

Oregon Youth Deserve Authentic Engagement in the Summer **HB4082 community-based organizations will offer support**

[The National Summer Learning Project](#) demonstrated that summer programs can and do improve youth performance in school, and also identified key elements of successful summer programs. HB4082 represents an important step towards equitable summer learning in Oregon, but we ultimately need to create more support for Oregon's youth and families through the development of systems and structures. HB4082 can be strengthened through the following recommendations.

Collaborative partnership between schools and communities should be required

HB4082 should acknowledge the essential role that community partners of all types play in providing successful summer learning opportunities. Research demonstrates that, "when schools and community organizations work together to support learning, everyone benefits. Partnerships can [improve]... program quality, more efficient use of resources, and better alignment of goals and curricula." (Harvard Family Research Project, 2010).

Expertise in enrichment must be embraced

Successful summer programs studied in the National Summer Learning Project embraced what is special about summer: engaging enrichment opportunities alongside academics, structured differently from the school year. Oregon's community-based organizations have experience and expertise in creating high-quality, engaging summer enrichment opportunities, as demonstrated through [reporting on the 2022 Oregon Community Summer Grant Initiative](#).

Services should prioritize youth who need them the most

HB4082 should fully prioritize Oregon's most vulnerable youth and families. Access to afterschool and summer learning is [inequitably distributed across Oregon](#), and collaboration with families, youth, and community-based organizations is a proven strategy to support effective and equitable summer learning programs.

Youth and families need all-day programming

Research shows that afterschool and summer programs are a [lifeline for working families](#) and help them keep their jobs during the times when school is not in session. Youth also demonstrate the best outcomes when they attend [full-day summer programs, 5 days a week, for 5 to 6 weeks](#). Collaborative partnerships between schools and CBOs are a [proven, cost-effective model](#) for providing all-day programming.

Oregon youth need dedicated social emotional learning and mental health support

[Mental Health America's 2023 report](#) ranked Oregon's youth mental health as the worst in the country, and HB4082 should prioritize mental health support and social emotional learning. "Afterschool and summer learning programs are known for their ability to provide space spaces, with trusted and caring adults," ([Peterson and Vandell, 2021](#)), and the [2022 report](#) on the Oregon Community Summer Grant Initiative found that social emotional learning was a particular strength of community-based summer programs.

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