

Department of Parks and Recreation
Out-of-School Time Program Summary
May 11, 2026

M-NCPPC's Department of Parks and Recreation is a committed partner in the development of young people in Prince George's County. The Department supports student learning and youth development through the provision of leisure and play, life skills courses, and academic enrichment opportunities. For the purposes of this summary, when referencing the Department's programs as "enrichment" opportunities, we are referring to the provision of structured, engaging activities that go beyond traditional tutoring to promote holistic youth development within a community recreation setting. The Department's out-of-school time programs support students' learning in the following ways:

- Cognitive Development – our programs and services stimulate cognitive growth by encouraging exploration, problem-solving, and creativity. Research indicates that play promotes brain development and executive functioning, which are crucial for learning and adapting to new situations.
- Social Skills – through our programs, children learn to interact with peers, negotiate roles, and resolve conflicts. Social play, such as group games, fosters collaboration and empathy, which are vital for building healthy relationships. Studies have shown that early social interactions during play contribute significantly to emotional intelligence and social competence.
- Emotional Well-Being – our out-of-school time programs provide a safe space for children to express their feelings and manage emotions, which helps them build resilience and develop empathy towards others. Engaging in play allows children to practice independence and perseverance, which are essential for emotional regulation and self-confidence.
- Physical Health - physical play, including activities like running and climbing, are crucial for developing motor skills and promoting overall health. Active play enhances coordination, strength, and cardiovascular fitness, while also teaching children about impulse control and taking turns.
- Language and Communication Skills – recreation activity and play are powerful tools for developing communication and language skills. Our programs offer opportunities for children to practice new vocabulary, engage in conversations, and express themselves creatively. These activities also support the development of listening skills and understanding non-verbal cues, which are essential for effective communication.

To reinforce the Department of Parks and Recreation's mission, we promote recreation and play not just as leisure activities, but also as vital components of healthy youth development. The Department offers enrichment programs throughout the year to support student learning beyond the classroom. These opportunities include courses in STEAM, Computer Skills, Numeracy and Math, Literacy and Critical Thinking, Life Skills, Nature, History, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts.

- In FY25, the Department offered 545 enrichment opportunities during out-of-school time, serving 3147 participants. We also offered 1064 sports opportunities, serving 7925 participants. There were 615 participants enrolled in our licensed afterschool programs. For summer camps/playtimes/teen centers, the Department offered 560 programs, serving 12,671 participants.
- Within the current fiscal year (FY26), the Department is offering 632 enrichment opportunities during out-of-school time, serving 3681 participants. We are also offering 1057 sports opportunities, serving 6647 participants. There are 696 participants enrolled in our licensed afterschool programs. For summer camps, the Department will offer 1035 programs with the potential to serve 18,576 participants.