



THE *new* VISION FOR SUMMER SCHOOL NETWORK

MISSION AND VISION

The New Vision for Summer School Network is an affinity group of nearly 40 school district members and national partners committed to a broad vision for summer learning - one that engages more children and youth, boosts academic achievement, and influences teaching and learning throughout the year.

As a network, we envision a future where school districts and schools use the summer as part of a 12-month plan for learning to accelerate their priorities around student and teacher success. Together with their community partners, districts will close the opportunity gap and ensure that all young people have access to high-quality summer learning experiences that help them succeed in college, career and life.

BACKGROUND ON THE NVSS NETWORK

In 2009, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) launched the New Vision for Summer School Network (NVSS Network), a bold new effort to re-position the role of summer school in education. Since the initial launch, urban districts around the nation have invested over \$200 million in summer learning programs that embrace the principles of the New Vision. Both President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan have talked extensively about the importance of summer learning as an education priority, and media coverage of summer learning has more than tripled since 2009. In 2014, the First Lady made summer learning a core component of her *Reach Higher* college access and completion initiative.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

NSLA helps organize opportunities for ongoing idea exchange among members that are designed to address a comprehensive range of issues dealing with planning, implementing, assessing, and sustaining the New Vision for summer school.

Regular activities include:

- Semiannual meetings organized around common challenges or interests;
- Webinars led by members, partners, and outside experts on high-interest topics;
- Resource sharing; and
- Special opportunities to promote summer learning with audiences at the national, state, and local level.

NVSS Network members commit to regularly participating in NVSS Network activities, leading presentations or conversations with peers in their areas of expertise or interest, and contributing to annual research and data collection activities aimed at better understanding the national summer learning landscape.

For information about the NVSS Network, please contact nvss@summerlearning.org.

Member Districts

Atlanta Public Schools
Austin Independent School District
Baltimore City Public Schools
Birmingham City Schools
Boston Public Schools
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Chicago Public Schools
Cincinnati Public Schools
Consolidated School District of New Britain
Council Bluffs School District
Dallas Independent School District
District of Columbia Public Schools
Duval County Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools
Fresno Unified School District
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Houston Independent School District
Milwaukee Public Schools
Minneapolis Public Schools
Newark Public Schools
New York City Department of Education
Oakland Unified School District
School District of Philadelphia
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Providence Public Schools
Racine Unified School District
Rochester City School District
Sacramento City Unified School District
San Francisco Unified School District
Seattle Public Schools
Springfield Public Schools
Saint Paul Public Schools
Tacoma Public Schools
Wausau Public Schools

National Partners

BELL
Classroom, Inc.
Harlem RBI
MetaMetrics
myOn
Scholastic
Springboard Collaborative

CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW VISION FOR SUMMER SCHOOL NETWORK

To accomplish its vision, the NVSS Network is organized by five principles and underlying strategies to strengthen and expand summer learning programs:

1. Increase and enhance the scope of traditional summer school.

- Move beyond remediation, credit recovery, and test preparation to collaborate with public agencies and community-based organizations to design and deliver full-day programs.
- Develop an integrated, project-based approach to academic content and enrichment in order to foster critical 21st Century skills, including collaboration, creativity, communication, and analysis.
- Provide vigorous physical activity and healthy meals for all participants every day.
- Incentivize older youth to participate by providing opportunities for leadership and currency, such as paid work, high school or college credit, or digital badges.

2. Target participation by students who would benefit the most.

- Use available student data and best practices research to develop focused programs.
- Expand access beyond young people who are struggling academically.
- Consider key transition periods such as the summers before kindergarten, middle school, high school and college.
- Identify marketing, recruitment, and family engagement strategies to improve enrollment & attendance by priority youth.

3. Strengthen systems-level supports through community-wide partnerships and coordination.

- Work across community agencies and organizations to identify opportunities to align and leverage existing resources, close gaps in services, improve quality, and develop a shared outcomes framework for summer learning programs.
- Create or contribute meaningfully to a coordinating entity for summer learning in the community.

4. Provide innovative professional development for staff.

- Provide leadership development opportunities for participating teachers and staff.
- Use summer programs as a platform to improve school-year teaching and learning by testing new curricula, technology, and instructional strategies.
- Create opportunities for new or pre-service teachers to train and learn alongside veteran teachers in the summer.
- Provide opportunities for teachers and community educators to jointly plan curricula.

5. Embed summer learning into the district's school-year operations.

- Centralize hiring, curriculum and instruction, facilities, transportation, and evaluation functions across district summer programs.
- Begin planning for summer learning in the fall.
- Include summer learning programs in the annual budget presentation.
- Empower site-level staff and partners by engaging them in planning curriculum in the spring.
- Track student participation and attendance in summer learning programs in student data system.

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. NSLA recognizes and disseminates what works, offers expertise and support for programs and communities, and advocates for summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education. NSLA's work is driven by the belief that all children and youth deserve high-quality summer learning experiences that will help them succeed in college, career, and life. For more details, visit www.summerlearning.org.