



**SUMMER MATTERS**

*Making Summer Matter for Every Child, Because Learning Happens Year Round*

## A GUIDE THROUGH THE CASP TOOL DOMAIN OF UNIQUE PROGRAM CULTURE

### Indicators and definitions:

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#### **Program Spirit**

Descriptor: Program creates a spirit of community and pride among all young people through: daily shared traditions, cheers, competitions, team designations, and awards for positive actions or attitudes.

#### **Program Principles**

Descriptor: Program has principles that set culture through continuous communication of key ideals, strengths or talents that describe participants and staff. Principles are integrated into most program activities and rituals.

#### **Culminating Event**

Descriptor: A culminating event rewards youth for their success and gives all youth an opportunity to showcase their work or new skills to invited guests.

#### **Physical Environment**

Descriptor: Physical environment promotes creative thinking and exploration. Activity space set-up is different from a traditional classroom, with furniture arranged to create an intimate, interactive environment. Rooms are named in relation to the themes or goals of the program. Decorations are youth-driven and thematic.

#### **Flexible Workspace**

Descriptor: Staff provide flexible workspace in all activities to accommodate different learning styles. Youth are able to work sitting on the floor, at a desk, or standing, for example.

#### **Transitions and Meals**

Descriptor: Arrival, departure, transitions and meal times are positive, unique experiences. Program incorporates themes, entertainment or aspects of program culture into most of the unstructured time.

The Summer Matters Network is coordinated by the Partnership for Children & Youth and its partners, aimed at expanding summer learning opportunities for youth in California. 

[www.SummerMatters.net](http://www.SummerMatters.net) • 510-830-4200 •

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