Oregon Summer Learning Collaborative

Why We Exist
Summer programs can increase learning, provide opportunities for enrichment, hands-on learning, creativity, social connection, and support mental health and wellness.

Historically inequitable systems prevent children, families, and providers from accessing summer program opportunities. Inadequately connected systems of support exacerbate common barriers such as ability, access, cost, language, location, timing, and transportation. A coordinated, equity-driven approach can mitigate systemic and racial inequities.

Who We Are
The Collaborative is a network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, tribal members, state agencies, school and district partners, philanthropy, community leaders and education advocates.

Our Mission
We inform, align, and foster collaboration of schools, community-based organizations, and systems to garner funding that ensures equitable and sustainable summer learning access & participation for all.

When We Succeed
We envision a racially just, child-centered Oregon where our systems and community are aligned to support equitable access to safe, inclusive, and welcoming summer learning environments for all.

What We Value
We are in this work for child and youth, whole-being development: spirit, heart, and mind. We believe:

- Partnership and networked action are more than the sum of our parts.
- Our strength comes from building genuine relationships.
- Disagreement and discourse are signs of deepening trust.
- Only in listening to different lived experiences can we better understand our shared work.
- Honoring and listening to Youth and Community Voice are essential.
- Equity is a practice, and we commit to consciousness.
- Learning happens inside and outside the classroom.
- Openness & innovation are embedded in our work.

1 According to a recent National Academies of Science report, low-income students and students of color are much less likely to have access to enriching summer programs because of cost and availability. This coupled with the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/a/x, Pacific Islander, students experiencing disabilities and families navigating poverty has exacerbated opportunity gaps and contributed to unfinished learning.
Background
The Oregon Summer Learning Collaborative ("The Collaborative") began in April of 2021 when a team of Oregon leaders interested in summer learning attended the National Summer Learning & Enrichment Collaborative sponsored by the US Department of Education. The Oregon team decided to continue as its own Collaborative to collectively create a space for sustained equity collaboration around out-of-school learning and enrichment that centers students and families year-round.

What is a Collaborative?
A Collaborative includes a committed group of individuals and organizations actively working towards creating a Collaborative model with an aligned vision. A successful Collaborative should include a planning team, a consistent group of members, support, and facilitation of the full group by building collaborative approaches to learning, working, decision-making, and strategy.

We Need You
Increased funding over the last two years has significantly enhanced the ability to offer more equitable opportunity for Oregonians to access summer learning. We are organizing to leverage this into long-term and sustainable impact. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12-1pm PT. Join us by registering interest HERE.

PLEASE JOIN US
The Collaborative Planning Team has been meeting to align shared commitments, group practices, and decision making. We are now working to re-engage broader communities to help chart the future direction through a series of strategy, workshop-style meetings in support of building a sustainable Collaborative, together. Please join us by registering HERE.