

Joint Use Summer Access Program 2017

2017 was the seventh year of the Joint Use Summer Access Program, and it was the most successful year so far. This summer, 25 different community groups and local service-delivery agencies delivered 27 programs in a total of 29 schools throughout Edmonton. Groups utilized the Summer Access Program to deliver programs to more than 2,632 children and youth this summer.

The Summer Access Program would not be possible without the strong and continued support of school principals and school custodians. Their commitment and assistance are integral to making the program a success.



The purpose of the Joint Use Summer Access Program is to work with community groups and local service-delivery agencies to access school space to deliver academic, cultural, language, recreational, and leadership programs to children and youth during the summer. This program is a unique partnership and a collaborative approach to supporting and strengthening Edmonton communities.



2,630
hours



27
programs



29
schools



25
groups



2,632 children and youth

Intercultural

Intercultural learning and experiences were emphasized in many summer programs. Exposure to intercultural teachings not only promote tolerance, acceptance, and respect for one another, but they also provided an inclusive space for children and youth to celebrate diversity and uniqueness through music, food, ceremony, language, and dance.



Recreational

Throughout the summer, children and youth explored recreational activities including swimming, yoga, dance, and various sports and games. Access to healthy play helped build passion and excitement for recreation, and provided children and youth with opportunities for diverse social interactions. Many programs utilized the City of Edmonton Group Leisure Access Pass to visit sites throughout the city.



Educational

Educational components were included in many programs, and helped to cultivate skills for the academic year through games, guest speakers, and classroom style learning. Children and youth further developed their abilities to read and write in the English language, practiced numeracy, science, history, and other school preparedness topics such as healthy lifestyles.



Social

Social activities varied across the programs, but often included unstructured free time. Children and youth participated in relationship building activities that were as unique and diverse as the children themselves. Through cooking classes, leadership exercises, potlucks, and gardening children and youth learned teamwork, leadership, compassion, communication, and other critical social skills.

The Joint Use partnership is a collaboration between the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School District, and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord. Additionally, the Joint Use partners have developed a partnership with REACH Edmonton to coordinate the Summer Access Program, and to further identify the needs of community groups, develop strategies to meet these needs, and promote the Summer Access Program.



For more information on the Joint Use Summer Access Program, please contact Craena Coyne at craena.coyne@edmonton.ca or Matthew Taylor at matthew.taylor@reachedmonton.ca.