2025

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FOR YOUTH PROFESSIONALS

ThirdSpace
COLLABORATIVE

WELCOME

GET TO KNOW THIRDSPACE COLLABORATIVE

ThirdSpace Collaborative unites stakeholders across South Dakota to strengthen out-of-school time (OST) programming for children, youth, and families. As an innovative BHSSC initiative, we build upon the successes of organizations like South Dakota School Age Care Alliance and the South Dakota Afterschool Network to collaborate and reimagine the OST ecosystem with a focus on sustainability and impact.

Through our professional development offerings, we empower schools, organizations, and OST professionals with customized training in key areas such as leadership, program evaluation, student and family engagement, and STEAM education. Our expert educators create dynamic learning environments through hands-on, engaging STEAM experiences—including customizable camps, professional development, and tailored kits—designed to spark curiosity and excitement in students.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, ThirdSpace Collaborative expands access to high-quality OST programs that inspire learning, engagement, and community connections. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more sustainable future for OST programs across the state.

LET'S CONNECT

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LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Excellence in Leadership
A comprehensive training designed to equip OST leaders with essential skills in team management, decision-making, and strategic planning. This learning opportunity fosters leadership growth and professional development to enhance program effectiveness.

Knowledge Expanded in: Leadership Development, Strategic Planning, Team Management, Problem-Solving, Decision-Making

Celebrate Your Strengths!
A strengths-based professional development learning opportunities designed to help OST staff recognize, embrace, and build upon their unique talents. Participants will explore strategies to maximize their strengths in leadership, teamwork, and program development.

Knowledge Expanded in: Strengths-Based Leadership, Team Building, Personal Growth

Leadership Coaching
Personalized coaching sessions designed to support OST leaders in navigating challenges, fostering growth, and strengthening their leadership approach. Coaching focuses on individualized goals and actionable strategies for professional success.

Knowledge Expanded in: Leadership Development, Conflict Resolution, Staff Management, Decision-Making, Strategic Thinking

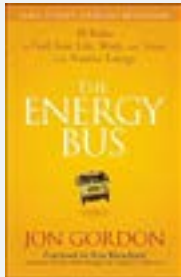### New Director or Site Coordinator Orientation/Support
A structured onboarding and coaching experience for new OST directors or site coordinators, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to lead successful programs. Includes operational guidance, compliance insights, and leadership support.

Knowledge Expanded in: Program Operations, Leadership, Compliance & Policies, Team Management

Energy Bus Book Study
Based on Jon Gordon's *The Energy Bus*, this book study helps OST leaders and staff cultivate a positive mindset, foster a culture of enthusiasm, and develop leadership strategies that drive motivationand success within their programs.

Knowledge Expanded in: Positive Leadership, Team Culture, Motivation, Mindset Shifts

PROGRAM EVALUATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Data-Driven Evaluation Approach to Success
Unlock the power of data to transform OST programs with a comprehensive evaluation process. Our team works alongside program staff to collect and analyze data through observations, interviews, focus groups, and surveys, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of program effectiveness. Through a guided data retreat, we facilitate collaborative discussions that help identify key issues, uncover root causes, and develop actionable steps for meaningful program improvement.

Knowledge Expanded in: Data Analysis, Program Evaluation, Strategic Planning, Continuous Improvement, Collaborative Decision-Making

Funding the Possibilities-Strategies for Sustainable Program Success
Dynamic training focused on empowering professionals with essential tools and insights for mastering the art of program funding. This training will delve into effective strategies for managing grant proposals, identifying the most suitable funding opportunities, and navigating the crucial aspects of reporting and deadlines.

Knowledge Expanded in: Grant Search, Grant Management, Community Partners, Telling Your Program's Story

Virtual Site Tour Using QR Codes
Learn how to create engaging, interactive virtual tours for OST programs using QR codes. This session helps staff showcase program spaces, highlight activities, and provide an immersive experience for families, staff, and stakeholders.

Knowledge Expanded in: Technology Integration, Family Engagement, Program Promotion

INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Instructional Coaching
Tailored coaching sessions for OST staff and educators focused on improving instructional strategies, fostering student engagement, and enhancing lesson delivery.

Knowledge Expanded in: Instructional Practices, Classroom Management, Student Engagement, Reflective Practice

Lesson Planning
A hands-on workshop designed to support OST educators in developing engaging, structured, and adaptable lesson plans that align with state content standards and student needs.

Knowledge Expanded in: Curriculum Development, Lesson Design, Differentiation, Time Management

INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Strategies
Interactive session exploring proven strategies to increase student participation, motivation, and engagement in OST programs.
Knowledge Expanded in: Student Engagement, Classroom Culture, Relationship Building

Forming a Youth Advisory Group
Learn how to establish and facilitate youth advisory groups to amplify student voices, encourage student leadership, and shape OST programming.
Knowledge Expanded in: Youth Leadership, Program Planning, Collaboration, Advocacy

Using Your Hobbies to Build a Youth Club
Discover how personal hobbies and interests can be transformed into engaging clubs for youth. This hands-on session helps OST staff design club experiences that promote learning, creativity, and fun while fostering positive relationships with students.
Knowledge Expanded in: Program Design, Student Engagement, Creativity, Relationship Building

COMMUNITY & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

OST Family Engagement Professional Development Series
The OST Family Engagement professional development series will equip OST professionals with the knowledge and tools to strengthen partnerships between families, programs, and communities. Participants will learn through research-based data, the need for family engagement. Assessment tools will assess the program's current family engagement efforts. OST leaders will build an individualized action plan and timeline for adding/strengthening their programs family engagement efforts.
Knowledge Expanded in: Engagement, Planning, Relationship Building, Family Partnerships

Family-Friendly Walkthroughs Specific to OST Programs
Using a validated tool, our learning specialists partner with OST programs to facilitate family-friendly walkthroughs that celebrate program strengths and strengthen family connections.
Knowledge Expanded in: Family Engagement, Program Improvement, Community Collaboration

Family Engagement Champions
The OST Family Engagement Champions program equips OST professionals with the knowledge and tools to strengthen partnerships between families, programs, and communities. Participants will assess their current family engagement efforts, identify strengths and areas for growth, and develop actionable plans to enhance collaboration. Through this initiative, OST leaders will build strong program teams and implement strategies that foster meaningful, lasting connections with families.
Knowledge Expanded in: Family Engagement, Program Improvement, Family Partnerships, Relationship Building

STEAM FOR OST PROGRAMS

We provide engaging, hands-on STEAM experiences for students, families, and program staff through customized, ready-to-implement programs. From immersive camps and community events to professional development and in-program engagement, we handle all materials and logistics—making high-quality STEAM learning seamless and accessible.

STEAM Camps: High-energy, hands-on learning experiences offered to accommodate program schedule.
STEAM for Families: Interactive events featuring coding, robotics, and problem-solving activities.
STEAM Professional Development: Training and coaching in professional learning communities to support STEAM integration using a scaffolded approach ("I do, We do, You do").
STEAM in Out-of-School Time Programs: Direct student engagement with STEAM Learning Specialists, alongside embedded professional development for program staff—no program closure needed.

Students engage directly with STEAM Learning Specialists while program staff participate in embedded professional development—allowing both learning experiences to happen simultaneously without the need to close your program.