

SPOTLIGHT ON: STEM

Investments in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and career development are growing across the country. Summer is recognized as an ideal time for students to engage in hands-on STEM learning, explore their STEM career interests and develop skills imperative for future careers in STEM fields such as collaboration and creative problem-solving. Partnerships between schools, universities and STEM-field companies are ideal for bringing cutting-edge resources to students inside and outside of the classroom.

Examples of legislation passed in 2016

- **Maryland HB115:** Establishes a grant program for public schools, with a required budget appropriation of at least \$250,000. These schools must have either existing robotics programs or partnerships with nonprofit robotics club. The grants are not restricted to programs or clubs that happen during the school day or year, which allows existing summer STEM clubs and camps to be expanded under this program.
- **California SCR161:** Expresses the resolve of the legislature to expand STEM programming and career pipeline opportunities in the Los Angeles Basin, particularly for students living in low-income communities.

Resources:

[STEM in the Summer: The Joy of Meaningful Learning](#)
[STEM Policy Brief: The Power of Summer](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON: SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Expanded opportunities for youth to work during the summer provide youth not only a wage, but a chance to learn social and soft skills that are valuable in both school and the workforce. Engaging students through mentorship, training and paid work is shown to have positive impacts on their behavior, skills and academic performance. Typically these programs are launched and led by mayors' offices and local workforce development boards, but states are beginning to add funding and guidance as they recognize the value these programs contribute to building and maintaining a strong local workforce statewide.

Examples of legislation passed in 2016

- **California AB2063:** Allows students as young as 14 to receive credit for completing a work experience related to a career/technical education program. This work experience may take place during the summer months.
- **District of Columbia B607:** Extends the highly successful Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, which reaches up to 21,000 youth aged 14-24 each summer.
- **Pennsylvania HB400:** Provides for workplace-based training and learning experiences for high school students with disabilities, including during out-of-school time.



Resource:

[Summer Youth Employment Programs Offer More than Just a Summer Job](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON: PARTNERSHIPS

States recognize that education initiatives cannot put the burden on schools alone. Community-based organizations, youth-serving agencies and families round out the ecosystem of learning for students. States are encouraging and supporting cross-sector partnerships that improve collaboration among these partners, and create efficiency through data-sharing, aligned funding and other strategies.

Examples of legislation passed in 2016

- **Maryland HB1402:** Creates the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program, to provide grants to local school systems, community schools and nonprofit organizations for expanding or creating extended day and summer enhancement programs, and for some school-day programs. This bill requires use of the Maryland Out-of-School Time Programs' Quality Standards Framework to monitor and assess the quality

of funded OST programs. There is an annual \$7,500,000 appropriation included in the law.

- **Utah SB67:** Creates the Partnerships for Student Success Grant program, to improve educational outcomes for low income students through the formation of cross-sector partnerships (including schools and nonprofit organizations) that use data to align and improve efforts focused on student success. These partnerships target key education milestones such as kindergarten readiness, third grade reading, eighth grade algebra and development of career skills that are frequently supported by summer interventions and activities.
- **California AB1557:** Adds nonprofit, recreational youth sports leagues and clubs to the list of organizations that may use public school facilities with limited cost.

Resource:

[Meaningful Linkages Between Summer Programs, Schools, and Community Partners: Conditions and Strategies for Success](#)



EXPLORATION OF SUMMER'S POTENTIAL

States continue to create exploratory commissions to study the need and opportunities for summer and afterschool programming across their communities. Often these commissions produce recommendations and reports that lead to grant programs, quality standards and improved partnerships between schools and community partners.

Examples of legislation passed in 2016

- **Indiana SB251:** Establishes the out of school time learning advisory board for a three-year period, which will consider and report on existing out of school time programs and recommend policies, procedures, funding levels and eligibility criteria.
- **Maryland SB905:** Establishes a Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, focused on recommendations to prepare students for 21st century workforce needs under a master education plan. Programs that incorporate summer learning, such as community schools, apprenticeships and internships, and the 21st Century Community Learning Center funding program are called out as opportunities to fund and execute this master plan.

Resource:

[Summers Matter: 10 Things Every Parent, Teacher, & Principal Should Know About June, July, & August](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON: ESSA PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains many explicit references to summer learning and enrichment opportunities, as well as indirect uses that are a natural fit for summer activities. Many of these programs were established under the previous version of the law and are continued here. Title IV, in particular, acknowledges that schools cannot and should not do this work alone.

States will have new flexibility to make adjustments to their administration of these programs under ESSA, and in some cases the programs may have different requirements under ESSA.

Resource:

[NSLA ESSA Stakeholder Guide](#)



JOIN US ON NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING DAY!



The vision of the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is for every child to be safe, healthy and engaged in learning during the summer. To realize that vision, our 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.

www.summerlearning.org  

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