



Aligning the Learning Day: A Workshop

This new workshop from NAESP and the National AfterSchool Association focuses on the issue of alignment between the traditional school day and after-school programming.

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by Judy Nee

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) have collaborated to develop a new workshop focused on the issue of alignment between the traditional school day and after-school programming. “Aligning the Learning Day: Collaboration Strategies for Principals and After-school Program Directors” is designed to engage principals and after-school program directors in activities and discussions that will lead to a deeper understanding of their work and the opportunities that are possible with greater collaboration.

NAA, the only professional association for after-school staff, represents almost 10,000 members in all 50 states and internationally. NAESP and NAA have long supported one another, but this is the first collaboration designed to bring together members of both organizations to discuss how they can work together on the local level. The training was piloted last year at NAESP’s convention and at the NAA annual conference. The training also formed the basis of the after-school track at the NAESP Summer Institute for principals.

Educators across the country are talking about extended learning time, which is best achieved by combining the strength of high-quality, in-school learning with the creativity of high-quality, after-school programming. Working together, NAESP and NAA can help define this issue and support the organizations’ respective members in achieving the best possible learning day for students.

“Aligning the Learning Day” is designed to be offered in either a full-day or half-day workshop format. Workshop content is based on the six standards presented in NAESP’s companion publication, *Leading After-School Learning Communities*. The six standards are:

- Expand the vision of learning;
- Act as a community catalyst;
- Collaborate to manage resources;
- Ensure quality content;
- Evaluate after-school programs; and
- Champion after-school programs.

NAESP and NAA will continue to expand their collaboration and promote the workshop to state affiliates, members, and other interested groups. The training, facilitated by both principals and after-school directors, has received positive feedback from participants and will be rolled out in interested states this year.

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