

A Full Day of Learning, Enrichment and Fun Moves Full Steam Ahead in Payette, Idaho

This is Afterschool



Program Profile

Full Steam Ahead

The Full Steam Ahead program at Payette Primary School is a Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) site that provides, as a complement to the school day, a full day of learning and enrichment for kindergartners in Payette, Idaho. Made possible through a generous 21st CCLC grant from the State Department of Idaho (as well as support from community) Full Steam Ahead serves approximately 100 students a year. For the last seven years, over 850 kindergartners and their families have participated.

Many Full Steam Ahead participants are cared for by grandparents, come from single-parent homes or are families of migrant workers—all factors that impact their social and academic backgrounds. The town of Payette, which has a population of nearly 7,500, has a poverty rate of 17.3% and a median household income of around \$42,000. At Full Steam Ahead, all students receive free breakfast and lunch.

Sixty-five percent of Payette students enter kindergarten below grade level, so the extra time and enrichment they have each day at Full Steam Ahead's 21st CCLC program is invaluable to help them gain academic skills.

A typical day

A day at Full Steam Ahead's program consists of breakfast; morning meeting; time for hands-on reading, math, STEM activities and free play exploration; story time; lunch and recess; movement activities and snack. Weekly specials include physical education, computer lab, art, science and social studies. Kindergartners walk twice monthly to the Payette Public Library to attend story and movement time with beloved local "library star" Ms. Wendy.

The "engine" runs smoothly at Full Steam Ahead, with each 21st CCLC program teacher teaming with a general education kindergarten teacher. Students spend half the day with their general education teacher and the other half with their 21st CCLC teacher, each supporting the other to develop academic learning and goals for students through hands-on reading; STEM; and movement activities. The transition is

seamless, and the students have a great relationship with the all the staff. Teachers often hold joint morning meetings, special projects and holiday parties with both classes together.

Full Steam Ahead's outstanding staff consists of two 21st CCLC kindergarten teachers and four teaching assistants. One teaching assistant is available in the morning, and the other in the afternoon in each of the 21st CCLC classrooms to lower the student to teacher ratio to 2 to 24. The 21st CCLC teaching assistants make meaningful social-emotional connections with students, working one-on-one to bolster academic skills or to just offer a needed hug.

Outcomes

Thanks to support from 21st CCLC funding, Full Steam Ahead has seen substantial academic gains. According to the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), the number of kindergartners scoring in the "proficient" category rose from 41% in September 2018 to 58% in May 2019. The number of kindergartners scoring in the "at-risk" category fell from 38% to 16% from fall to spring 2018-19. Finally, the total number of students in the "proficient" category on the I-Ready Math Assessment grew from 9% in September 2018 to 62% in May 2019.

Full Steam Ahead | Payette, Idaho

100

Number of kids served

17.3%

Poverty level in Payette, Idaho

100%

Participants who qualify for free lunch

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers

In Idaho, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for 5,824 kids and 94 communities.

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend a Community Learning Center, teachers report that:



1 in 2

improved their math
and Language Arts grades



More than 2 in 3

improved their homework
completion and class participation



More than 3 in 5

improved their
behavior in class

Community Learning Centers bring together diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

Community Engaged Programming

Kindergartners move Full Steam Ahead on an amazing ride of experiences—both academically and culturally enriching—throughout their day. In the general education classroom, they work on reading and math. And during their 21st CCLC time, participants engage in STEM activities and play center games that reinforce reading and math skills.

Students have also had the chance to learn about science with guest presenters such as the 21st CCLC Director of the 21st CCLC State Department and St. Luke's Health System, which has a giant inflatable digestive system. Idaho Power's Education Advisor has partnered with Full Steam Ahead to teach students about electrical safety. Idaho Public Television also visits Payette several times a year to teach coding skills using PBSKIDS Scratch Jr, and this year made a very special visit with Daniel Tiger.

The Payette Street and Parks Department, a community partner, also provides career information about what Payette city employees do, gives safety presentations, and brings lots of emergency vehicles for kids to learn about and climb on.

Full Steam Ahead participants have also enjoyed learning about art through the Boise Art Museum Art Reach Program, as well as, participating in a book publishing activity led by a local author. She

works with each individual class and student to create a class book and guides them through the writing and illustration process—from idea to publication—with each child creating their own page.



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