

Recommendations to build the capacity of the System of Support for Expanded Learning (SSEL) to raise the quality of Summer Learning programs in California.

Summer Learning Implementation Committee Purpose

The Summer Learning Implementation Committee (SLIC) was formed to make recommendations to build the capacity of the System of Support for Expanded Learning¹ (SSEL) to raise the quality of Summer Learning programs in California. This committee built on the work of the System of Support Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) and their vision for an effective statewide technical assistance (TA) network, in particular related to targeted funding to meet the critical needs of grantees related to summer programming. The team was co-led by the field and EXLD and was comprised of 23 members representing various stakeholder groups including EXLD staff, county leads/staff, technical assistance providers, Summer Learning organizations, K-12 educators, program providers, and community based organizations.

Why Summer?

Effective Summer Learning programs have emerged as a key component to youth educational attainment. The prevention of Summer Learning loss is important for many students. Research indicates that most students lose about two months' worth of math skills during a single summer.² In addition, low-income children lose 2+ months of reading achievement.³

Committee Work and Recommendations

The SLIC engaged in several group brainstorming activities at the first meeting to set four priority areas for the work of the committee:

- Curate a Summer Learning toolkit.
- Identify guidelines for a high quality Summer Learning program.
- Develop a scaffolded support system for Summer Learning programs and TA providers.
- Clarify and develop a comprehensive communication strategy for Summer Learning programs.

In some instances the SLIC created actual tools and resources, and in other instances they provided more refined recommendations to the EXLD for next steps to support Summer Learning programming. Following is a list of the tools, resources, and additional recommendations for each of the priority areas. The recommendations represent a general consensus of the work group that focused on each priority area. There were however, varying opinions from team members on some of the more detailed aspects of the recommendations.

¹ The purpose of the SSEL is to build the capacity of Expanded Learning programs to meet all grant requirements defined in California statute and to promote high quality programs na dservices. The SSEL consists of EXLD staff, designated county leads/staff, and contracted Technical Assistance providers.

² H. Cooper, K Charlton, J. Valentine, and L. Muhlenbruck, "Making the Most of Summer School: A Meta-Analytic and Narrative Review," *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development* 65. No. 1 (2000): 1 - 127.

³ Ibid.

Toolkit

- **Product:** A digital Summer Toolkit⁴ that includes 7 Summer Learning domains, to provide support to the SSEL with tools and resources to successfully provide TA to Summer Learning grantees.
 - Status: Under final internal review by CDE.
- **Recommendation:** Create a user-friendly section of the www.caexpandedlearning.com website to house Summer Learning materials including the Summer Toolkit. The content should help grantees access tools and resources to build quality Summer Learning programs.

Guidelines

- **Product:** A "Summer Learning Defined⁵ & Quality Indicators" digital resource
 - Status: Under final internal review by CDE.
- **Recommendation:** Ensure definition and quality indicators are integrated with other Summer Learning tools and resources.
- **Recommendation:** Create a section of the www.caexpandedlearning.com website where the definition and quality indicators can be posted.

Scaffold Support

- **Recommendation:** Create a mentoring program within the SSEL infrastructure. The program could pilot with a focus on Summer Learning and expand to cover other Expanded Learning topics.
- **Recommendation:** Calibrate all members of the SSEL team on Summer Learning and the TA framework.
- **Recommendation:** Create a matrix of suggested TA services and content that SSEL members can use as starting place to identify needs and actions to support program providers.

Communications

- **Product:** Summer Specific Frequently Asked Questions
 - Status: Under final internal review by CDE; to be released by Summer 2018.
- **Product:** Summer Communications Calendar
 - Status: E-blasts and other resources regarding Summer Learning have been integrated into the internal EXLD communication calendar.
- **Recommendation:** Create a section of the www.caexpandedlearning.com website where Summer Learning LCAP resources can be posted.
- **Recommendation:** Consider how Summer Learning data is collected by the EXLD. Data could potentially be utilized to communicate the stories of success related to Summer Learning programming.

⁴ The content for the toolkit was derived from the National Summer Learning Association's (NSLA) "Summer Starts in September Planning Guide" and has been consolidated by the SLIC.

⁵ Summer Learning was defined as programs that promote academic achievement and healthy development by providing uniquely innovative opportunities for learning and enrichment to expand horizons for students who participate, especially those from low income communities.