

Project Abstract

Our proposal is to create an extended learning opportunity grant program that will distribute funding to groups of schools, districts, families, educators, out-of-school learning providers and community organizations who form “Remote Learning Collectives” to support their children’s academic needs. With some Colorado districts planning for the possibility of a hybrid remote learning and in-person model for the 2020-21 school year and a high likelihood of districts needing to provide fully remote learning at times throughout the school year, parents will need ways to support their children who are learning from home.

Remote Learning Collectives can bridge the gap by providing families in need with funding to hire tutors or partner with a wide array of local learning providers. Learning collectives can give students an opportunity to interact with small groups of students and adults, advance their academic knowledge, and build essential skills such as leadership, problem-solving and communication.

Remote Learning Collectives will be organized around a wide variety of needs and approaches throughout the community. Money awarded would support collectives like literacy instruction for younger students, work-based learning for older students, physical education activities and outdoor- based learning, tutoring for English Language Learners, or holistic academic support for students at similar competency levels. All these collectives would be run through the Colorado Department of Education, in a model similar to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

We believe this field-initiated model holds great promise for alleviating the burden on school districts, supporting students to be successful and keeping equity gaps from growing wider.