

NEWS & VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.



DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE SUMMER PROGRAMMING

SUMMER 2025

Secret Sauce for Sustainable Summer Programs - Partnerships!

When building programs, we want to design them to be self-sustaining. One of the best ways to do this is to work with community partners to create mutually beneficial, long-term collaborations. Leveraging local business relationships allows students to make connections to life beyond the classroom. They can learn both job and life skills through hands-on learning in collaboration with local businesses.



Ways to Work with Community Partners

- 1 Organize summer field trips to job sites to learn about the business
- 2 Incorporate real-world connections based on classroom learning.
- 3 Expand partnership into work-based learning placements for students

What Kind of Businesses Can I Partner With?

Here are some ideas of types of businesses you can partner with:

- Grocery Stores
- Restaurants
- Hospitality services
- Nurseries/Greenhouses
- But *any* local business can be a partner!

[Watch the webinar](#) & learn about the power of community partners in successful summer programming that can build momentum in the school year!

PRO TIP:

Using the term “extended school year” instead of “summer school” can make summer programming sound more positive for students.



Built-In Academics Make Summer Programming a Breeze

Project Discovery is a one-stop shop for your summer programming needs! This hands-on career exploration curriculum is perfect for students of all grades & functioning levels.

With core academics like reading and math built in, educators are free to generalize the curriculum to help students learn about their local communities & future employment opportunities.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
BUILT-IN ACADEMICS

“

What's added to the teachers' excitement is that they realize they don't have to be an expert... 'I can pick up this curriculum and I can teach it,' and it works out.

-J. Dukes
Philadelphia, PA



Industry Expertise Not Required!

With Project Discovery, you don't have to be an expert to teach career readiness. All our titles can be taught using the included Instructor's Notes. Confidently teach topics like Electricity, Greenhouse Work, Carpentry, & more! If you have Adapted titles, you can even watch the Video Modeling to teach yourself the tasks that students will be completing.

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PROJECT DISCOVERY

BUILD THE TRANSITION PROGRAM OF YOUR DREAMS!

Schedule a FREE 15-minute
Discovery Call to learn more!

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SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Community Partners in Philadelphia Collaborate with Extended
School Year Program for Student Greenhouse Initiative



The summer program at Martin Luther King High School in Pennsylvania is in fully bloom. Students ages 18 to 21 work in a greenhouse and garden that is managed by a local non-profit called Weavers Way Community Programs.

The bounty is harvested in the summer and is brought to the school's culinary chef for cooking classes or is delivered to the local health food co-op.

Jill Fink, the Executive Director of Weavers Way Community Programs (WWCP), says the students' bounty is more than she expects each year.

“We’re thrilled to support the district,” says Fink. “When the special education teachers approached us, we were happy to support them...Our community benefits from the produce the students bring to life. This is a powerful demonstration of what non-profits and schools can achieve in pursuit of helping students learn in innovative and experiential ways. We want them to be passionate about the skills and knowledge they gain.”



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

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