

Oregon Afterschool for Kids is the statewide network, a vehicle for bringing together policy-makers, educators, childcare providers, youth development workers, program developers, advocates, parents and others interested in improving the outcomes for children and youth. OregonASK is a collaborative member of the larger National Afterschool Networks and National Afterschool Association.

We believe that all youth can succeed and thrive given the right opportunity. We recognize that our state's diverse student populations cannot be solely and equitably educated through the methods found in traditional schooling and have needs requiring innovative strategies, alternative pathways, and expanded learning opportunities beyond the school day.

2014 Legislative Priorities & Talking Points

FOCUS ON SUMMER

Smart use of the summer months has the power to:

- **Support Academic Retention & Growth**
- **Close the Achievement Gap**
- **Keep Kids Healthy**
- **Parents & Families**

Therefore, to increase the return on investment of our education dollars and ensure all children, particularly low-income children, have access to high quality expanded learning opportunities during the summer we must:

1. Increase public investments in programs and organizations that provide summer learning opportunities in targeted high-risk, low-income communities.
2. Implement communication strategies to increase awareness and access to existing summer supports, including but not limited to the USDA Summer Food Service Program, public libraries' statewide summer reading program and academic and enrichment programs.
3. Intentionally incorporate the Oregon Education Investment Board Equity Lens in all actions, including but not limited to developing funding structures, requirements, and distributing funds.

SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

High quality expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) provided in afterschool and summer programs have the power to:

- **Support Academic Outcomes**
- **Engage Students**
- **Support Families**
- **Increase Health and Wellness**
- **Promote Positive Youth Development**
- **Provide a Low Cost Solution**

Benefits of ELOs are particularly significant for low-income students as they would not otherwise have access to many of these supports and services.

Therefore, in order to support student success both in and out of school, we must:

1. Create and maintain state-level funding for Expanded Learning Opportunities in targeted at-risk, low-income communities, so that programs, students and families have reliable and consistent resources.
2. Increase public, and leverage private investments in community based organizations; afterschool and summer programs that provide expanded learning opportunities.
3. Protect current funding sources, which include 21st Century Community Learning Center, Employment Related Day Care, the USDA Afterschool Meals & Snacks program and the Ready to Read Grant program.
4. Intentionally incorporate the Oregon Education Investment Board Equity Lens in all actions, including but not limited to developing funding structures, requirements, and distributing funds.
5. Reward and incent authentic partnerships between schools, after school providers and programs.