

How to Build a Summer Program – Three Designs

This document provides ideas on how a summer program could be structured to support school improvement. Each of these concepts expands learning time by providing engaging programming to students that improve academic performance and motivation. In addition, these concepts have been structured to integrate opportunities for professional development, including training for school site staff and staff from community partners. A sample budget worksheet for each Design can be found in *Sample Budget for 3 Designs – form B*.

Design One: Blended School and Community Program

- Provide academic intervention and enrichment programming co-taught by school teachers and afterschool community-based organization (CBO) staff.
- Train teachers and CBO staff together for at least 50 hours before and during the program, and provide hands-on opportunities to practice new skills and learn from each other.

Advantages:

- Builds on existing partnerships and strengthens alignment of teaching practices and personal relationships between teachers and CBO staff throughout the year.
- Leverages both teacher and CBO staff abilities to teach and engage young people.
- Reap lasting reward with just one year of funding.
- Is supported by research around using expanded learning time to complement school day teaching, not repeat it.

Challenges:

- May be complicated if existing partnership does not have a strong foundation.
- Duplicate staffing is expensive.

Design Two: School Program

- Provide academic intervention and enrichment programming taught by school teachers.
- Train teachers for at least 50 hours before and during the program, and provide hands-on opportunities to practice new skills.

Advantages:

- Provides opportunity for teacher training and practice.
- Relatively easy to implement.
- Teacher training benefits school and students throughout school year(s).

Challenges:

- May limit programming to academics and intervention models.
- Is more expensive than other models.

Design Three: School-based Community Program

- Contract with a afterschool CBO partner to provide summer academic and enrichment program.
- Train CBO staff for at least 50 hours before and during the program, and provide hands-on opportunities to practice new skills.
- Provide a school teacher as Academic Liaison to support training, lesson planning and teaching.
- On the budget worksheet, 3A represents a full cost model; 3B is a bare bones model with lower paid staff, fewer supplies and no field trips. This variation could apply to the other 2 designs as well.

Advantages:

- A strong CBO has experience motivating and engaging young people with project-based, experiential learning.
- Relatively easy to implement, given CBOs' expertise in summer and after school programming.
- Builds CBO staff skill for year round expanded learning.
- Affordable.
- Is supported by research around using expanded learning time to complement school day teaching, not repeat it.

Challenges:

- Impact on school day staff may be limited to Academic Liaison.