

## Extended Learning

### What is Extended Learning?

Extended Learning opportunities seek to transform the educational experience to fully engage students in their learning, their passions, and their interests. Extended Learning opportunities foster collaboration and partnerships among teachers, schools, and community partners to effectively use the school day so that it is unrestricted by walls (blended and online learning), calendars (expanded school week and year) or tradition.<sup>1</sup> **Focus is on learning.**

### Extended Learning Research

Studies show children who come from low-income households often enter kindergarten less prepared than their middle-class counterparts and lag behind in school throughout adolescence.<sup>2</sup> For students who need extra support to be successful academically, what happens before and after school can be as important as what happens during the school day. Many schools offer extended learning programs as a strategy for improving or enhancing student achievement. Extended learning opportunities help struggling students.

Research suggests that regular participation in programs that provide academic and social activities contribute positively to children's academic and social development. In fact, a study shows that extended learning has a positive impact on students' grades, academic achievement, and self esteem.<sup>3</sup>

### What does Extended Learning look like?

Effective extended learning programs combine three components: academic enrichment, cultural activities, and youth development opportunities, which guide learning and engage students.<sup>4</sup> Enrichment activities complement the school day's learning, not duplicate.

Discovery Program is a 21st Century program that provides after school and summer academic enrichment. The Discovery Program is offered at General Beadle, Knollwood, and Horace Mann Elementary.

Ateyapi is a mentoring program, which also offers information about careers and obesity reduction. Ateyapi is offered at General Beadle, Knollwood, and North Middle School.

Rapid City Public Library also offers extended learning opportunities.

### References

<sup>1</sup>[http://colegacy.org/images/uploads/ELO\\_Commission\\_Overview.pdf](http://colegacy.org/images/uploads/ELO_Commission_Overview.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Extended Learning Opportunities: A Policy Statement of the Chief State School Officers, 2006. [www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/PolicyStatementOnExtendedLearningOpportunities.pdf](http://www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/PolicyStatementOnExtendedLearningOpportunities.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Durlak, J.A., & Weissberg, R.P. (2007). *The impact of afterschool programs that promote personal and social skills*. Chicago, IL. Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning.

<sup>4</sup> *Supporting Student Success: A Governor's Guide to Extra Learning Opportunities*, [www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0509GOVGUIDEEO.PDF](http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0509GOVGUIDEEO.PDF)