonprofit organization
- Funder
- Other



Poll Question

Did your organization operate a summer learning program this year?

- Yes
- No



Poll Question

What's your experience level with summer learning?

- Just beginning work in summer learning
- 1 – 3 years experience with summer learning
- Seasoned summer learning provider or partner



Poll

What has your experience with partnerships been like?

- Positive
- Ups-and-downs
- Somewhat stressful
- No experience with partnerships



Quality Indicators of Summer Learning Partnerships

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK



Defining Strategic Partnerships

Stakeholders – involved as necessary to maintain interest & support

Linkages - specific relationships between organizations involved in implementing summer programs for youth

Collaborators – invested in the work; exchange information & services as necessary; focused on current work

Partners – fully invested; regularly share information & services; aligned with future work & outcomes

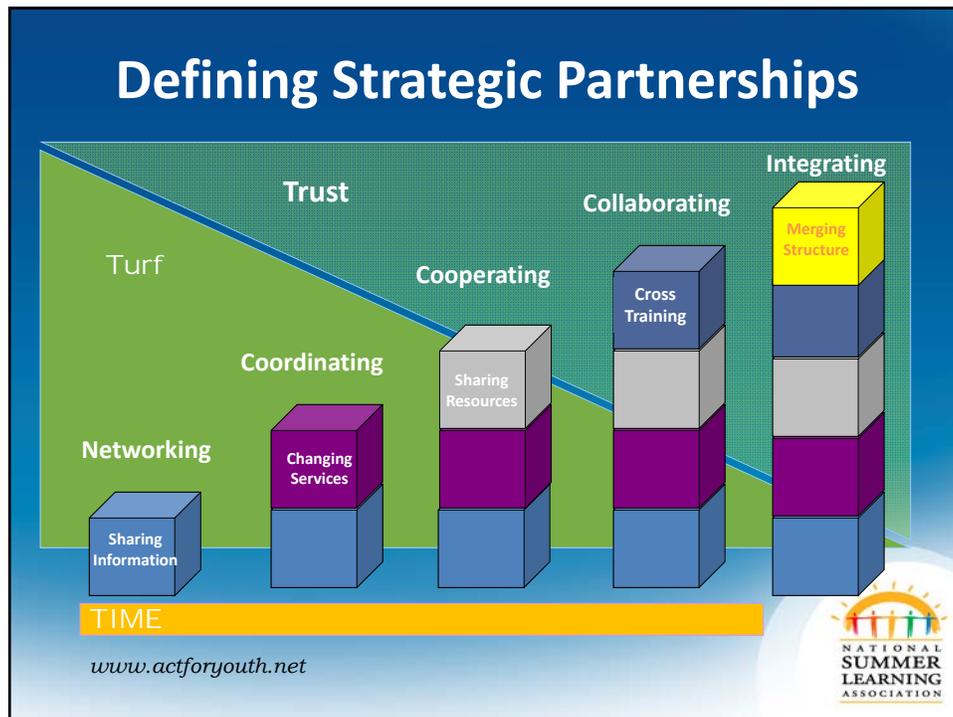


Effective Partnerships

What do effective partnerships look like?

- ✓ Supportive leadership / Shared leadership
- ✓ (Aligned) Shared mission, values, and goals
- ✓ Clear, formal and informal communication structures
- ✓ Multi-dimensional relationships
- ✓ Systems
- ✓ Year-round relationship
- ✓ Longevity
- ✓ Shared funding





Assessing Partnership Quality

NSLA's Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

- 80 Indicators of quality on a 4-point rating scale
- Interview and Observation tools collect information for feedback reports
- National review of content validity
- Piloted in summers 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 (~150 sites total)



Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

Program Infrastructure

PURPOSE
PEOPLE
PLANNING
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIPS

Point-of-Service

INDIVIDUALIZED
INTENTIONAL
INTEGRATED



Partnership CASP Indicators

1. Shared Mission
2. Advanced, Collaborative Planning
3. Partner Staff Collaboration
4. Partner Communication Structure
5. Joint Funding
6. Family Involvement, Communication & Relationship-Building



Partnership Quality Indicators

Shared Mission

- Select partners who have, or can develop a shared mission that compliments your program; if the mission is too different the partnership will not be successful.
- Partners must have a clear understanding of one another's mission and why the partnership is beneficial.
- Partners must share a commitment to a broader set of values and goals and complementary vision of instructional delivery for the summer program.
- Partners need to be willing to alter activities to enhance youth outcomes and experiences.



Partnership Quality Indicators

Advanced, Collaborative Planning

- Include partners in year-round planning practices for summer programming.
- Partners have a voice in selection, development, or review of programming, and jointly review data from previous summers.
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings, and consistent informal communication (email, phone, face-to-face contact).



Partnership Quality Indicators

Partner Staff Collaboration

- Partnerships should involve staff at all levels, from those who make decisions in program design to those that are responsible for implementing and running the program.
- All staff work together to align program activities and coordinate services for youth.
- Strategies such as joint training, team-teaching, co-facilitation, shadowing, and mentoring are discussed and implemented.



Partnership Quality Indicators

Partner Communication Structure

- Partners must establish a clear means for exchanging information and sharing resources.
- Develop a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of each partner as well as the distribution of resources.
- Schedule regular planning meetings during the year and summer to address program implementation and management.

Joint Funding

- Pursue joint funding opportunities with partner organizations.



Partnership Quality Indicators

Family Involvement, Communication & Relationship-Building

- Families are considered primary stakeholders and there are both required and voluntary opportunities for families to participate in the program.
- Program communicates with families in advance of the summer program, at regular intervals during the program, and throughout the year. Families are given access to the complete daily program schedule.
- All staff makes an effort to learn the names of all parents and caregivers and greet them personally. All staff makes a regular effort to share positive information and constructive feedback with parents and caregivers about their child through both written updates and conversations.



Community Examples

PARTNERSHIPS IN PRACTICE



Community Highlights

United Way of Santa Barbara *Fun in the Sun Initiative*

- 82% of participants (7-18) showed gains of 2.1 grade levels in reading comprehensive, phonics, and vocabulary skills
- 3 Lead partners, 15 financial partners and 70 service partners
- Year round planning and regular communication with partners beginning in March
- Voluntary and required opportunities for family engagement



Community Highlights

GO Project, New York City

- K-8 students gained an average 2 months skills in reading
- Year-round partnerships with 30 public schools
- Social work internship with three area universities
- Integrated parent services and volunteer opportunities



Resources

BUILDING SUMMER LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS



Establishing Partnerships

- What groups do you plan to partner with?
- How would you best partner with those group(s)?
- What do you bring to the partnership?
- What do you need from the partnership?



Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

- Quick Reference Guide
- Phased Self Assessment
- Consultation and Technical Assistance (fee for service)



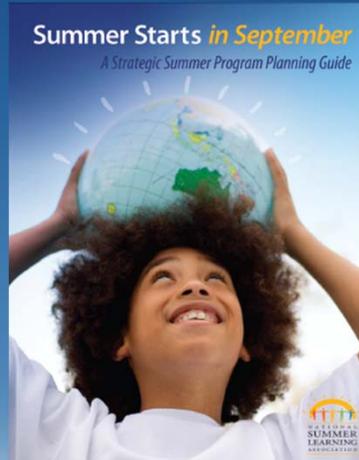
Excellence in Summer Learning Award

Applications available November 16, 2012

http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_summer



Planning Guide



Full of tips and tools to use to plan your program, train your staff and evaluate your success.

Available at www.summerlearning.org in Publications and Resources



Next Summer Learning Webinar Topic:

Summer Learning Policy & Funding

December 20, 2012



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