



Out-of -School Time Definition

Out-of-school time (OST) programs operate ten hours or more per week on an on-going basis serving school-age (K-12) children. OST programs provide regularly scheduled, structured and supervised activities where learning opportunities take place outside the typical school day. OST programs may occur before school, after school, weekends, or during seasonal and track breaks.

Out-of-school time programs provide multiple activities. In this definition OST programs do not include single focused activities such as religious education (CCD classes), music lessons (piano practice), sports practice (little league), tutoring, or school-based clubs (debate team). NAN believes these single focused activities serve an important purpose but are not defined as out-of-school time programs.

Components of OST Programs

Settings

Out-of-school time programs include private and public programs operating in a variety of settings. Program settings include public facilities such as schools, libraries, parks and recreation or community centers, colleges and universities, as well as private facilities. Providers include school districts, municipalities, and national not-for-profit organizations (4-H, The Y, Boys & Girls Clubs), local not-for-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and for-profit agencies.

Funding & Support Mechanisms

Out-of-school time program funding differs across the state depending on the needs and demographics of the community being served. Programs may or may not charge a fee. Sources of program funding may include: tuition fees; federal, state and local grants; donations from businesses, foundations, religious affiliations, individual donors; as well as non-monetary donations.

Activities

Out-of-school time programs deliver activities to promote positive youth development which may include but are not limited to the following: academic support; educational enrichment; STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), cultural and social development; recreation; sports; fitness and wellness; visual and performing arts; tutoring and homework services; civic engagement; leadership skills; career exploration; service learning; college preparation; and development of the whole child.

Out-of-School Time Staff

Out-of-school time programs require support staff with a variety of job titles and job descriptions. With the exception of the administrative staff, most out-of-school-time staff are part-time and/or seasonal. Direct-line staffing may include: site leaders/program coordinators, youth development workers, youth workers/leaders, instructor, teachers, college students, recreation leaders/specialist, teacher assistants, childcare worker, as well as student workers (high school students) and volunteers.