

Episode 51: Tips and Lessons from Summer S.O.L.E

One of the four components of the West Virginia Campaign for Grade Level Reading is extended learning. It is important to provide students with engaging and planned activities before school, after school, and during the summer months. Join two of the early and elementary learning specialists as they are accompanied by Christy Schwartz, a coordinator at the West Virginia Department of Education. Christy played a large role in the development of the summer SOLE (*Student opportunities for learning and engagement*) programming in response to Covid-19 learning loss. To check out a previous podcast episode that discusses the Summer SOLE program in depth tune in to Episode 34: Summer Learning Recovery.

In this episode, Christy shares some of the overall successes of the Summer SOLE program which includes the participation of 476 different sites during the 2021 summer. She also talks about the importance of offering those engaging, hands-on activities for students. It seems there has always been a focus on remediation during summer programs but Christy shares that it was important to her and her colleagues to create a type of program that provided activities that were engaging and fun so students would be excited to attend their summer programs. Tune in to hear more of this rich conversation about extended learning.

What to listen for:

- What are some of the challenges programs faced? Were they able to overcome these challenges? How?
- What changes were made to summer programming after the pandemic began? should these practices be kept in place?
- What key components do you feel summer programs should be sure to include in their plans?
- What new opportunities are there for summer programs to build community partnerships for the 2022-2023 school year?

Resources:

Behavior and Mental Health TAC. (2021, November 8). <https://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/>
STEAM TAC at West Virginia University. (n.d.). <https://steamtac.wvu.edu/>
Summer sole. West Virginia Department of Education. (n.d.). <https://wvde.us/summer-sole/>
WVU Extension. (n.d.). <https://extension.wvu.edu/>
[Leaders of Literacy Episode 34: Summer Learning Recovery](#)

Subscribe:

Are you subscribed to the Leaders of Literacy Podcast? If you are not, make sure to do that today because we do not want you to miss any episodes!