



## Out-of-School Time Leadership Lab

### Expanding afterschool and summer learning program impact in the Dan River Region

**September 3, 2025 - April 1, 2026**  
**10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## Introduction

The Out of School Time Leadership Lab, provided by the Danville Regional Foundation in partnership with the Smarter Learning Group, is a leadership development experience for professionals.

The focus of the Lab is strengthening quality, access and sustainability among programs that operate beyond the regular school day and year. These programs provide critical services and support for young people and their families.

Out of School Time Learning Lab participants get to:

- See exemplary programs in action
- Build relationships with colleagues throughout the region
- Learn broad best practices and immediate tactical tips from national experts
- Develop a plan, complete with support, to take your practice to the next level



## What is an OST program?

“ An Out of School Time (OST) program is one that young people regularly attend when school is not in session, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This includes before- and after- school programs; specialty programs such as sports teams, STEM, arts enrichment; and multipurpose programs that provide an array of activities like Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCAs. ”

Adults working in OST programs in the City of Danville; Pittsylvania County, Va.; and Caswell County, N.C. will be the participants. These leaders include:

1. staff who work directly with young people in programs,
2. those in management and leadership roles, and
3. those in positions that influence program funding and policy-related decisions.

**Action Sessions will be held at DRF Offices, 512 Bridge St. in Danville. Plentiful parking available.**

## 2025-2026 Schedule

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ● <b>September 3, 2025</b><br>Action Session               | ● <b>January 7, 2026</b><br>Action Session                          |
| ● <b>October 13-15, 2025</b><br>“See the Possible”<br>Trip | ● <b>February 4, 2026</b><br>Action Session                         |
| ● <b>November 5, 2025</b><br>Action Session                | ● <b>March 4, 2026</b><br>Action Session                            |
| ● <b>December 3, 2025</b><br>Action Session                | ● <b>April 1, 2026</b><br>Presentation &<br>Certificates<br>Awarded |

**Applications due  
Monday,  
May 5, 2025.**



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## Participants will:

- Attend a **"See the Possible"** Learning Journey and retreat in Greenville/Spartanburg, SC on Oct. 13-15, 2025, to observe afterschool programs in action and learn principles of evidence-based programming.
- Design and implement a **multi-month collaborative project** with at least one other OST Learning Lab participant. Projects will focus on improving one or more aspects of their program through collaboration and partnership.
- Take part in a **monthly OST Learning Lab Action Sessions** designed to provide ongoing, customized support and meaningful leadership and partnership development opportunities.
- Visit programs in the Danville region operated by other members of the cohort and host **reciprocal Peer Exchange program observations** and reviews.
- Each participants' program will receive a **\$2,500 stipend** to support their participation, expenses associated with covering time away from the office, or costs associated with their program project.
- Present what they did, accomplished, and learned through their OST Learning Lab projects to **funders and other regional leaders**.

## Learning Objectives:

- **Strengthen knowledge and utilization of a shared set of evidence-based strategies** for high-quality OST programs that improve student outcomes. Participants will learn how to observe, assess and improve programs using a common set of tools program quality. Everyone will know what quality programming looks and sounds like and how to move the needle on quality in programs.
- **Improving collaboration and creating more partnerships.** Participants will plan and implement a collaborative project focused on at least one of the following domains: improving program quality, expanding access to reach more young people, and/or strengthening sustainability and funding. Everyone will have concrete experience working with at least one other partner.
- **Building new relationships and deepening networks and connections.** Participants will work with each other, guest faculty, and leaders from both within and outside the region to implement their collaborative projects. Everyone will be connected to a network of OST leaders and have more and better contacts and resources they can draw on for future assistance.
- **Shifting the culture and mindset about afterschool and summer programs.** Participants will view the OST Learning Lab as a vehicle for expanding and improving their respective programs and for reducing isolation and competition between and among programs. Everyone involved in the OST Learning Lab will experience the tangible benefits that come from aligning efforts and having a more consistent, coordinated message and approach across the region.

## Questions?

Email Susanne Bell at  
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