



Extended Learning Opportunities Support Student Learning

What are extended learning opportunities? How do they promote innovative thinking?

Extended learning opportunities refer to learning that takes place outside of the traditional classroom during the regular school day. For example, students find that they gain relevant knowledge and skills through independent study, tutoring, internships, work-based learning, community service, and online courses, among other things. (Partnership of NHDOE & PlusTime NH)

Extended learning opportunities are structured experiences and include volunteering, community service, work-based programs, organized sports, and art and music programs. They can also include tutoring, after-school programs, and other academic supports. They complement what students are learning during school and support students' academic learning. (Princiotta, 2009).

How do extended learning opportunities work to enhance learning?

Extended learning opportunities have a positive impact on academic performance, with variations by subject area and grade level. (Cooper-Martin, 2016).

Extended learning opportunities promote noncognitive skills such as positive outlook, positive self-concept, and realistic self-appraisal. (Soltani, 2017).

Expanded learning opportunities can help to close opportunity gaps for children from low-income families and neighborhoods. (America's Promise Alliance, 2015).

Work-based learning programs can help students gain employability skills and employment experience, gain experience in specific industries or professions of interest, apply academic skills in real-world work settings, and possibly lead directly to long-term paid employment. (JFF, 2020).

What skills and knowledge are needed to provide high-quality extended learning opportunities to students?

Extended learning opportunity programs must meet high quality standards to have a positive impact. These standards include: a clear mission, goals and frequent evaluation to support improvement; content-rich programming that engages students and builds both academic and non-academic skills; strong connections between schools, families and communities; qualified, well-supported, stable



program staff; a low student-to-staff ratio; and sufficient resources and funding over the long term. (Princiotta, 2009).

Communities that implement extended learning opportunities need not follow one established model in order to have a positive impact. When extended learning opportunities are part of a school curriculum, rather than separate programming pursued by individual families, they become available to students throughout the community. (America's Promise Alliance, 2015).

Related References:

America's Promise Alliance. (2015). Expanded Learning, Expanded Opportunity: How Four Communities Are Working to Improve Education for Their Students. files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED563819.pdf

Cooper-Martin, E., Wolanin, N., Jang, S., Modarresi, S., Zhao, H. (2016). Impact of the Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning (ELO SAIL) Program on Student Academic Performance: Part 1, Results from Fall 2012 to Fall 2015. *Montgomery County Public Schools*. <https://eric.ed.gov/?q=&id=ED568916>

JFF. (2020). "Why Work-Based Learning?" jff.org/what-we-do/impact-stories/center-for-apprenticeship-and-work-based-learning/benefits-work-based-learning/

Princiotta, D., Fortune, A. (2009). The Quality Imperative: A State Guide to Achieving the Promise of Extended Learning Opportunities. *NGA Center for Best Practices*. eric.ed.gov/?q=&id=ED507630

Soltani, P., Gutierrez Keeton, R., Hoffman, J. L. (2017). Noncognitive Variables and Student Learning in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 41(7) 405-421. eric.ed.gov/?q=&id=EJ1138852

Related Links and Resources:

[Supporting Student Success Through Extended Learning Opportunities](#) (Partnership of NHDOE & PlusTime NH)

- careertech.org/resource/power-career-employer-focused-training-education
- careertech.org/resource/externships-work-based-learning-teachers
- careertech.org/resource/demand-driven-education
- ccrcenter.org/sites/default/files/WorkBasedLearning_StateDefinitions.pdf