

Dear (name/title educational leader),

Thank you for all that you have been doing to support the well-being of young people throughout the pandemic. As a local community afterschool [and/or summer learning] program with years of experience in positive youth development, [name of program] shares your concerns about the well-being of students and their academic growth and we stand ready to work with you to provide our community's children with exceptional programs and support this spring, summer, and next fall. We want to help you achieve your goals for students' recovery, and would love to meet to hear about your priorities so that we can help.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been providing key supports to students and families here in our community. [Insert blurb about your program's role during the pandemic – delivery of learning kits, virtual and in-person programming, access to healthy meals, virtual check-ins to support overall wellbeing, etc.]

As the pandemic continues and as summer approaches, (district name) is faced with important decisions about how to best support social-emotional and academic recovery for our children, especially our most disadvantaged students. It is clear that schools cannot go at it alone and that expanding afterschool and summer learning programs within our schools, as well as expanding partnerships with our community-based OST programs is a crucial strategy. In fact, in the VDOE guide, [Navigating Virginia Education in Uncertain Times](#), it explicitly states on page 30, "School divisions should strengthen collaboration with summer and after school partners and organizations" when offsetting some of the effects of unfinished learning. Likewise, page 37 recommends "providing targeted intervention for students through tiered supports at flexible times (before, during, and/ or after school)."

In particular, out-of-school time programs offer:

- Support for student academic progress
- Opportunities for social, emotional and interpersonal connections
- Access to supports like physical activity, meals, and mental health
- Strong communications and connections with families
- The additional value of our community partners including libraries, parks, museums, business, and philanthropy

As you know, Dr. Lane outlined in [his April 30th Superintendent's memo](#), per federal guidelines, that "Not less than 20 percent of each division's formula funds must be reserved to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, ensuring that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups". We ask that as you are deciding how to best leverage the ARP, ESSER III funds that you invest heavily in support for students via afterschool and summer learning programs. Please include us in your planning so that we can design efforts

that best support your goals and the community's needs. ESSER and other available funds are available to support students via afterschool and summer learning programs. [If the district has a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grant, consider supplementing that program with ESSER funds to reach additional students this summer and fall]

Thank you for your consideration. We believe we have much to offer in helping not just extend students' learning to make up for what was lost, but provide opportunities to make social, emotional and academic learning gains that will help our young people recover from the pandemic.

Please learn more about our afterschool [and/or summer learning] programs here: [URL](#)

You may reach me at [email or phone](#). I will also follow up with your office by phone next week.

Sincerely,

Your Name/Title/Organization