

# Introducing the **District Summer Learning Network**

FHI 360, in partnership with The Wallace Foundation, has launched the District Summer Learning Network (DSLNL) to help school districts across the country maximize the tremendous potential of summer learning programs to promote student well-being.

Enriching and educational summer programs are especially important now because of the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students' mental health and academic progress. With generous support from The Wallace Foundation, DSLNL will help districts use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARPA ESSER) to design summer programs that nurture students' social, emotional, and mental health needs while preparing them for academic success. The long-term goal of the initiative is to support districts as they design effective, evidence-based summer programs that are sustainable after ESSER funds are no longer available.

Over the two-year initiative, DSLNL will work with up to 85 school districts to produce three-year roadmaps for summer programs that provide transformational opportunities for youth—especially those from historically marginalized communities. The roadmaps will respond to the local context and align with the priorities districts articulated in their ESSER plans. Through DSLNL, districts will define a vision for summer that includes a focus on equity, holistic youth-centered approaches, and strong district-community partnerships.

## Participating districts will receive a range of supports including:



Individualized coaching from an experienced and knowledgeable consultant



A facilitated professional learning community of districts focused on similar solutions



Professional development workshops and events



Evidence-based tools and resources to facilitate summer planning and implementation, including the [Wallace Summer Learning Toolkit](#)

The first cadre of districts will start in early 2022 and receive supports through fall 2023. The cohort will include a geographically diverse group of districts from urban, suburban, and rural communities with high percentages of students of color and students from low-income households. Each participating district will demonstrate commitment to embedding summer learning in their overall strategic planning. The DSLNL will inform a corresponding research study being conducted by external researchers who will work closely with FHI 360 to add to the growing evidence base and inform the broader field of summer learning.



### ABOUT FHI 360

FHI 360 is a global, nonprofit human development organization that works domestically and internationally with both governmental agencies and the private sector to support change and improve lives by working across multiple public sector areas including education, health, and workforce development.



### ABOUT THE WALLACE FOUNDATION

The Wallace Foundation's mission is to foster equity and improvements in learning and enrichment for young people, and in the arts for everyone. Wallace works nationally, with a focus on the arts, K-12 education leadership and youth development.