

Afterschool learning can't be an **Afterthought**



**The Summer &
Afterschool Collaborative**

Learning can't stop when school lets out

One hundred eighty five! That's the number of days that children are out of school every year. So who keeps children learning when school lets out?

In Montgomery County, an array of dedicated professionals and volunteers fill the need. They're promoting literacy, science-technology-engineering-math (STEM), the arts, character education, leadership and healthy living.

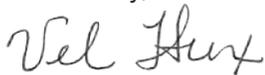
But because funding for out-of-school initiatives is scarce and unstable, many programs don't have the resources to measure their impact. Answering questions about outcomes and quality is challenging without agreed upon metrics.

In May 2017, 10 programs spread across 17 sites came together to tackle this challenge. They formed the **Summer and Afterschool Collaborative for the Dayton Region**. These pioneering programs, which together serve more than 1,100 young people, are focused on helping more children experience quality out-of-school learning activities. The programs are committed to proving – and improving – their impact on children's success!

The 2017-18 school year was the inaugural year for collecting and learning from common assessments, which were analyzed by the University of Dayton Business Research Group. This report presents what we're learning.

We look forward to continuing our work to give students a fun, enriching and safe place to go after school, where caring adults help kids keep learning. Afterschool learning can't be an afterthought!

Sincerely,



Vel Hux

The Dayton Foundation
Del Mar Encore Fellow
for Learn to Earn Dayton

For the first time, afterschool programs have come together around what quality afterschool programming should include. Afterschool leaders and staff are using common metrics to measure their impact.





PIONEERING COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

- Five Rivers MetroParks Adventure Central
- Boys and Girls Club of Dayton
- Dakota Center
- Dayton Christian Center
- Miracle Makers, East End Community Services
- Omega Community Development Corp.
- Sunlight Village
- Trotwood-Madison Early Learning Center
- Trotwood-Madison Park Elementary School
- Trotwood-Madison Westbrooke Village School
- Wesley Community Center
- YMCA Grace United Methodist (Early Childhood Education and Learning Center)
- YMCA Childcare St. Anthony's Church
- YMCA at Horace Mann School
- YMCA at Cleveland School
- YMCA School Age Enrichment Program at DECA Prep
- YMCA Childcare at Rivers Edge Elementary

FOUNDING COLLABORATIVE FUNDERS

- Montgomery County
- United Way of Greater Dayton
- The Dayton Foundation
- Iddings Foundation
- The Frank M. Tait Foundation
- Vectren Foundation

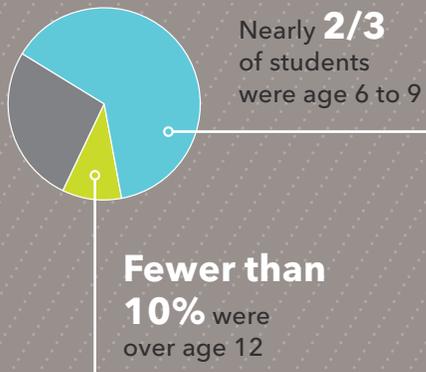
These afterschool programs provided almost **250,000 hours** of afterschool programming.



1,125 students participated in an average of **233 hours** of afterschool learning during the 2017-18 school year



Who's attending Collaborative programs



Almost 3 in 4 children served are African-American*

*Most Collaborative afterschool providers are situated in Dayton and Trotwood, communities that have large numbers of African-American children.

Afterschool programs keep kids learning

Young people spend 180 days in school, 185 days out of school.

All children, but especially children who come to school behind or who are struggling, need to keep learning after school and during the summer months. High quality programs can help children stay on track and even catch up.

What makes a high quality out-of-school program

- Trained staff
- Well-defined student goals
- An evaluation process that tracks achievement in math, writing and/or reading, as well as data about school attendance and social-emotional development
- Research-based curricula that is mixed with enrichment activities that leverage community partnerships
- Practices that promote attendance rates of at least 80% to 90% for each child
- Activities that encourage family engagement
- A mix of children from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds

Afterschool programs should be offered a minimum of 125 days during the school year, while summer programs should be a minimum of 6 hours a day and be 5-6 weeks long.



I never got to build a tower before afterschool. I had to try four times. I can now try to build it bigger. It's not about if I win."

BRANDON, 3RD GRADE



What we're learning about engaging students

To measure students' social and emotional learning, programs used an assessment tool developed by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time. Youth in 4th grade and up, as well as program staff, completed surveys in Fall 2017 and again in Spring 2018.

The Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes-Youth (SAYO-Y) was given to students at 8 sites in Fall 2017, and at 8 sites in Spring 2018. Students were asked questions such as whether they felt challenged and enjoyed coming to a program and whether adults were supportive.

At the same time, staff members at 14 sites in the Fall and 17 sites in the Spring were given the Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes-Staff (SAYO-S), where they answered questions about individual students' level of interest and engagement.

The SAYO is a reliable tool for programs to understand how well they are assisting students *in the aggregate* and in what areas they can improve. It is *not* a valid assessment of individual students' engagement. Each program's results are being shared with that program.

Researchers found that program staff's assessments of youth engagement and their relationships with adults matched with the students' own assessments. This is significant because it allows staff to identify early those children who are at risk of dropping out of afterschool programming.

What students said

In the Spring survey:

- About **3 in 4** students said their afterschool program helped them *get their homework done and make new friends.*
- **More than half** indicated it helped them *do better and try harder* in school.
- **More than half** felt the program helped them *read more often, do better in science and math and improved their writing.*



What we're learning about attendance

“ I learn new things and have fun. The thing I like most is math.”

MONICA, 3RD GRADE

To benefit, students need to consistently participate in programming, even though it is voluntary.

Programs are measuring attendance in 3 ways:

- Total hours attended
- How often children attend
- Length of time children participate

Students who were scheduled to attend programming more than 18 days (981 students) attended an average of **233 hours** over the school year.

Students participated a total of **230,570 hours**.

About 1 in 2 students had an attendance rate of 80% or greater.

60% of students attended programs for 8 of the 9 months of the school year.

What are our take-aways?

- Children who are scheduled to be part of an afterschool program are attending an impressive number of hours, averaging about 2 hours per day.
- To keep attendance from dropping off, programs have to be especially attentive to offering engaging programming as the year progresses. The Collaborative needs to better understand why attendance decreased slightly in the Spring.
- Monitoring attendance is important so programs can help young people develop good attendance habits.
- Most students who participate in afterschool programs are elementary-school age. Participation dramatically falls off after 8th grade. Our community needs more high-school based afterschool and summer activities because many older students do not join in traditional extra-curricular opportunities such as band and sports.



I like that we get to learn and make things. It helps when we get to school."

KRISHON, 3RD GRADE



Thank you to our generous funders and partners:



The Summer and Afterschool Collaborative for the Dayton Region would like to acknowledge the important leadership of Ritika Kurup, formerly of Learn to Earn Dayton, and now with StriveTogether. Ritika was a driving force behind the creation of the Collaborative. We remain grateful for her initiative and passion for young people.

