Generating and maintaining high student attendance and engagement.
Domain 1: Students

Design Principle:

1. Attendance
Domain 1: Students

About This Domain: Attendance is a key driver for summer program success. It’s critical that districts prioritize, recruit, and engage students to ensure that summer learning programs accomplish their stated goals. Domain 1 will look at keys for generating high attendance, strategies for recruitment, and how to create a positive site climate.

Use the discussion questions at the conclusion of this slide deck to generate conversation, ideas, and next steps. Examine the tools provided and see how they can help streamline your planning process.

Domain 1 Goal:
Generate and maintain high student attendance and engagement.

Domain 1 Tools from SCORE and TNTP:
1. Enrollment Example
2. Enrollment Staffing Worksheet
3. Family Engagement Plan
4. Partnerships with Families
5. Summer Program Advertisement Example

Next Steps:
1. Create a plan for recruiting students and families
2. Establish goals and expectations for site climate
3. Develop a plan for overcoming key barriers to attendance
Keys for High Attendance

- **Communicate expectations and benefits** of strong attendance during recruiting.
- **Remove barriers to participation**.
- **Create an engaging site climate with positive adult-student relationships**.
- **Provide enrichment activities** in addition to academics.
First Step: Student Prioritization

Before recruiting students and promoting your summer learning program, you must address two crucial questions:

1) Who are the students you want to target for summer learning programs?
2) What are their learning needs?

The answers to these questions will determine the content, structure, and goals of your summer learning program. Student prioritization goals must be clearly defined in order to ensure the program is meeting the needs of students.
The strongest benefits accrue for students with at least 20 days of attendance.
Accurate and Timely Recruitment Materials
Send families detailed information about program acceptance, transportation routes, and the program schedule.

Personalize Recruitment for Students & Families
The districts with the lowest no-show rates make personal connections with families in their program reminders.

Set an Enrollment Deadline & Attendance Policy
Create a structure that requires consistent engagement, not a drop-in model that allows for infrequent attendance.
Strategies to create a positive site climate

- Train all staff on the importance of positive engagement with students
- Develop a clear, positive message about the summer site culture and ask staff to convey it consistently to students
- Create a learning environment that is interest-based and student-led
- Intentionally plan for fun!
District Spotlight: Woonsocket Education Dept, RI

- 6 elementary, 2 middle, 1 high
- 5865 students
- 400+ teachers
- 14% ELL students
- 27% students in special education
Partner with CBOs and empower teachers to drive the planning for summer programs designed to meet students’ academic and social needs...

Then students will...

- Have high attendance and engagement
- Improve their social-emotional wellbeing
- See meaningful academic progress
Key Program Goals

1. **Return to classrooms** after a large portion of the student body studied remotely the previous year
2. Student **socialization**
3. Academic **engagement** and **excitement**

Woonsocket used a flexible attendance model to make it easier for more students to attend. This model aligned with their program goals of having students return to the classroom, socialize, and get excited about academic work after a disrupted school-year due to COVID. However, if the primary goal for a program is academic improvement, then consistent attendance is crucial.
Woonsocket Summer Program By The Numbers

1,663 students enrolled
50%-88% daily attendance rate
37 teachers
27 paraprofessionals
9 nurses
8 program coordinators
Incentivizing Student Attendance in Woonsocket

- **All 3000 students** grades K-5 were offered the opportunity to participate.
- **Flexible participation** allowed students to attend one, two, or all three of the 2-week sessions.
- Any student attending the summer program for 2 or more weeks was entered into a lottery to **win an Ipad**.
- **Engaging enrichment** activities at every site increased student interest and attendance.
To discuss:

- What are some potential barriers preventing consistent attendance?
- What opportunities could you leverage to help overcome these barriers?
- How can you utilize early, consistent communication with families to support strong attendance?
- How do you plan to generate enthusiasm and excitement about participating?
- How do you plan to create and sustain an engaging site climate?

Next Steps:

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Dive deeper into Domain 1: Students with tools from TNTP and TN SCORE.