

Case Studies: Partnerships to Support Summer Programs

In order to create high-quality, engaging summer learning programs, school districts need to work with partners. Indeed, the phrase “summer learning” signals to those most active in the field that there will be collaboration with other organizations and programs.

Districts differ significantly, however, in the kinds of organizations they work with and the types of partnerships they create. The following examples from throughout California show just some of the possibilities.

After-school program providers

When a school district is considering a summer learning program that will integrate learning into an environment that feels like a summer camp, current after-school program providers are natural partners. They know the children and staff and are often also familiar with the district’s learning goals.

In **San Francisco Unified School District**, which has a long commitment to site-based decision making, summer programs are typically operated by the same organizations that run on-site after-school programs. School site leaders make that decision, however, and then decide on the theme for summer.

Gilroy Unified School District is one of several districts in Santa Clara County that works with the Silicon Valley YMCA. For the district, which is relatively small and somewhat isolated at the southern end of the county, this partnership is strategic. The Silicon Valley YMCA uses its strong connections to the larger community, including businesses and organizations such as the region’s technology museums, to provide resources that would be difficult for the district to get on its own.

By contrast, **Whittier City Elementary School District** and many others operate their own after-school programs, including hiring and managing staff. Under this model, the key partnerships are often with local activity providers—be they arts docents, sports coordinators, or yoga instructors—who enrich the offerings for students during the summer.

Regional networks and consortia

When a school district is motivated to create a new summer learning program and ready to explore the possibilities, the most empowering next step is to talk to the people nearby who have already made it work and to join an existing network or collective effort.

School districts around Fresno offer an example. The **Fresno County Office of Education** acts as the planning and management partner for many local districts. Like its counterparts in several other rural counties, the Fresno County Office of Education is the fiscal agent for most of the after-school programs in the county. The county office in turn works with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, a local nonprofit organization that hires and provides professional development for local college students.

One common denominator throughout the state is the availability of the Expanded Learning Technical Assistance System overseen by the California Department of Education. Contact information for these support experts, all of whom work at local county offices of education, is available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/sosexplearncontacts.asp>.



Local civic and business organizations

Mountain View Elementary District in El Monte works with its after-school partner to implement its summer learning program. Its partnerships do not stop there however, and the district is not satisfied only providing its formal five-week program. Instead, district officials actively seek additional resources that will serve their students for the entire time students are on summer break. One example is the Extended Library Program, which begins when the main summer program ends and provides young people with breakfast, a morning filled with various activities and games, then lunch.

The **Glenn County Office of Education**, which coordinates programs at several school districts, depends heavily on outside partnerships, including parks and recreation departments, other city agencies, community-based organizations, and local businesses. All these organizations work with Glenn County Office of Education officials to provide the resources and activities essential to their programs' success.

In the summer of 2017, **Tehama County Office of Education** used partnerships with local community leaders to create a summer learning program that advanced local schools' goals in STEM and literacy. In a win-win scenario, it also introduced 800 kids and their families to the local county fair, which was struggling to sustain attendance. Fair organizers worked with the Tehama County Office of Education to create a STEM-based Expo and a special day at the fair for kids attending summer learning programs. The classic children's book *Charlotte's Web*, which the students read, helped to build a unifying theme. The fair events included pig races, kid's art, and more, organized into three themed areas: STEM, agriculture, and a carnival. The partnerships also supported activities back at the school sites. For example, the local Rotary Club donated money for books for each attendee and SCHOLASTIC provided those books for a dollar each.

Universities, industry groups, local museums, civic organizations and parks departments are typical partners for supporting summer learning programs in other districts throughout California.

For more examples of powerful summer programs throughout California and additional resources, visit www.csba.org/summerlearning.



About the Featured School Districts and County Offices of Education

<p>San Francisco Unified School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Located in San Francisco. » A K-12 district with 60,263 students served in 117 schools. » Student demographics: 28% English learners, 52.1% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic groups are Hispanic/Latino (31.2%) and Asian (31%). » Per-pupil revenues (based on ADA of 50,382): \$15,908. 	<p>Gilroy Unified School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Located in Gilroy in Santa Clara County. » A K-12 district with 11,834 students served in 16 schools. » Student demographics: 22.7% English learners, 55.3% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic group is Hispanic/Latino (69.9%). » Per-pupil revenues (based on ADA of 10,610): \$11,776.
<p>Whittier City Elementary School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Located in Whittier in Los Angeles County. » A K-8 district with 6,104 students served in 12 schools. » Student demographics: 16.7% English learners, 75% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic group is Hispanic/Latino (91.7%). » Per-pupil revenues (based on ADA of 5.782): \$11,775. 	<p>Mountain View Elementary School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Located in El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County. » A K-8 district with 6,773 students served in 12 schools. » Student demographics: 57.9% English learners, 91.4% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic group is Hispanic/Latino (93.8%). » Per-pupil revenues (based on ADA of 6,451): \$14,239.
<p>Fresno County Office of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Countywide enrollment: 204,418 students served in 32 school districts and the county office of education. » Student demographics: 19.9% English learners, 74.2% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic groups is Hispanic/Latino (64.9%). 	<p>Glenn County Office of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Countywide enrollment: 5,581 students served in 8 school districts and the county office of education. » Student demographics: 19.5% English learners, 70.5% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic groups are Hispanic/Latino (57.9%) and White (34.5%).
<p>Tehama County Office of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Countywide enrollment: 10,958 students served in 14 school districts and the county office of education. » Student demographics: 17.5% English learners, 70.8% eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and largest ethnic groups are White (51.6%) and Hispanic/Latino (40.3%). 	

Data based on 2017-18 school year. Reported by the Education Data Partnership at www.ed-data.org.

