Community schools leverage partnerships to best meet the needs of students, families, and communities through a lead partner agency. The community schools strategy is used broadly across New York State, and one pillar of community schools is expanded learning, including afterschool. The Massena Central School District has utilized the community schools strategy to meet the needs of their community throughout the pandemic.

Recognizing the shared trauma, political instability, and economic uncertainty with students and staff as a result of the pandemic, Massena Central School District introduced and strengthened initiatives to meet the changing needs of the students and families they serve.

The district partnered with the Akwesasne Holistic Life Foundation to provide mindfulness education to school staff and students, impacting more than 400 staff and 1,400 students. The district also engaged their Rapid Response team to distribute PPE, classroom supplies, food, internet access devices, and other essential resources to students and families in need.

Team members have been actively involved in Parent Cafes, a forum to have open discussions with school, parents, and community partners on a broad range of topics.
relevant to a healthy school climate and environment. Additionally, kindergarten and junior high school teachers teamed up to touch base with children and families and provide relevant support and connection. These teachers have conducted more than 100 family home visits since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school district’s Director of Community Schools also facilitated conversations with mental health supports, school counselors, and administrators to strategize how they can provide ongoing support for students who need mental health services. Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on students and families, a community partner worked to integrate in-person and telehealth mental counseling for high school and junior high students at no cost to the schools.

To learn more about the community schools strategy and how it could be incorporated into more schools through new stimulus funding, visit the Network’s page on Leveraging Afterschool to Address Learning Loss.

---

**Program Spotlight**
Want to be featured on Facebook or our enews? Fill out the personal/program form to tell us about the great things you or your program are doing.

**Personal Spotlight | Program Spotlight**

---

**America After 3PM Summer Survey Results**

The Afterschool Alliance survey reveals demand for and parent perceptions of summer programs.

The America After 3PM survey, conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, highlights the unmet need for youth in summer programs—for every child in a summer program, there’s another child waiting to get in.

In New York, the survey found:

- 23% of New York children participated in a structured summer experience in 2019. Most of these children (30%) were in grades 6-8.
- 95% of parents stated that they were satisfied with their children’s structured summer experience.
- 98% of parents reported that opportunities for physical activity were important to choosing a summer program. 95% reported a desire for summer programs to build life skills.
- In terms of unmet need, 25% of children who are not in a summer program would be enrolled if it were available. At 36%, program expense was the most reported barrier to summer programming.
- 89% of New York parents support publicly funded summer learning opportunities.

The Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America’s Youth report highlighted the following findings from the national survey:

- Participation in summer programs was at the highest level ever in 2019 with nearly half of families (47%) participating.
- Parents prioritized a safe environment (97%) and knowledgable and caring staff (96%) when choosing a summer program for their children. This was followed by building connections, exploration, and being active in the summer.
• There is significant unmet demand, specifically in kids from families with low incomes. 27% of children from higher-income families participated in a summer program while only 14% of children from low income families did. 62% of families with low incomes would have enrolled their children in a program if one were available compared to 53% of families with higher incomes.
• 79% of providers of afterschool, expanded learning opportunities, and summer programs reported that they would provide summer programming. However, 82% were concerned about their program’s long term funding and future due to COVID-19.
• 88% of parents support public funding for summer learning opportunities across party lines.

Access state-specific data for New York. Read the full report.

Youth Grant Opportunity

This summer, America's Promise Alliance is launching a new round of $300 mini-grants through the Power of Youth Challenge, made possible through support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The Power of Youth Challenge provides funds, youth coaching, and a peer network for youth ages 13–19 across the U.S. who are leading service projects.

Priority deadline is June 15.

Learn more and apply or share with youth in your network.

Accelerate Learning with Afterschool Tutoring

Learning loss is a very real concern for students following more than a year of virtual and hybrid education.

Afterschool programs should consider ways they can help their youth address learning loss. One option is high-intensity tutoring, which according to a recent article from YouthToday, is widely considered to be one of the most effective methods to accelerate learning.

For tutoring to be effective, well-trained tutors should hold at least 3 sessions per week for 30+ minutes per session, with no more than 5 students in a group. Consistency is also critical, as youth need to be able to build relationships with their tutors.

For more information on the research behind high-intensity tutoring, as well as to access resources to help implement tutoring in your program, check out YouthToday’s article, "Effective Tutoring: Out-of-School Time Providers Need to Know What Works.”
Network for Youth Success Events

June 17: Virtual QSA—How to Conduct a Self-Assessment When You Can’t Meet in Person (10 am–12 pm)

Join the Network for this FREE session to learn how to use online tools to conduct a self-assessment with your team when you can’t be in the same room together. This session will explore how programs can still do a Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) program assessment during the pandemic.

Join Timothy Fowler to learn how a virtual meeting can help move quality improvement forward. Emphasis will be on techniques and tools to allow assessing, scoring, and discussion when program staff cannot meet in person. This session is being offered especially for those grantees in New York State who need to meet grant requirements when they may or may not be able to gather in person, as well as for program leaders who are leading the quality improvement process.

[Click here to register](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1701463537738536197&simpl=msg-f%3A17014635377404). Note that Zoom will send you your own personal link to attend the session in the confirmation email. Please save this email so you can join the meeting.

Starting in September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (online-asynchronous), Part 1

Looking for a way to meet the educational requirements to be a site director at a school-age program? Looking for a way to "build your bench?"

