

Cohort 10 - Mapleton School District – Trailside Academy

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)

2024-2025 EVALUATION SUMMARY



Program Overview

Community Description

Trailside Academy is a PK-8 school located in the Mapleton Public Schools. Mapleton Public Schools is a uniquely positioned, internationally accredited district, with schools in both North Denver and Thornton in Adams County.

Despite its proximity to Denver County—an area now known for having some of the highest property values in the country—Mapleton families face significantly different economic realities. Most households in the district reside in neighborhoods with property values well below those of surrounding communities, reflecting a need for equitable access to resources and support services.

**Housing Market Trends: Redfin, Realtor.com, Consumer Affairs, Denverite, Apartments.com, Ark7, and Dwell Denver*

- **Higher than the National Average:** Denver's median home price is 42% higher than the national average.
- **Top 10 Most Expensive:** Denver is among the top 10 most expensive cities in the U.S. for housing.
- **Compared to Other Cities:** Denver is more expensive than some major cities like New York, but less expensive than others like San Francisco.
- **Cost of Living:** Overall, Denver's cost of living is also higher than the national average, with housing being a major contributor.
- **Factors Contributing to High Costs:** Factors like population growth, strong job market, and limited housing inventory contribute to the high property values in Denver.
- **Recent Trends:** While Denver's housing market has seen some fluctuations, it generally remains expensive compared to other U.S. cities.

The combination of high costs and limited housing options is leading to displacement, with families being forced to move to more affordable areas outside Denver. Consequences of displacement can disrupt communities, negatively impact children's education, and further strain family finances.

Mapleton Public Schools serves many families in need of affordable before and after-school care. At Trailside Academy, we are committed to supporting these families by providing a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for students outside regular school hours.

Program Description

Trailside Academy is proud to have provided OST experiences for more than 200 students during our 2024/2025 school year. Of these students, 87 stayed for a minimum of 75 hours, with approximately 50 students staying for at least 100 hours. Our students were kept safe before and after school and participated in fun workshops, including but not limited to: Mad Science, Math Tutoring, Lexia Computer Literacy, Legos, Crayola Art, Sticky Fingers Cooking, and Hero Sports. Beyond this, some students just stayed to play with their friends in our library. These students participated in fun activities such as: Puzzle Making, Fuse Beads, Card Games, Board Games, and Building Blocks. While many of our students remain after school because their parents are working, others choose to stay to engage in social activities they may not have access to during the regular school day. This demonstrates the value of our program not only as a support for working families but also as a meaningful space for social growth.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant

Program Vision

Trailside Academy's vision for our before and after-school programs involves serving our primary and middle school students in an enriching, safe, and supportive environment. This environment complements and extends the learning that happens during the regular school day. Our program aims to foster positive youth development, enhance academic skills, and promote social-emotional well-being, ultimately contributing to students' overall success.

Key Goals and Components of Trailside Academy's Before and After School Program:

- **Academic Enrichment:**
OST programs at Trailside Academy will offer opportunities for students to delve deeper into subjects they're learning in school, explore new topics, and develop essential skills in subjects such as literacy, math, and STEM.
- **Positive Youth Development:**
Trailside Academy will focus on building students' confidence, leadership skills, communication abilities, and sense of responsibility.
- **Social and Emotional Learning:**
Trailside Academy will be a safe space for students to develop social skills, manage emotions, and build healthy relationships.
- **Community Partnerships:**
Trailside Academy will collaborate with local organizations, businesses, and families to create a network of support and resources for students.
- **Safe and Engaging Environment:**
Trailside Academy will be a welcoming and stimulating space where students feel comfortable, supported, and motivated to learn is paramount.
- **Evidence-Based Practices:**
Trailside Academy will utilize research-backed strategies and activities to maximize our impact on student outcomes.
- **Reduced Absenteeism:**
Trailside Academy will provide well-structured after-school programs, recognizing they can play a vital role in reducing school absences and chronic absenteeism.
- **Career Readiness:**
Trailside Academy will offer older students' programs that offer guidance on future educational and career paths, including workforce readiness skills.

Funding and Sustainability:

- **Diverse Funding Sources:**
Trailside Academy will look at various sources, including state and federal agencies, foundations, and private donors for supplemental funding to support our OST program.
- **Strategic Planning:**
Trailside Academy will develop a comprehensive plan for program implementation. Recognizing this is crucial for securing and maintaining funding.
- **Community Engagement:**

Trailside Academy will build strong relationships with stakeholders, including parents, educators, and community leaders, who can help advocate for and sustain OST programs at our school.

