DENVER'S OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS: SUMMARY OF SUMMER 2021 SERVICES & OUTCOMES

- More than 3,000 Denver youth attended in-person summer programs over the course of the summer. Programs were operated by 24 youth service providers at 66 locations across the City. The organizations ranged from small and emerging nonprofits (23) to the local school district.
- Programs served primarily K-5th grade students, with some 6th-8th grade students also participating in programming. The diversity of providers created a wide range of opportunities for youth to engage in a variety of enrichment activities (i.e.: leadership, arts and culture, sports and recreation, STEM, etc.).
- The majority of sites operated in Denver’s low-opportunity neighborhoods, with programming offered at no cost to families. DPS operated fee-for-service programs in 9 communities with mid-to-upper incomes.
- Building relationships formed the bedrock of summer programming with a focus on reconnecting with youth; creating safe spaces for youth who experienced trauma as a result of the pandemic; strengthening social-emotional skills and re-establishing “academic mindsets.”

RESULTS.

- 84% of parents reported that summer programming made it possible for them to go to work or school because they knew their children were in a safe, supportive environment.
- 3 in 4 youth and adults reported that they were better prepared to attend school in the fall. This is because summer programs were savvy and creative in building academic mindsets by weaving learning throughout the programming.
- 9 in 10 parents reported that their children benefited from peer interaction and had a strong sense of belonging because of their program involvement.
- 9 in 10 parents reported that they received timely, accurate Covid-19 information from summer program staff.
- 8 in 10 parents said that the summer program locations were convenient for their families.
- 9 in 10 adults said that their child(ren) were engaged, felt like they belonged, and were able to interact with other youth in the program.
- 9 in 10 youth enjoyed the activities and made new friends.

LESSONS LEARNED.

- Youth and families rely on and trust OST providers and professionals.
- Youth lost substantial academic and social-emotional skills during the pandemic, and in-person programming is needed to support them in rebuilding and strengthening academic mindsets and social connections.
- OST programming is an essential service for working parents.
- The OST industry continues to be flexible, nimble and innovative so that it can provide youth and families with critical services and supports.
SUMMARY OF SUMMER 2021
SERVICES & OUTCOMES

TESTIMONIALS.

My daughter was unsure about camp, but, after the first day, she was very motivated because the activities were so much fun and she got to spend time with her classmates.

– Denver Parent

There is so much going on in my life with work and the pandemic that this was a relief, and I know that many other parents are in need as well.

– Denver Parent

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.

- DPS Extended Learning & Community Schools (14 sites)
- Scholars Unlimited (6 sites)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (4 sites)
- Generation Teach (2 sites)
- The Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization
- BGCMD - Godsman
- Colorado "I Have a Dream" Foundation
- Denver Inner City Parish
- El Sistema Colorado
- Environmental Learning for Kids
- Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado
- Hope Communities
- International Rescue Committee in Denver
- Kids Above Everything
- Make a Chess Move
- Museo de las Americas
- Platte Forum
- Sims-Fayola Foundation
- Struggle of Love Foundation
- Su Teatro
- Art Garage
- Vive Wellness
- YMCA of Metro Denver
- Youth Employment Academy