The [New York State School-Age Care Credential](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1701463537738536197&simpl=msg-f%3A17014635377404) will help you meet these needs! Throughout the course, you’ll learn how to meet children’s needs and reduce challenging behaviors, all while gaining confidence in yourself as a professional.

During the course, you’ll work with a trained advisor who will help to ensure your success in the program and will work with you to advance your skills and expertise as an afterschool practitioner. You’ll work with your instructor and advisor to further develop your knowledge in the 14 skill areas: professionalism, child development, safety, health, out-of-school environments, physical, cognitive, communication, creative, self, social, guidance, families, and operational program managements.

Candidates may even be eligible for scholarship funds through [SUNY’s Educational Incentive Program](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1701463537738536197&simpl=msg-f%3A17014635377404) to cover some or all of the costs associated with the course. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State.

**Course Details and Registration Information**

**When:** Wednesdays, 10am-1pm (with an occasional Tuesday)

**Where:** Healthy Living Center, 900 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206*
Instructors: Alicia Salamone-Powers, Erin Broderick, Timothy Fowler

Only those working in the Capital Region may sign up for this course.

*Note: We are hoping this remains an in-person course. However, depending on the circumstances this fall, we may have to go to virtual or hybrid.

[Register]

Check the Network for Youth Success events page anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.

Other Events

June 2: You are Not Who You Were: Healing from the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Trauma (webinar; 4–5 pm ET)
The topic of childhood trauma is more relevant than ever as we emerge from a pandemic that has gripped the globe. Join The Science and Entertainment Exchange for a discussion with pioneering physician and California’s first-ever Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris as she reveals the science behind Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. ACEs and toxic stress are the root cause of some of the most harmful and expensive societal and health challenges—including heart disease, cancer, and mental health disorders such as depression, PTSD, anxiety—just to name a few. The good news is toxic stress is treatable. Learn about ACEs, the science of toxic stress, and what we can do to heal ourselves and our children. The conversation will be moderated by writer/executive producer Wendy Calhoun – whose work spans such TV hits as Empire, Revenge, and Nashville. To register, click here.

June 3: Afterschool Alliance: ARP: School-Age Child Care Opportunities for Afterschool and Summer (webinar; 2 pm ET)
The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) passed in March of 2021 provided close to $40 billion for child care programs split between a stabilization grant program ($24 billion) and a one-time $15 billion increase for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which could expand opportunities for access to high-quality care; improve affordability for families; increase supports and training for caregivers and providers; and more adequately meet program operational needs, among others. Research shows that investments to improve access, quality, supply, and affordability along the full age continuum matter. And equitable access matters as well.

In this webinar, speakers will discuss the importance of directing some of these essential new child care funds to school-age care, including afterschool and summer programs, and outline information for providers on how the funds might support their work and ability to serve youth and families equitably. To register, click here.

June, Various Dates: Positive Youth Development (PYD) 101 Web Series
At a time when face-to-face trainings are not feasible, please join PYD for a series of webinars exploring positive youth development and its core principles and strategies. Drawing from the PYD 101 training, this web series will introduce updated material and new resources. Although the PYD 101 training was developed with professionals new to the field of youth work in mind, it may serve as a good refresher for experienced youth work professionals. (All times in EDT.)

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1701463537738536197&simplog=1msg-f%3A1701463537738536197...
June 8: PYD I: Foundations (11 am)
In this webinar, PYD will define positive youth development and explore key theoretical frameworks and research findings. PYD I will also summarize the current understanding of adolescent development. Register now.

June 10: PYD II: Positive Youth Development Outcomes (1 pm)
One important principle of PYD is to focus on building positive youth outcomes instead of preventing or fixing problematic behavior. PYD II will take a look at different outcome models. In addition, this session will discuss and practice strategies for building positive outcomes through a strength-based approach. Register now.

June 15: PYD III: Youth Voice and Engagement (11 am)
Another key principle of PYD is youth voice and engagement. PYD III will explore ways to provide young people with meaningful roles and responsibilities. Authentic youth engagement, however, does not happen without addressing barriers such as adultism and other forms of adult resistance. Register now.

June 17: PYD IV: Youth Development Programming (1 pm)
This session will review features of effective youth development programming, reflect on inclusive program environments, and explore youth-centered learning approaches and resources. Register now.

June 22: PYD V: Youth Work Ethics (11 am)
In this final webinar, PYD will take a closer look at what it takes to be a youth work professional. This session will discuss competency frameworks and professional development opportunities internally in agencies and in the community. In addition, PYD will explore ethical dilemmas youth workers may face along with personal and professional boundary issues. Register now.

July 12–16: National Summer Learning Week
National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school ready to succeed in the year. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) developed this webpage to share toolkits and resources to support summer planning and promote National Summer Learning Week. To access more information and resources, click here.

Summer Bootcamp: Get Ready for Summer Series (recording)
The Summer Bootcamp Series provides program leaders with the tools they need at this moment to keep kids healthy, learning, earning, and thriving through this pandemic and beyond. In this series, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) dives into strategies to accelerate learning, build critical partnerships, and plan successful programs with evidence-based practices relevant to any scenario of summer plans emerging this season. To view the recordings and materials, click here.

Quick Ways To Support the Network
Support us through Amazon Smile.
Make a donation.
Become a member.
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Please visit our website at networkforyouthsuccess.org.
Donate to our cause at networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate.

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180