Summer Learning Toolkit - Domain 1: Students

A guide to leading your team in an evidence-based discussion about:

Generating and maintaining high student **attendance** and **engagement**.

Slide Deck #2

EdResearch

For Recovery

Domain 1: Students

Design Principle:

1. Attendance

Domain 1: Students

About This Domain: Attendance is a key driver for summer program success. It's critical that districts prioritize, recruit, and engage students to ensure that summer learning programs accomplish their stated goals. Domain 1 will look at keys for generating high attendance, strategies for recruitment, and how to create a positive site climate.

Use the discussion questions at the conclusion of this slide deck to generate conversation, ideas, and next steps. Examine the tools provided and see how they can help streamline your planning process.

Domain 1 Goal:

Generate and maintain high student attendance and engagement.

Domain 1 Tools from SCORE and TNTP:
1. Enrollment Example
2. Enrollment Staffing Worksheet
3. Family Engagement Plan
4. Partnerships with Families
5. Summer Program Advertisement Example

Next Steps:
1. Create a plan for recruiting students and families
2. Establish goals and expectations for site climate
3. Develop a plan for overcoming key barriers to attendance

Keys for High Attendance

☑ **Communicate expectations** and **benefits** of strong attendance during recruiting

☑ **Create** an **engaging** site climate with positive adult-student relationships

☑ **Remove barriers** to participation

☑ **Provide enrichment** activities in addition to academics

First Step: Student Prioritization

Before recruiting students and promoting your summer learning program, you must address two crucial questions:

1)   *Who are the students you want to target for summer learning programs?*

2)   *What are their learning needs?*

The answers to these questions will determine the content, structure, and goals of your summer learning program. Student prioritization goals must be clearly defined in order to ensure the program is meeting the needs of students.

The strongest benefits accrue for students with **at least 20 days** of attendance.

Strategies for Effective Student Recruitment

Accurate and Timely Recruitment Materials

Send families detailed information about program acceptance, transportation routes, and the program schedule.

Personalize Recruitment for Students & Families

The districts with the lowest no-show rates make personal connections with families in their program reminders.

Set an Enrollment Deadline & Attendance Policy

Create a structure that requires consistent engagement, not a drop-in model that allows for infrequent attendance.

Strategies to create a positive site climate

▶ Train all staff on the importance of **positive engagement** with students

▶ Develop a clear, **positive message** about the summer site culture and ask staff to convey it consistently to students

▶ Create a learning environment that is **interest-based** and **student-led**

▶ Intentionally **plan for fun!**

- 6 elementary, 2 middle, 1 high

- 5865 students

- 400+ teachers

- 14% ELL students

- 27% students in special education

Theory of Action for Woonsocket

Partner with CBOs and empower teachers to drive the planning for summer programs designed to meet students' academic and social needs…
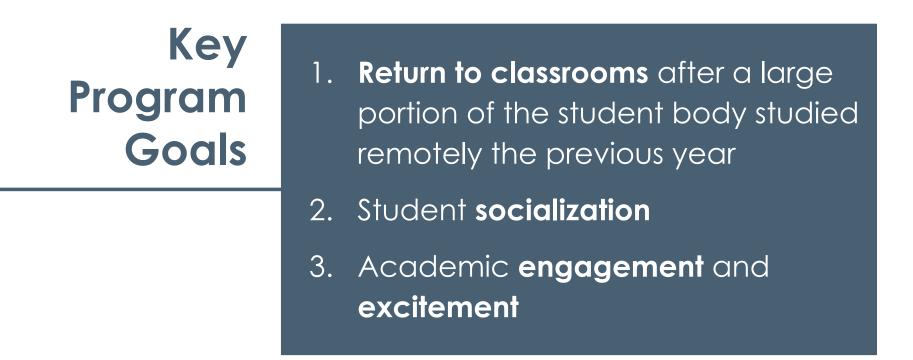
Then students will…

Have high attendance and engagement

Improve their social-emotional wellbeing

See meaningful academic progress

Key Program Goals

1. **Return to classrooms** after a large portion of the student body studied remotely the previous year

2. Student **socialization**

3. Academic **engagement** and **excitement**

Woonsocket used a flexible attendance model to make it easier for more student to attend. This model aligned with their program goals of having students return to the classroom, socialize, and get excited about academic work after a disrupted school-year due to COVID. However, if the primary goal for a program is academic improvement, then consistent attendance is crucial.

Woonsocket Summer Program By The Numbers

1,663 students enrolled

50%-88% daily attendance rate

37 teachers

27 paraprofessionals

9 nurses

8 program coordinators

Incentivizing Student Attendance in Woonsocket

➔ **All 3000 students** grades K-5 were offered the opportunity to participate

➔ **Flexible participation** allowed students to attend one, two, or all three of the 2-week sessions

➔ Any student attending the summer program for 2 or more weeks was entered into a lottery to **win an Ipad**

➔ **Engaging enrichment** activities at every site increased student interest and attendance

Domain 1: Students - Discussion & Reflection

Instructions: Spend time individually, or as a team, thinking through the following questions regarding student attendance.

To discuss:

- What are some potential barriers preventing consistent attendance?
- What opportunities could you leverage to help overcome these barriers?
- How can you utilize early, consistent communication with families to support strong attendance?
- How do you plan to generate enthusiasm and excitement about participating?
- How do you plan to create and sustain an engaging site climate?

Next Steps:

1. Create a plan for recruiting students and families
2. Establish goals and expectations for site climate
3. Develop a plan for overcoming key barriers to attendance

Dive deeper into *Domain 1: Students* with <u>tools from TNTP and TN SCORE</u>.