



Strategic Plan 2010-2013

Vision

To ensure all Minnesota communities provide quality afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities for all children and youth to successfully learn, develop and contribute.

Mission

To ensure systems, supports and resources are in place so that Minnesota communities can successfully provide quality afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities for children and youth.

YCC's Philosophy and Values for Our Work

Youth Community Connections (YCC) supports quality afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities because they **connect** children and youth with caring adults, **engage** young people in their own learning and **support** their contributions to their families, communities, state and world.

YCC is mobilizing afterschool supporters to take a united stance on policy or other issues. It pulls together public and private stakeholders to better coordinate and leverage existing resources that support afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities, and seeks new resources when necessary. YCC use its resources to fill the gaps in the field, only acting when others are not/cannot. It has purposely aligned itself with both public and private stakeholders to allow for unfettered development of policy.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Outcomes

Goal One

Build awareness, access and support for high-quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Objective One

Advocate for local policies and resources that maintain or increase support for systems, organizations and professionals to ensure access to high-quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Objective Two

Advocate for statewide policies and resources that support systems, communities, organizations and professionals to ensure access to quality, culturally responsive afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Objective Three

Increase the number of champions speaking on behalf of high-quality out-of-school time learning opportunities in Minnesota.

Objective Four

Persuade the public and key stakeholders about the value of afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities and their beneficial roles in the development of young people in order to promote individual and collective action.

Strategies

1. Building on the Supporting Student Success policy framework, develop and advocate for strategies that align and connect formal education and non-formal learning opportunities at the state and local levels.
2. Identify and disseminate key messages promoting the benefits and values of non-formal learning opportunities appropriate for targeted audiences especially state, local and tribal policy-makers and business leaders.
3. Develop and implement a public will building initiative employing youth voice, participation and organizing opportunities.

4. Identify key champions among elected officials, policy makers and business leaders to advocate for quality non-formal learning opportunities at the state, local and tribal levels.
5. Advocate for state-wide and local policies and resources to support quality, culturally appropriate non-formal learning opportunities that encourage innovate public/private partnerships and cross-sector collaborations.

Outcomes to Goal One

1. Increase the number of communities that have innovative mechanisms or strategies to provide quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities
2. Maintain or increase public and private resources that support afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities.
3. Increase the number and diversity of champions for afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.
4. Key messages are developed and utilized by an increasing number of stakeholders, collaborators and partners.

Performance Measures and Data Sources

1. GAPS Analysis Study will provide baseline data on what is valued afterschool and where gaps exist.
2. Minnesota Student Survey will provide data on use and trends in afterschool.
3. YCC collaborator and stakeholder survey to assess whether our collaborators and stakeholders are changing their values or ways in which they do business as a result of our collective work.
4. State and local policies and budgets will be used to measure current and new resources that support out-of-school time in Minnesota.

Goal Two

Increase the quality of practice and programs of providers of afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Objective One

Encourage local systems to align support for practitioners and organizations to deliver high-quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Objective Two

Convene private and public funders in the field of out-of-school time to enhance their understanding of quality and how to support it through the grant making process.

Strategies

1. Convene practitioners, organizations and funders in the field to enhance their understanding of quality and how to support it.
2. Convene learning academies with key stakeholders to enhance their understanding about research and innovation in practice.
3. Promote Minnesota’s quality framework to support the work of systems-level stakeholders – training organizations, funders, educators, providers - as they strive to ensure quality practice and programs in communities.
4. Coordinate technical assistance and training for local partners and systems-level supporters of out-of-school time in Minnesota.
5. Educate private and public funders through a youth funders network about the benefits of quality afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities to inform their grant making.

Outcomes to Goal Two

1. Increase understanding of quality practice and programs among collaborators and stakeholders.
2. Increase number of private and public funders that utilize Minnesota’s quality framework in funding quality practice in the out of school time.

Performance Measures and Data Sources

YCC collaborator and stakeholder survey to assess understanding and movement around quality improvement.

Goal Three

Sustain and grow the alliance to ensure the continuation of its key objectives.

Objective One

Support or increase the capacity of local partners to ensure high-quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities in their communities.

Objective Two

Increase the number of stakeholders engaged in the statewide alliance.

Strategies

1. Increase recognition of high-quality out-of-school time opportunities and champions through institution of publicized awards and recognitions events highlighting innovations and best practices.
2. Instituting learning academies to strategically bring together partners and potential champions to learn about emerging research, innovative practices and available resources to support quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
3. Create and implement a social media campaign to build support statewide for afterschool through its local partners.
4. Update YCC's three year sustainability plan.

Outcomes to Goal Three

1. Increase the number of communities that have innovative mechanisms or strategies to provide quality afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities
2. Maintain or increase public and private resources that support afterschool, summer and year-round opportunities.
3. Increase the number and diversity of champions for afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities.

Performance Measures and Data Sources

1. YCC collaborator and stakeholder survey to assess the number of local partners working collaboratively to support afterschool, summer and year-round learning opportunities in their community.
2. YCC Sustainability plan will outline the priorities and financing of the statewide alliance.