



SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER LEARNING IN MICHIGAN

Battle Creek Public Schools and Partners

Intentional Planning for Expanding Access to Summer Learning

In 2021, [Battle Creek Public Schools](#) embraced a new vision of summer learning. Over the course of that spring, a district design team—including educators, social-emotional learning experts, administrators, and community partners—met for more than 25 hours to plan for the redesigned program that would make use of a wide range of community partnerships and evidence-based strategies for improving academic learning and whole child development. Their vision: “A student’s experience in the summer program will serve as a bridge to their academic and social/emotional success in their next year of school and invite them to return the following summer.”

“Recognizing first and foremost, it has to be different than it’s been. And absolutely within the plan for fun! The vision is that we’re going to bring people together and remind them of the joy that can be found in being together and learning.”

– Battle Creek Director of Secondary Education

Summer by the Numbers

- 3 Sites
- Grades K–5, 6–8, 9–12
- 25 Total Days
- 804 Students
- 12% English Learners

District Snapshot

- 7 Elementary, 3 Middle, and 2 High Schools
- 3,850 Students
- 73% Economically Disadvantaged
- 8% English Learners

Snapshot source: [MI School Data](#), 2021–22 school year

Note: The district also operates a free, full-day [Kinderqarten Success Program](#) for rising kindergarteners.

Program Design

| Category | Component of Design | Research-Based Considerations (Adapted from EDResearch for Recovery) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Program Structure | Duration | 6 weeks, for 24 days (with an additional 6 days if students participate in Friday programming) for up to 7.5 hours each day. |
| | Program Size | 1:12 student-to-adult ratio; elementary, middle, high school sites. |
| | Recruitment & Attendance | Direct outreach to students in traditionally underrepresented populations; recruitment emphasizes enrichment opportunities and is led by design team “ambassadors” and community partners. |
| | Enrichment Activities | “Fun Fridays”; emphasis on field trips; partner-led programming (e.g., aviation, healthcare, science). |
| | Academic Curriculum | Project-based learning in middle school and themed offerings in elementary and high school (with credit recovery options in high school); use of DreamBox, iReady, Moving with Math, Scholastic Lit Camp, and other teacher-created resources. |
| Personnel | Academic Staff | Preference to new teachers and fall interns for staffing with support from a teacher mentor/instructional coaches; high school students participating in dual enrollment education coursework serve as classroom assistants; all staff receive professional development. |
| | Enrichment Staff | Supported by partnerships (e.g., Kyd Network provides staffing for Fun Fridays; other enrichment programming led by partners). |
| | Leadership | District design team includes representatives from partner organizations; a summer principal leads each program. |
| Partnerships | Partner Roles | Vary, with partners including the 21 st Century Community Learning Centers, local museums, a university, the library, the visitor’s bureau, Goodwill Industries, other community organizations focused on specific cultural communities, and a local foundation. |
| | Agreements | Largely “handshake deals to-date.” |
| Operations | Facilities | District provides rent-free use of school buildings and food service; nutrition for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. |
| | Transportation | Provided by the district. |
| | Funding | Title 1 funds and grants from foundations. |
| | Evaluation | Led by design team; includes common metrics, with pre- and post- tests, student/family and staff experience surveys, observations, and use of fall assessment data for growth comparison. |

For more information on how the Michigan Department of Education is supporting partnerships, visit its [Out-of-School Time & Summer Learning web page](#) or email Richard Lower at LowerR@Michigan.gov.

Page 1 caption: Students participating in Battle Creek Public School’s Bearcat Blast Summer Program.



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