



Establish State Mechanisms

Establish effective state mechanisms for supporting, resourcing, evaluating, and assuring access to quality out-of-school opportunities that provide positive choices for young people.

Critical directions for recommendations:

1. Create a statewide OST infrastructure around a League model through which organizations contribute to and benefit from collaboration and coordination around OST issues. Implementation of this model includes functions related to building OST capacity in Minnesota.

- the role of OST supports and opportunities in promoting positive youth development.
4. There will be a recognized leadership body held accountable for building OST capacity across the state.

What will look different if we succeed?

1. All Minnesota youth will engage in a variety OST activities with the following characteristics:
 - Multiple supportive relationships with adults and peers
 - Challenging and engaging activities and learning experiences
 - Meaningful opportunities for involvement and membership.
 - Physical and emotional safety
2. Every Minnesota community will provide youth access to a range of OST supports and opportunities.
3. There will be greater visibility of OST programs and public awareness about

What Types of Strategies, including Funding:

Structure:

- Include networks of youth serving organizations representing the broadest range of interest areas in League.
- There is a League office with staff and budget to oversee activities related to building OST capacity in Minnesota.
- League determines the best method to monitor student participation and access to programs in their local communities.
- League creates a framework for communities to use in implementing organizational standards for OST supports and opportunities-- recognizing the diverse characteristics of communities.

Policy

- Create state standards for youth participation in OST supports and opportunities.
- Develop organizational standards for providing OST supports and opportunities, e.g., eight essential elements.

- Create community self-assessment tool to identify available OST opportunities, gaps, and participants/non-participants.
- Provide incentives for communities to increase OST capacity to include full range of choices with broad appeal to youth, including formal and informal activities.

Communications

- Clearly articulate the role and importance of non-academic learning in promoting academic achievement and developmental outcomes for youth.
- Position OST opportunities as developmentally supportive to the “whole child”, bridging academic and non-academic learning goals.

Best Practices

- Educate public and private funders about OST quality standards.
- Recognize, promote, and endorse organizations that meet quality standards with League endorsement and /or something like a “star city” designation.
- Offer monetary incentives to OST organizations that meet OST standards.
- Demonstrate effectiveness of standards in positively impacting youth achievement and development.

Advocacy

- Create a voice for OST: League develops local and state level champions for OST, engaging broad range of interest areas and expertise.
- League documents OST gaps and opportunities across the state.
- League identifies youth who are not participating in OST activities and sets statewide goals to engage these youth.
- League sets goals and devises strategies to positively impact availability of OST choices and access across communities.

Youth Voice

- League devises strategy to ensure youth are represented in local community planning efforts.
- Youth are surveyed through a set of questions on the MN Student Survey to measure participation in OST activities and availability of activities in their local communities.
- System is devised to give young people credit for participation in all types of OST opportunities, including those that are informal.

Funding

- League provides leadership for maximizing OST funding through collaboration of public and private funding organizations at state and local levels.
- OST programs that are endorsed by League (meet standards) receive tax incentives.
- A Scholarship pool is established across public and private systems for youth who would not be able to participate in OST programs without financial assistance.

Youth Recommendations:

- #1: Community organizations, schools, and governing/administrative bodies work together and partner
- #2 Create an independent statewide entity
- #4: Establish a statewide set of quality standards for OST programming