



United Way of Rhode Island
Afterschool Leadership Circle

BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

Afterschool and Summer Learning are on the Map—Make Sure You Are, Too!

The Afterschool and Summer Learning Map has been an important resource for parents and families seeking summer opportunities for their children since 2011, the year it was first developed by the Afterschool Leadership Circle (then RIASPA.) United Way, in conjunction with the City of Providence, has recently updated the map to include a greater number of Providence-based programs. The map showcases a variety of exciting afterschool and summer programs for youth between the ages of 5-18. Click on the [link](#) to check out what others are doing at their program sites! The map can also be manipulated to show additional information by clicking on the icons in the upper right-hand corner. If any changes need to be made to the information about your program, please contact [Elana Rosenberg](#).

National Summer Learning Day is July 14, 2016!

[Summer Learning Day](#) is an annual national advocacy day led by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) to highlight the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer. For Summer Learning Day 2016, NSLA has put together a great toolkit of resources to help your community celebrate. In the kit, you will find:

- Talking points about summer learning
- Sample press release
- Social media copy for Facebook and Twitter
- Sample public service announcements
- Sample email and blog copy
- Mayor's Summer Learning Playbook
- And more!



Check out all of the Summer Learning Day resources by [clicking here](#).

You are also encouraged to put your program's event on NSLA's [interactive map](#) so that families can find you! The map is heavily promoted during the busy summer learning media season, so you'll want to get your program on the map as early as possible.

AROUND THE STATE NEWS: LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATE

Have something to share? Email Elana.Rosenberg@uwri.org to have your news included in BRIDGES!

News from RIDE

State Budget Includes Record Education funding; RIDE Budget Cut by \$4 Million

The House Finance Committee approved a Fiscal Year 2017 budget and transmitted the budget to the House for a vote. RIDE is pleased that the budget includes record funding for PK-12 education, including funds to expand the Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten program (\$5.2 million); the first categorical funding for English Learners (\$2.4 million); increased funding for students with disabilities (\$2 million); regional transportation (\$2 million); career-and-technical education (\$1 million); funding for free PSAT and SAT participation for all students in public high schools (\$500,000); and funding to provide instruction in computer science in all public schools (\$260,000), among other initiatives. Budget discussions have focused on revisions to the funding formula, particularly regarding aid to charter public schools, and these discussions will be on-going.

While RIDE recognizes that the budget supports education in several key areas, RIDE also wants to share its concerns about the cuts of more than \$4 million to the RIDE budget as proposed by the Governor. These cuts could hinder RIDE's efforts to move forward on several key initiatives. The cuts include:

- Elimination of the plan for providing leadership training for aspiring principals (\$1 million);
- Elimination of planning funds for schools considering developing innovative proposals to become Empowerment Schools (\$1 million);
- Elimination of funding to establish a team of "instructional fellows" at RIDE who would work directly with teachers in the field (\$750,000);
- Elimination of funding to carry on with RIDE's work on early learning, including advancing preschool program quality and developing a kindergarten-readiness profile (\$800,000); and
- Reduction in E-Rate funding that supports investments in broadband Internet access for schools and libraries (\$500,000).

RIDE will continue to work with Governor Raimondo's team and the General Assembly to advocate for the restoration of funds to support these vital initiatives, which serve the best interest of Rhode Island educators and students.

States, Feds Clash on Transition from NCLB to ESSA

State K-12 leaders busily trying to transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act are beginning to worry that the U.S. Department of Education is bent on trying to enforce the previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind Act, Chris Minnich, the Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers said in a recent interview. Read the complete story on the Education Week blog by [clicking here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

Campaign for Afterschool Toolkit

Election season presents an important opportunity to put afterschool on the radar of policy makers and the public in a visible and meaningful way. During election season, voters' concerns are brought to the forefront of the public debate. But what concerns will be raised? Ultimately, the voices of people like you in

local communities drive candidates' campaigns. This toolkit will help you bring afterschool into the conversation. Read more and access some great advocacy resources [here](#).

Seizing the Moment: Realizing the Promise of Student-Centered Learning

A growing body of evidence shows student-centered approaches close achievement gaps while raising the bar for all students. This research, combined with promise of the Every Student Succeeds Act, provides new opportunities for states and local school districts to reconsider how they can best provide educational opportunities for all students using student-centered learning.

This policy brief from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's "Our Piece of the Pie" presents a series of recommendations for building public will in support of student-centered learning, including priorities that can help to expand its practices more broadly at the local, state, and federal levels. You can download the Foundation's policy brief [here](#).

RESOURCES



Helpful Tips

10 Easy Tips for Helping Your Child Build Emotional and Social Skills over the Summer

Looking to encourage social and emotional learning at home over the summer? Check out the article below by Norrine L. Russell, Ph.D. for some ideas on how to build upon the critical interpersonal skills gained during the school year.

Teachers and parents alike worry about "summer slide" or the loss of academic skills over the summer months. But what about the critical social and emotional skills gained during the year through peer interactions, role modeling, and school programs? We want our children to continue growing in all ways over the course of the summer, including both their academic skills and their interpersonal skills. So how do we accomplish that?

