EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

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EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Only 20% of a child’s waking hours are spent in school.

What they do with the rest of that time can help them reach academic, social-emotional, and other positive youth outcomes that lead to school, career, and life success.

_Oh and expanded learning is fun too...._
The Opportunity Gap is not limited to the classroom:

- Cumulative effects of summer learning loss
- Afterschool support and learning
- Field trips and vacations with sociological, cultural, and historical learning and value
EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO) INCLUDE:

- Afterschool Programs
- School-Age Child Care
- Summer Learning
- Youth Development

ELOs to provide all young people with equitable access to high-quality Expanded Learning Opportunities.
SCHOOL’S OUT WASHINGTON

SOWA is a statewide organization that supports high-quality expanded learning opportunities after school and in the summer through:

- Engaging, convening, and supporting critical constituencies
- Promoting quality standards and accountability
- Brokering and leveraging resources
- Promoting effective policies
PROGRAM QUALITY MATTERS
• High-quality expanded learning opportunities produce positive social, emotional, academic gains – must be culturally responsive

PROGRAM QUALITY IS MEASURABLE
• Research and practice agreement about the features of a quality learning environment

PROGRAM QUALITY IS MALLEABLE
• When programs focus on strengthening instructional practices aligned with quality, they can influence outcomes
AVAILABLE PROGRAMMING
• For all children and youth, the availability of programming depends on where they live.

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING
• Even if programming is available – few providers have an inclusive framework and have limited staffing support.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING
• There are few programs for children and youth that need very specialized programming that is linked to learning and social-emotional development.
Below is a variety of programs that have, or are required to provide, ELO programming for Students with Disabilities and Special Health Needs:

- Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- Spokane Public Schools – Summer STEM Camps
- Greater Seattle YMCA Respite Pilot
- School-Age Child Care
Policymakers can support ELOs for students with disabilities and/or special health care needs by:

- Increasing Access and Staffing Support – resources for programs using local, state, and federal funding

- Supporting Professional Development – funding or joint school district professional development for ELO Providers

- Promoting Partnerships – incentives and requirements for partnerships between community-based organizations (ex. culturally-based organizations) and districts
THANK YOU!

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