

Breakout Session Notes:

Out of School Time (OST) Programs: Expanding and Improving After School and Summer Program Opportunities for All Students in Santa Fe

A. Highlights/Themes

1. **Increase Coordination in the OST Space:** Support a paid position to help coordinate programs across Santa Fe, foster partnership development, and increase communication and synergy between schools, community-based providers, stakeholders, communities, and families.
2. **Develop a Resource & Data Hub:** Create and maintain a web site that can serve as a data and resource hub for the Santa Fe community. Compile and disseminate an OST program directory (both in electronic and in paper formats) and organize a summer programs fair in the spring to widely share OST program information with families.
3. **Leverage Existing School Infrastructure:** Reframe schools as resources and community centers where outside organizations can run their afterschool and summer programs in spaces that are familiar and accessible to local families.
4. **Support School-CBO partnerships:** Advocate for individual schools to each have a site OST coordinator to better manage programs and to more effectively help outside community-based organizations access and partner with schools.
5. **Focus on Training & Quality:** Advocate for increasing OST staff training and staff pay to improve the quality of programs and to redress the staff retention issues that are prevalent among providers. Such efforts are needed to professionalize the industry and to counter the perception that OST programs are just 'babysitting' students.
6. **Engage the Business Community:** Garner support from the business community and provide opportunities for them to get involved, including through tutoring, mentoring, and funding. Highlight strategies that can work well like paid leave time for employees who share their time, expertise, and careers with OST programs.
7. **Provide Recognition:** Promote individuals and businesses that are deeply engaged in OST programs with awards and events that recognize and honor the contributions made to the community.
8. **Focus on Middle School:** Advocate for increased funding and support for programs that serve upper elementary and middle school students. Not enough programs provide affordable learning opportunities for low-income students in 4th through 8th grades, especially during the summer.
9. **Reduce Transportation Hurdles:** Research and implement strategies that increase access and transportation options to OST programs for high poverty neighborhoods.

B. Notes from Session((Includes Flip Chart Notes)

- Reframe schools as community resources that can be used and the use facilitated by all of us
- Would create more political will to solve problems of resources & shortages
- Greater access to school facilities when schools are closed/non -school days
- Greater support from school system for after-school programs (e.g. knowledge, involvement, welcoming position)
- Person/position and place to house coordination, partnerships communication
- Need Site Coordinators (person at each school to interface between schools & community groups)
- Integrate OST at each level of the school system infrastructure/network of providers
- Build the connections into the system so not dependent on volunteers
- Create a transportation system with paid positions (school buses for school off-site programs)