



national summer learning association

THE *new* VISION FOR SUMMER SCHOOL NETWORK

MISSION AND VISION

The New Vision for Summer School Network (NVSS Network) is an affinity group of 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 include summer learning and enrichment as part of a 12-month plan for learning. Together with their community partners, districts will close this critical 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, a bold new effort to re-position the role of summer school in education. Since the initial launch, school districts around the nation have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in summer learning programs that embrace the principles of the Network. Policymakers at every level maintain the importance of summer learning as an education priority, and media coverage of summer learning has grown exponentially since 2009. National initiatives like the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and First Lady Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher initiative have included summer learning as a fundamental pillar. At the state and local level, flexibility under the Every Student Succeeds Act creates new opportunities to invest in summer learning, an approach proven by research to improve student achievement. Just as importantly, school-based summer initiatives have become hubs for community partnerships and summer systems that bring together a wide range of public and private investments to improve the coordination of summer activities and collaboration toward the common goal of student success.

MEMBER DISTRICTS

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| Albuquerque Public Schools | Council Bluffs Community Schools | Milwaukee Public Schools | San Bernardino County Schools |
| Atlanta Public Schools | Dallas Independent School District | Minneapolis Public Schools | San Francisco Unified School District |
| Austin Independent School District | DeSoto Independent School District | Minnesota Department of Education | Seattle Public Schools |
| Baltimore City Public Schools | District of Columbia Public Schools | New York City Department of Education | Sonoma Valley School District |
| Birmingham City Schools | Duval County Public Schools | Newark Public Schools | Spokane Public Schools |
| Boston Public Schools | Fairfax County Public Schools | Oakland Unified School District | Tacoma Public Schools |
| Calexico Unified School District | Ferndale Public Schools | School District of Philadelphia | Toledo Public Schools |
| Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools | Fresno Unified School District | Pittsburgh Public Schools | Tuscaloosa City Schools |
| Chesterfield County Public Schools | Glenn County Office of Education | Racine Unified School District | Wausau Public Schools |
| Chicago Public Schools | Grand Rapids Public Schools | Rochester City School District | Vancouver Public Schools |
| Cincinnati Public Schools | Greenville City Schools | Sacramento City Unified School District | Visalia Unified School District |
| Cloverdale Unified School District | Hillsborough Public School District | Saint Paul Public Schools | |
| Consolidated School District of New Britain | Houston Independent School District | | |
| | Los Angeles Unified School District | | |

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

NSLA organizes opportunities for ongoing idea exchange among NVSS Network 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.

NATIONAL PARTNERS

- BELL
- DREAM
- InPlay
- Kids Read Now
- MetaMetrics
- Scholastic
- Springboard Collaborative
- The Wallace Foundation

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.

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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 and 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.