



**COMMISSION ON OUT OF SCHOOL TIME GRANTS AND YOUTH OUTCOMES
STRATEGIC PLAN
Adopted September 6, 2018**

About Learn24

Learn24 is a network of before—and after—school and summer programs, also called out-of-school time (OST) programs, launched by Mayor Bowser in 2017 to ensure that youth in Washington, DC have access to quality educational and enrichment activities beyond the school day.

A decade of research indicates that youth¹ who regularly participate in quality OST programs benefit in terms of their academic performance, social and emotional development, and health and wellness. In addition, youth participation in OST programs can result in: improved school attendance; higher graduation rates; lower dropout rates; stronger academic performance; and improved positive behaviors and work habits.

The Commission on Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes (Commission) and the Office on Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes (OST Office) supports access to, and cultivation, of high-quality OST programs by:

- Building the skills for adults who work with youth in OST programs through workshops and conferences organized by The Institute for Youth Development within the OST Office;
- Working directly with OST program leaders and staff through observation, assessment, and coaching to improve program design and implementation;
- Communicating the importance of quality to key stakeholders to increase accountability across the network of OST providers;
- Providing access to funding; and
- Measuring and reporting on outcomes for youth who participate in programs across Learn24.

About the Commission

The Commission is a public body composed of engaged residents and representatives from government agencies to support equitable access to high-quality OST programs for District of Columbia youth through coordination among government agencies, targeted grant-making, data collection and evaluation, and the provision of training, capacity building and technical assistance to OST providers. The Commission will provide resources and support to ensure a citywide system of high-quality OST programs.

Vision

All youth across the District of Columbia have the skills, attitudes, and knowledge necessary to achieve and thrive in school, the workplace, and their communities.

Values

- **Youth Voice:** Youth contribute directly to decisions that impact their lives.
- **Equity:** Decisions are made recognizing structural racism with a determined focus on dismantling those systems and achieving equitable outcomes for youth.

¹ Youth is used throughout the document to include children and adolescents in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

- **Commitment to Learning:** Continuous improvement and learning leads to stronger and more effective systems, organizations, and programs.
- **Mutual Respect and Responsibilities:** Respecting the unique insights, resources, and contributions of all stakeholders leads to the realization of a collective vision.

Key Findings from 2017 OST Needs Assessment

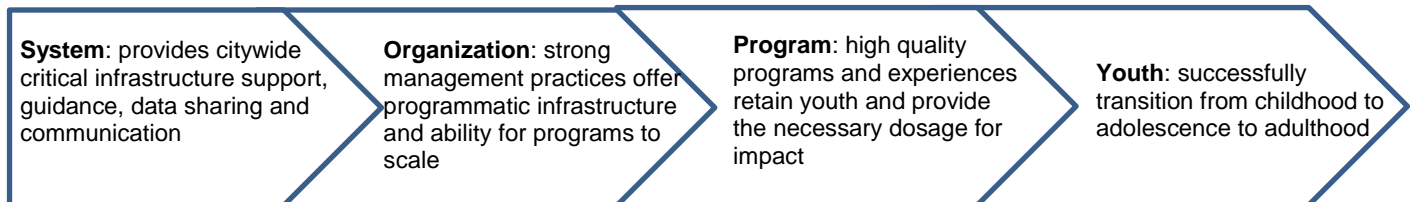
- **Afterschool capacity**
 - 33,400 youth attend regular afterschool programming in Washington, DC
 - This total includes 28,700 youth in pre-K to 8th grade and 4,700 youth in grades 9 to 12
 - Main providers are schools and community-based organizations (CBOs)
- **Summer school capacity**
 - 15,500 youth from pre-K to 12th grade participate in summer programs in Washington, DC
 - This total includes 4,700 entering pre-K3 to 8th grade, and 10,800 in grades 9 to 12
 - Excluding Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program participants, the number of summer program participants in grades 9 through 12 was less than 2,800

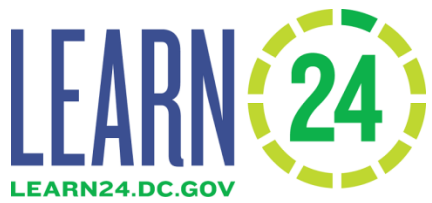
Estimated Gap in OST Program Capacity under four policy goals

Goal	Afterschool		Summer	
	Pre-K3 to grade 8	Grades 9 to 12	Pre-K3 to grade 8	Grades 9 to 12
Universal coverage	-37,600	-12,400	-61,600	-6,300
130 percent poverty	-11,400	-5,600	-35,500	400
“At risk” status	-1,600	-4,300	-25,600	1,700
100 percent poverty	11,900	600	-12,200	6,700

Source: Taylor, Yasim Sayen and Kathryn Zickuhr (2017). Needs Assessment of Out-of-School Time Programs in the District of Columbia. Washington D.C.: DC Policy Center. Retrieved from <https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FINAL-OST-DRAFT.OCTOBER-16.corrected.pdf>

Theory of Change





Strategic Priorities

Over the next three years, the Commission and the OST Office will focus on the following four strategic priorities to achieve our vision. Each strategic priority must remain anchored in our values of **youth voice, equity, commitment to learning, and mutual respect and responsibilities**.

1. Funding and Capacity Building

The OST Commission prioritizes closing the gap in OST program capacity; this is achieved when all Washington, DC youth have equitable access to diverse, high-quality programs in locations convenient to them.

The Commission will support Learn24 in closing the gap in OST program capacity by guiding the OST Office in its mission to provide financial, technical, and educational resources to a wide range of OST providers, large and small, who have established trust with their communities and have experience meeting the needs of their communities.

2. Quality

High-quality programs engage youth in the authentic expression of voice and choice by providing safe and supportive environments, caring adults, and structured activities. The Commission prioritizes ensuring that all Washington, DC youth have equitable access to high-quality OST programs.

The Commission will set guidelines for the OST Office on how to define, measure, assess and increase program quality.

3. Outcomes

Outcomes are the strides the Commission expects youth will make through participation in OST programs. Outcomes must evolve with young people as they grow physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively.

The Commission prioritizes supporting Learn24 in ensuring that all D.C. youth have access to programs that allow them to achieve outcomes. The Commission will guide the OST Office on how to define, measure, and assess outcomes.

4. Coordination and Collaboration

To build a strong and sustainable system that supports high-quality OST programs, the OST Office will rely on the help and input of youth, families, OST providers, experts, and government agencies.

To achieve this goal, the Commission will encourage connection among various stakeholders including: the OST Office, District of Columbia government agencies, non-profit entities, parents, and youth.