

What are OST Programs?

Out-of-school time (OST) programs occur before and/or after school, in the summer, and any other time when school is not in session. Publicly-funded programs include:

- **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)** - run programs at schools or at their own facility (ex: DC SCORES, Sitar Arts Center, Girls on the Run, etc.). Many of these programs are in the Learn24 Network, which is run by the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME).
- **DCPS and Public Charter Schools** - Schools may offer before and after care, individual clubs, and/or academic tutoring.
- **Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)** - offers a wide variety of programs that take place in the summer, winter, and during school breaks.
- **Department of Employment Services (DOES)** - Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) places high school students in summer jobs and internships to gain work experience and skills.

Why are OST Programs Important?



Academic enrichment: Participation in OST programs leads to higher academic achievement and engagement in school and increases attendance rates.



Exploring new activities and finding the JOY in learning: OST programs help kids explore their passions and build their curiosity.



Social emotional learning and building social skills: OST programs help kids develop relationships with peers and trusted adults and critical SEL skills they need to be successful in life. OST programs are also shown to reduce crime rates.



Safe, productive space for kids while caregivers are working: Many parents turn to OST programs to make sure their children are well-supervised and supported during the workday.

What Are Key Factors for a High-Quality OST Program?

OST programs' benefits are realized through **high-quality** programs that have:

- **Engaging curriculums** - programs should be intentionally designed to provide enriching activities.
- **Trained, dedicated instructors** - staff should be trained to be culturally competent, work well with students with special needs, and have a trauma-informed approach.
- **Resources to support enrichment** - programs need adequate space, materials and/or technology to support activities, and healthy and safety supplies.



Access to OST Programs in DC

DC does not have equitable access to enriching programs across income-levels, and race, as noted in PAVE's 2021 Fall Back to School Survey.

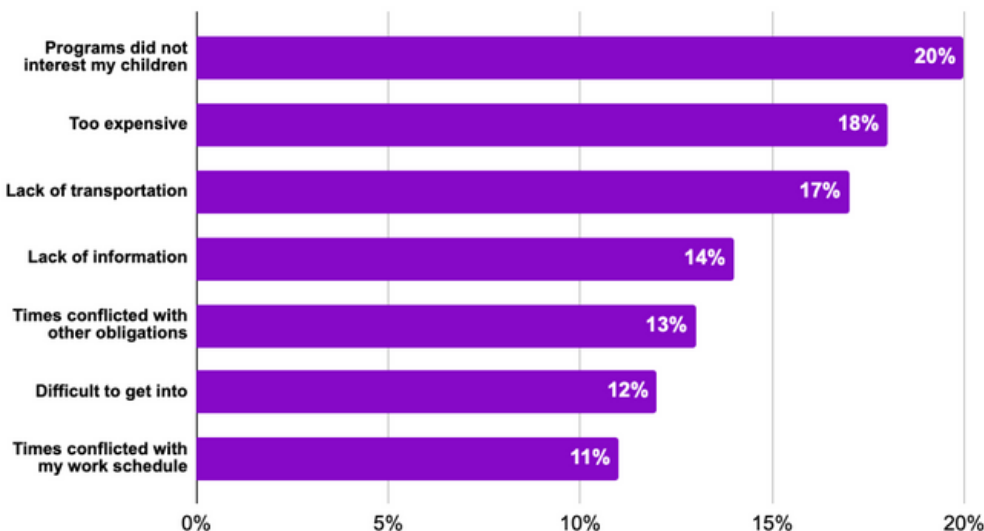
- **Overall participation:** Only 45% of DC students participate in OST programs. Within that group, 69% of parents reported their kids most often participate in OST programs that take place at their school (which may include CBO programs and before and after care programs).
- **Participation by Race:** 58% of white students participate in OST programs while 41% of Black students and 43% of Latinx students participate in OST.
- **Participation by Income:** Low-income families (or those make under \$25K) are 32% less likely than higher income families (earn over \$100K) to participate at all.

Key barriers to access:

- **Cost:** DC offers some scholarships or discounted-rates, but not all parents are aware or eligible. Many families with incomes right above the eligibility threshold are still struggling financially, especially those with multiple children. Documentation status also impacts eligibility for aid.
- **Transportation:** There is a lack of programs East of the River and in-demand programs often require long travel times. This is a challenge for families who may not have access to a car or aren't able to bring their kids during the workday.
- **Access to information:** Too many parents are unaware of where to get information about OST programs, how to register, or how to apply for financial assistance.
- **Lack of age-appropriate or high-quality programs:** programming must be tailored to children's age and interest.



Barriers to Participation in OST Programs



Parents Have Called on DC Leaders to Increase Access to OST Programs by:

- Improving **information sharing** about programs, how to sign up, and financial aid options available.
- Work with families, educators, and OST providers to create a **community-driven strategic plan** to inform the types of and locations of programs in the expansion plan.
- Invest in **supports for students with special needs** during OST programs.
- Support **OST staff with resources and training**.

Graph (left) exhibits data from the PAVE's 2021 Fall Back to School Survey

How You Can Get Involved

- Testify at a DC Council or SBOE meeting
- Write a blog to share your experience
- Email organizers@dcpave.org
- Check out Learn24 for information about OST programs at <https://learn24.dc.gov>