1. Find a high-quality volunteer opportunity for your child. For older children, that might be a counselor-in-training position or a high school internship experience. Even high school freshmen can be qualified for many of your local programs at museums, zoos, or camps. For middle school children, helping out at a church or synagogue summer program can be perfect. Often there are one-week programs that can be the right introduction. For grade school children, look for ways they can help the neighbors. Perhaps they can volunteer to take out the recycling bins each week or bring over some home-made goodies.
2. Increase the responsibilities your children have around the house. Even though summer schedules can be chaotic with camps and vacations, it's still a good time to teach your tween or teen the next level of helping out. Maybe this is the summer they learn to do laundry or prepare a few simple meals.
3. Create opportunities for more in-depth discussions at family meal times. Check out card sets like Food for Talk or Table Topics (both available on Amazon) that provide meaningful topics for conversation. A lazy summer barbeque or ice cream sundae night can be the perfect time to get kids thinking about issues like values, life goals, travel, and understanding others.
4. Ask your children to complete a book like "A Grandparent's Memory Book" or "Memories for my Grandchild." Spending time with a family member, learning about family history, and learning to build a deeper relationship with someone of a different generation is a wonderful opportunity to build important interpersonal skills.

5. Ask your child to pick out 5-10 toys, games, or books and take them directly to a shelter or group home. Use the drive there and back to talk about the importance of giving back, no matter how much or how little your own family has.
6. Give each child in your family responsibility to plan a “Family Fun Night” (or afternoon). Purchase or check out from the library a book like “Family Fun Nights” to give them ideas. Ask them to think about everyone’s interests and plan something for everyone. Let them guide the activities—this will help them build leadership skills.
7. Give your child some solitary time to build independence. Allow them to be bored. Encourage them to find their own interests; this will build their self-knowledge.
8. When arranging play-dates, ask your child to think about who might be left out this summer. Is there a child in their class with a physical handicap or an annoying habit? Challenge your child to invite them over for an afternoon and get to know them. Connecting with people different than ourselves is a critical skill for everyone.
9. Look for opportunities for your child to challenge him or herself, even if they may not succeed. Perhaps your high school student takes a university class or your middle school student tries an on-line course for gifted students. Learning to challenge oneself and deal with the possibility of failure is a critical skill for emotional intelligence.
10. Invite your child on a trip to the local discount or book store and buy two journals—one for you and one for them. Keep a journal for the summer, helping each other to make a certain number of entries—perhaps three a week. Trade the journals and write notes to one another in them. This helps to build relationship skills and empathy.

There are endless opportunities to help your child grow as a person over the summer. The critical piece is to think carefully about making summer activities fun AND meaningful. If your activities build your children’s understanding of themselves and others and provide opportunities to build relationships, make decisions, and deepen empathy, they will go back to school as better people!

Every Hour Counts: Ten-year Convening Report

Ten years ago, the national coalition, Every Hour Counts, was formed at a convening of accomplished intermediary leaders and prominent funders in the after-school field. A decade later, funders and practitioners came together once again to reflect on the state of our field and begin to chart a course for its future. This [report](#) provides an overview of major developments in the expanded-learning field in the last ten years, and sets forth a vision for the future. The report describes the pressing social issues that impact student learning, including poverty and inequity, and examine the ways in which expanded learning can help remove some of the associated barriers.

Where Does Hate Come From? An Educator Responds to Orlando

Following the killing of 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, educator Peter DeWitt considers how to create a positive climate for students. Read his commentary on Education Week [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Swearer Center for Public Service: Community Innovation Projects Request for Proposals

The Social Innovation Initiative (SII), a program of Brown University’s Swearer Center for Public Service, seeks to support local community leaders in their exploration of new initiatives, programs, and services that address social issues. Community leaders will be matched with students who will work in partnership with

them to research the development of the new endeavor throughout the fall semester. These pairs may then apply for the Social Innovation Fellowship, a yearlong Swearer Center program from January through December that supports innovators as they develop their ideas and put them into action. This opportunity aims to offer support, educational opportunities, and mentorship to leaders who have ideas, but often may feel held back in pursuing them due to resource and capacity constraints. In addition, this opportunity provides students who are passionate about social issues and interested in social innovation a way to pursue these interests in the context of a community priority. For more information and the details of the RFP, please [click here](#) or contact Lizzie Pollock at lizzie_pollock@brown.edu or by phone at (401) 863-5457.

STEM Resources and Reading

[Five Ways to Reduce STEM Anxiety](#)

Afterschool programs can play a huge role in helping young people overcome STEM anxiety, and positive presentation and collaborative activities can help reduce or even reverse STEM anxiety. Here are five simple practices educators can use to address STEM anxiety.

[Free STEM Materials for Afterschool Programs](#)

Teachers can order free materials from the National Grid website to use to present information about key science concepts such as energy, energy conservation, and environment impact. These educational booklets are available for grades K-9.



Webinars: *The Afterschool Improvement Series*

[Registration Link](#)

Jim Murphy, Chief Programming Officer of the Out of School Time Professional Development Center, created his new webinar series, *The Afterschool Improvement Series*, a few months ago. These free informational webinars offer lots of tips and tricks for afterschool care providers and have been received with an overwhelming amount of positive response to the information and knowledge they share.

The Out of School Time Professional Development Center is pleased to announce they will continue the monthly webinar series accessible at the link above. Please feel free to register for as many webinars as you'd like. A certificate of completion will be emailed to you within 48 hours following the webinar.

If you are having trouble with any links, please contact Elana Rosenberg at elana.rosenberg@uwri.org or (401) 444-0658.