

► Denver's Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs: A Sample of Summer 2022 Services and Outcomes



Summer programming is essential to ensuring youth have a safe, supportive and enriching place to be while parents work. Additionally, summer programming helps to mitigate the effects of summer slide and the loss of academic skills. Furthermore, amongst other benefits, summer programming builds social emotional learning traits in children and provides access to basic needs such as meals and mental health services.

During the summer of 2022, the Denver Afterschool Alliance (DAA) worked with 30 organizations to measure the impacts of their programs. These OST organizations provided a variety of summer programming options, models and dosage levels to meet the needs of young people, families and communities around Denver. Programs ranged from content-specific programs that met a couple of times a week to comprehensive all day programs, some free to communities and some fee-based. Providers also served a range of youth from ECE to 12th grade. No matter the model, providers positively impacted youth, families and communities.

DENVER AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE



"Thank you for offering an affordable camp experience so that a single mom like me can work to pay the rent!"

Denver parent

Types of activities

Providers had many areas of focus including social emotional learning, health and fitness, leadership development, artistic exploration, community engagement and more. Summer programs provided healthy meals and snacks to young people, took kids to fun off-site locations and worked collaboratively with other OST partners to deliver unique and engaging experiences for youth and families.

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

7,354
unduplicated youth
attended in-person summer
programs

30
youth service providers
operated summer programs

85
locations
across the City

These organizations ranged
from nonprofits to the local
school district



Results

Youth Perception about their summer program:

- 9 in 10** youth reported that they had adults in the program that got to know them and helped them when they had a problem
- 8 in 10** youth reported they learned new skills that would help them in school
- 9 in 10** youth reported they made new friends
- 9 in 10** youth reported they enjoyed the activities
- 9 in 10** youth reported they worked on making good choices in summer programs

Family Perception about their summer program:

- 9 in 10** parents reported that summer programming made it possible for them to go to work or school
- 9 in 10** parents reported that their child(ren) had enough time to interact with other kids and made friends
- 9 in 10** parents reported that their child(ren) felt like they belonged in the program
- 9 in 10** parents reported that their child(ren) had fun and were engaged in the program activities

Summary of Key Findings

- OST summer programming provided a critical service for working families.
- A majority of youth and families felt that OST summer programming provided fun and engaging environments for youth to learn and develop important academic and social emotional skills.
- Supportive and caring adults were a critical component of positive youth and family experiences.
- Programs provided opportunities for youth to interact with their peers and make new friends.
- A variety of summer programming models met the needs of Denver's youth and families.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
- Colorado I Have a Dream Foundation
- Cottonwood Institute
- DPS Extended Learning and Community Schools
- Denver Parks and Recreation
- El Sistema
- Fully Liberated Youth
- Generation Teach
- Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
- Heart & Hand
- In Lak'ech Denver Arts
- International Rescue Committee in Denver
- Make a Chess Move
- Mile High 360
- Mirror Image Arts
- MSU Center for Urban Education
- New Cottage Arts
- Platte Forum
- Project VOYCE
- Scholars Unlimited
- Sims-Fayola Foundation
- Slow Food Denver
- Struggle of Love Foundation
- Su Teatro
- Sun Valley Youth Center
- The Consumption Literacy Project
- The Storytellers Project
- United Capoeira Association - Colorado
- Vive Wellness
- YMCA of Metro Denver