



Memo

Date: August 5, 2019

To: Park Board/Park District Oversight Committee

From: Justin Cutler, Recreation Division Director
Lori Chisholm, Out of School Time Manager
Mike Browne, Won Choi, Damien Hicks, Kristin Evans,
Will King, Monica Haugen – CLC Coordinators

Subject: Community Learning Center (CLC) program

Requested Committee Action

Briefing for Information Only

Project or Policy Description and Background

The evolution of school-based Community Learning Centers funded through the City's Families and Education Levy.

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Community Learning Center program began with the passage of the first Families and Education Levy in November 1990. This ground-breaking initiative sought to support our most vulnerable children and their families, both in and out of school, to help all Seattle's children become safe, healthy, ready to learn, and bridge the opportunity gap.

Voters renewed the levy in 1997, 2004, 2011 and most recently voted to approve the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise levy in 2018. For over 20 years, the Community Learning Center program has leveraged other grant resources and partnerships to positively impact the lives of students and families.

The focus of the Community Learning Center program supports the goal that ***All children will graduate from school college/career ready***. This is achieved through school-based after school and summer academic, enrichment, recreation, mentoring and family engagement opportunities. Students and families are served at Aki Kurose, Denny International, McClure, Mercer and Washington middle schools and Northgate Elementary School. There are six full-time Recreation Program Coordinators, supported by part-time Recreation Leaders, based at the schools. Staff build relationships, develop programs and work collaborative with school administration and staff. All levy investments are performance and outcome based with specific outcomes and targets for specific students in language arts and math, attendance and participation.

Through a data sharing agreement with Seattle Public Schools, student data is used to inform the specific needs of students that are below State standard as well as tracking progress of students. Programs and activities are designed to meet these unique needs whether academic supports and

interventions focused on specific learning standards, enrichment activities that emphasize applied knowledge and skill building, group mentoring, family engagement or opportunities to broaden student experiences and interests through recreation. Each program or activity is designed to meet the needs of the student, to support their success, help them develop social/emotional skills and provide an environment that celebrates their cultural and personal identity. At the core of our work is the City's Race & Social Justice Initiative and overcoming institutional disparities in public education.

In addition to levy investments, over the last seven years, resources have been leveraged through grants including: State 21st Century Community Learning Center, Raikes Foundation, Best Starts for Kids and Youth Development Executives of King County grants totaling over \$1.4 million dollars.

Highlighted Community Learning Center Programs

My Brothers & Sisters Keeper and Herman@s Unid@s:

These programs were inspired by President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative and provide supportive, culturally relevant group mentoring for Black/African American students at the five middle schools. The program is curriculum-based and brings together adult mentors who reflect the cultural and racial identity of our students. Through group activities mentors/mentees explore issues and topics effecting students and their communities, set personal and academic achievement goals, participate in community service projects, and explore new ideas and experiences. Students can earn a stipend each semester by meeting their goals. This program was awarded the Washington Association School Administrators award for excellence in Community Leadership in 2018.

Summer Learning:

Often called 'Summer School', we have put a youth development twist on the summer learning experience. Almost 900 students that have struggled during the school year come to our 5-6-week program offered at the five middle schools and one elementary school. In the morning, students engage in targeted small group learning activities using teacher-led instruction, hands on learning and practice through games to fill in learning gaps and leap ahead into the next school year. Incoming 6th graders learn how to navigate middle school better preparing them academically and socio-emotionally for this life transition. All students in the afternoon participate in enrichment and recreation activities. Yellow bus transportation is also provided to and from program. The goal of this program is mitigating summer learning slide and accelerate learning, so all students are at grade level in language arts and math.

College & Career Exploration:

A new initiative, starting summer of 2019, brings college and career exploration to our middle school students. Over 600 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students visited local colleges, technical & trade schools, and Universities. Sixth grade focuses on the Seattle Colleges and other community colleges, Seventh grade on Technical & Trade schools and Eight grade on larger colleges and universities. For 8th graders, the experience culminates in a 3 day overnight, out of town college tour. The goal of this new effort is to better students for high school and provide a meaning experience to explore the many paths available beyond high school and into careers.

Attachments: MBSK/HU 2019 Camping Trip photos, South Seattle Emerald article