- **Data Collection and Evaluation:**

Trailside Academy will track program outcomes and share success stories, recognizing they can demonstrate the value of our OST programs and attract ongoing support.

Program Mission

"To empower Trailside Academy's primary and middle school students through high-quality OST programs that foster academic success, social-emotional growth, and a lifelong love of learning."

Program Goals and Objectives

Academic Improvement:

- Improve academic performance in core subjects like math, reading, and science.
- Offer enrichment activities that complement classroom learning and spark students' interest in learning.

Social and Emotional Development:

- Foster positive social skills and emotional resilience among participants.
- Promote teamwork, collaboration, and conflict resolution skills through structured activities.
- Help students build confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging.

Enrichment Opportunities:

- Provide access to a variety of extracurricular activities, such as art, music, sports, and STEM programs.
- Offer opportunities for exploration, creativity, and personal growth outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Community Engagement:

- Foster partnerships between schools, community organizations, and families to support student success.
- Encourage parent involvement in the program and in their child's education.

Safe and Supportive Environment:

- Create a safe and nurturing environment where students feel comfortable, supported, and respected.
- Provide a structured and predictable routine that helps students transition smoothly between school, home, and after-school activities.

Program Evaluation

Trailside Academy demonstrated meaningful academic growth among students regularly participating at its 21st CCLC site. Among students in grades 3–6 with both Winter 2023–24 and Winter 2024–25 MAP scores and at least 75% attendance in afterschool programming, 21% increased their percentile rank by 5 points or more in both reading AND math. Of 49 students assessed, 29 students (59%) demonstrated growth in reading, and 23 students (47%) showed growth in math. These results reflect consistent academic progress across multiple core areas, highlighting the effectiveness of our targeted programming.

Program Results

Program results were highlighted in teacher and parent surveys.

EZ Reports Teacher Survey - Most Relevant Takeaways:

- Of the 87 students surveyed by our teachers, 40.23% demonstrated improvement in at least one category. These results highlight the positive impact of our programming on both academic engagement and social development. Notable results and benefits include:
 - **Participating in class – 24% Improvement**
 - Participating in class offers numerous benefits for students, including improved understanding, increased retention, enhanced communication skills, and boosted confidence. Active participation fosters a deeper engagement with the material, promotes critical thinking, and facilitates collaboration with peers.
 - **Completing classwork and/or homework to your satisfaction – 21% Improvement**
 - Completing classwork and homework offers numerous student benefits, including improved academic performance, enhanced time management and organizational skills, and the development of self-discipline and responsibility. It also fosters independent learning, critical thinking, and better study habits.
 - **Getting along well with other students – 20% Improvement**
 - Getting along well with other students offers numerous benefits, including improved academic performance, enhanced social and emotional well-being, and the development of essential life skills. Positive peer relationships create a supportive learning environment, leading to increased motivation, engagement, and a sense of belonging.

Parent Survey - Most Relevant Takeaways:

Trailside Academy developed our own parent survey. Of the approximate 100 OST parent surveys received, parents felt most comfortable with the following statements:

- School Climate and Environment
 - *“I feel that my child is safe at school” and “The school feels like a welcoming and inclusive place for all students.”*
- Positive Relationships
 - *“I feel respected and valued when I participate in school events.”*
- Supportive Environment
 - *“I am satisfied with the school’s efforts to promote a positive school climate.”*
- Extracurricular Activities
 - *“The school offers a variety of extracurricular activities that meet students’ interests.”*
- Parent Classes
 - 100% of parents who attended one of more sessions of our specialized parent classes reported feeling confident in their ability to apply the knowledge gained in ways that would positively impact their family overall and specifically support their child’s academic success.

Lessons Learned - Positive

- Student voice and choice increase ownership and motivation: Empowering students to make choices within their learning, such as selecting projects or topics, boosted their motivation and sense of responsibility for their education.
- Parental and family involvement is essential: Engaging families as partners in the learning process, by providing workshops and resources, proved vital for reinforcing school efforts and supporting student success.

Lessons Learned – Negative

- Learn from experience and seek support.
- Seeking feedback from colleagues, administrators, or grant writing experts can significantly improve the quality of proposals.
- Attending grant writing workshops or seeking assistance from experienced professionals can provide valuable guidance and increase the overall presentation of a report.

Conclusion

With the support of the 21st Century grant, Trailside Academy can offer high-quality after-school programs that promote academic success, social growth, and personal well-being. We are grateful to 21st CCLC for helping us create a secure, supportive space where students can continue to learn, grow, and thrive beyond the classroom. It is our greatest hope to continue building on this foundation and would be honored to partner with 21st Century CCLC again in the future.

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