

Leading Forward in 2021

Join leading educators across California in [Leading Forward in 2021](#) to learn about strategies, tools, and tips to accelerate learning, equity, and well-being. Below are some professional learning opportunities offered through this initiative.

SPEAKER SERIES

- [Summer Programming 2021](#): CCEE convened an expert panel to discuss examples of district innovation, staffing solutions, key elements to consider when planning summer programming, and opportunities for district/community-based organization collaboration.
- COMING SOON: Speaker Series on UDL & Inclusive Practices



ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING PATHS

- [Thriving Socio-Emotionally](#)
- [Formative Assessment](#)
- [Systems Leadership](#)
- [Facilitating Mathematical Discussions](#)
- [SOAR Teaching Frames for Literacy](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

- CCEE Newsletter (June 2021) - Arts Enrichment
- 5/27: [Summer Program Marketing, Enrollment, and Engagement](#)
- 5/27: [Does it quack like a duck? Would I know a balanced assessment system if I saw one?](#)

Reversing the "Summer Slide"

By Tom Armelino, Executive Director, CCEE



[Research on summer learning loss](#) estimates that as much as two-thirds of the achievement gap in the elementary grades can be directly traced to learning loss in the summer, or what we call the "summer slide." In addition to preventing the "summer slide," districts are faced with the challenge of remedying the learning gaps that have widened even further due to the significant loss of in-person learning over the past 14 months ([PACE, 2021](#); [NWEA, 2020](#)).

Recognizing that there are no quick fixes, districts must embrace this summer as an opportunity to reengage students, assess their needs, and begin closing the learning gaps that will likely be evident in the new school year. A balanced approach that includes a blend of academics, social interaction, and enrichment is key to engaging students, increasing their sense of belonging, and unlocking their curiosity and passion for learning. The need to expand access to summer learning has never been greater or more important!

Summer learning also provides a renewed opportunity to invite various stakeholders to the table, including teachers, parents, and community partners, to collaborate as key designers of student learning. Consider leveraging the resources and expertise of key partners like the YMCA, county-wide recreation programs, churches, advocacy groups, social services, and other community-based organizations to expand access to both academic and mental health supports available to students.

To support districts in this ever-challenging opportunity, this month's newsletter will feature tools, strategies, and resources to design summer learning programs that provide the necessary settings to accelerate learning, while advancing equity for our most vulnerable student groups.



Click [here](#) to read Tom's full article.

Year-Round Learning – The Time Has Come

By Jennifer Peck, President & CEO, Partnership for Children & Youth (PCY)



Amusement parks, vacation destinations, and other industries have been built around the summer vacation, and many families as well as educators have become very attached to this ritual. However, for just as many families, and particularly those struggling financially who don't have the luxury of long vacations or time off from work, summer paints a very different picture. Rather than attending camp and going on vacation, the children of these families are left with little to do and often suffer from what we've coined the "summer slide".

With all we know from both research and experience, why do we consider learning as something that happens just between September and June or between 8am and 3pm? Children are learning all the time—in school and out of school. Our expanded learning and youth development sectors have worked very hard to fill those learning, enrichment, and relationship gaps that children living in poverty

experience after school, during winter and spring breaks, and over the long summer. But these out of school programs and opportunities aren't available to every child in every community, creating one of the biggest and most consequential inequities in our education system.

With unprecedented state and federal investments for expanded learning coming to schools and communities, and multiple years in which to spend, let's stop looking at school and afterschool, school year and summer, as such distinct and disconnected blocks of time. Let's use this summer as a launching pad for a different approach. For example, utilize new summer program approaches and partnerships to inform school year activities; include afterschool partners in early planning for next summer; and provide opportunities for blended professional development for teachers, school staff, and expanded learning partners so all are grounded with the information and skills they need to support children, all day and all year. As school districts tackle the important work of growing expanded learning opportunities for students, be sure visit our [Summer Technical Assistance Hub](#) to be connected to expert support with planning, program design and operation, partnerships, assessment and more.



Click [here](#) to read Jennifer's full article.

Summer 2021 Opportunities & the National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative

By Karen Cowe, CEO and Allie Rigby, Author, Ten Strands

As public parks and schools continue to open across California, this summer will feel different than last. Now is the time to expand outdoor learning programs and, in anticipation for fall, build school communities that heal. There are plenty of [inspiring case studies](#) and [free resources](#) to support outdoor learning, made possible by the [National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative](#).



In many communities, online and distance learning exacerbated many [existing inequities](#) for low-income families and students of color, and it became clear that students were not benefiting equally or equitably from online learning. In response to this, Green Schoolyards America (GSA), the Lawrence Hall of Science, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE), and Ten Strands launched the [National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative](#) to help get students outside in nature-rich and COVID-safe environments. As such spaces are [hugely beneficial](#) for the mental health, well-being, and social development of students, outdoor spaces offer one way to center equity. This robust collective impact initiative offers a [free online resource library](#) that includes guidance on transforming outdoor spaces into outdoor learning centers, strategies for teaching and learning, and health considerations in a world still experiencing a pandemic.

As summer draws closer, it's worth exploring all the resources that this initiative makes possible, especially since parks and schools are often the heartbeats of communities. From an equity and public health standpoint, it makes sense to invest in these outdoor learning spaces for long-term student health and resilience.



Click [here](#) to read Karen's full article.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- [Meeting the Needs of Early Learners this Summer](#)
- [The New Model of Change Leadership](#)
- [Theories of Action as a Tool for Developing & Implementing Balanced Assessment Systems](#)

Resources to Support Summer/Expanded Learning

- [NEW: Summer Technical Assistance Hub](#)
- [2021 CA Summer Learning Guide](#)
- [Getting to Work on Summer Learning: Recommended Practices for Success](#)
- [Summer Learning Toolkit & Recruitment Guide](#)
- [National Summer Learning Association Resources](#)
- [School Board Resources for Planning & Implementing Summer Learning Programs](#)

ABOUT THE CCEE

CCEE is a statewide agency designed to help deliver on California's promise of a quality, equitable Education for every student.

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