













Executive Summary







With funding from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), Living Classrooms Foundation implements the Baltimore Environmental Education Summer Math and Reading Trailblazers (BEE SMART) program. The program is designed to prevent summer learning loss and raise below-average reading scores among rising 3rd through 5th grade students living in the low-income communities surrounding Lakeland Elementary Middle School (Lakeland) and Maree Garnett Farring Elementary Middle School (Farring), both school-wide Title I schools. The program, held virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, weaves academic learning with hands-on enrichment that emphasizes linkages between school year learning and summer activities. The following findings are based on evaluation data from the 2019–2020 academic year, Year 2 of this 21st CCLC funding cycle.

Note: Due to COVID-19, the program transitioned to a distance learning model. The full technical report details the programmatic and evaluation shifts made during this unique year in out-of-school time programming.

Findings by MSDE Objective

The following is an overview of BEE SMART’s progress toward MSDE’s 21st CCLC Objectives. For more detailed information about the rating scales and available data, please refer to the body of the report.

Objective	Performance Measures
Objective 1: Progressed Educational and social benefits and positive behavioral changes	 97% of participants increased by one level or more (who were below in the W level) from beginning to end of program. (n=38) <i>Target=75%</i>
	-- Fall 2020 standardized reading assessment data not yet available.
	-- Fall 2020 standardized reading assessment data not yet available.
	-- Fall 2020 Q1 report card grades not yet available.
	-- Report card and school day attendance not available.
	 84% of students demonstrated appreciation of the value of high expectations. (n=23-25) <i>Target=75%</i>
	 50% of students participated in a “presentation of learning.” (n=52) <i>Target=90%</i>
 53% average daily attendance for the summer program. (n=52) <i>Target=85%</i>	
 40% of BEE SMART students participated for at least two consecutive summers. (n=52) <i>Target=40%</i>	
Objective 2: Met High-quality educational, developmental, and recreational services	 All participants had the opportunity to be engaged in daily STEM lessons.
	 All participants had the opportunity to be engaged in weekly reading tutoring sessions.
	 All participants had the opportunity to be engaged in morning mentoring sessions and guided recreation sessions.
	 All participants had the opportunity to contribute to a service-learning project.
	 BEE SMART hosted multiple sessions and workshops for families during Parent Week.
	 Staff maintained frequent communication with families including daily attendance calls and regular usage of the text message reminder system.
	-- Staff in-person availability not applicable this program year.
	 All parent documents were provided in Spanish and English. The Parent Liaison(s) was available by phone, text, and email.

Objective	Performance Measures
Objective 3: <i>Progressed</i> Parental involvement and family literacy	 46% of families participated in at least one family event hosted by program staff that offered opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles, child development, and team/community-building skills. (n=52) <i>Target=80%</i>
	 56% of families engaged in services and activities that improve literacy and parenting skills. (n=52) <i>Target=70%</i>
	 52% of families for whom English is a second language participated in workshops or services to improve English fluency. (n=42) <i>Target=50%</i>
Objective 4: <i>N/A</i> Safe physical space to meet the needs of participants	-- Data not available due to the fact that all activities were virtual.
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Objective 5: <i>Met</i> Program relates to participants and responds to individual needs	 BEE SMART Program Director collected yearly updated resumes for all staff.
	 Returning staff were re-interviewed to ensure enthusiasm for and commitment to the program.
	 All staff participated in a week-long training session prior to the start of the program.



Met



Not Met

-- Data Not Available

Successes

The BEE SMART program demonstrated successes in student reading achievement, with the vast majority of participants (97%) increasing reading level by one or more levels; personalized opportunities for students to develop process skills through goal setting; and high numbers of returning students from the first year of the program.

Challenges

The program faced challenges in participant attendance, particularly with slower enrollment and challenges with tracking virtual asynchronous participation; family engagement with lower levels of attendance at virtual events, despite efforts to offer sessions at various times throughout the day; and service-learning opportunities.

Recommendations

BEE SMART recommendations include exploring methods to track asynchronous participation and identifying opportunities for virtual service-learning projects, particularly should the program continue virtually in Year 3, and continuing to offer participants increased access to reading specialist sessions.