

# S P R I O C K I N T S

**DATA**  
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## Find Out What Moves You

*Sharing information. Inspiring success. That's Sprockets.*



2011–12 Out-of-School-Time Report

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA MOVES YOU

## WE WANT SAINT PAUL'S YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ENGAGED IN THEIR LEARNING,

stewards of their community, resourceful, and driven by a sense of purpose.

We won't accept anything less for the young people of our community. And we know that quality out-of-school time programs help people achieve these objectives.

That's why, in March of 2011, Mayor Coleman and Superintendent Silva launched Sprockets. Parents and youth from across Saint Paul were invited to use Sprockets' online program finder to "Find Out What Moves You."

And while families and young people see the online, public face of Sprockets, they may not realize that the entire community stands behind this effort – the Mayor's office, the school district, faith-based organizations, community groups and activists, local non-profits, business and civic leaders, parents and youth, public servants like librarians, parks and recreation workers, and many more.

Our community is tireless in our pursuit of helping young people of Saint Paul recognize and achieve their greatest potential.

**Providing reliable, citywide information to the OST community is a crucial step toward our goal.**

We need a more complete picture of out-of-school time opportunities in Saint Paul to help guide our decision-making, inform our program offerings, and give youth in our community the very best we can.

## Did you know

- 44 "activator" organizations currently participate in data sharing – through the Sprockets data system, Youth Program Quality Assessment, Survey of After-school Youth Outcomes and more.
- The Sprockets data system is the FIRST citywide OST data system of its kind in Minnesota.
- OST = Out-of-school time (after-school and summer activities).

## OUR MISSION

Sprockets improves the quality, availability and effectiveness of out-of-school time learning for all youth in Saint Paul through the committed, collaborative and innovative efforts of community organizations, government, schools and other partners.

## OUR VISION

All Saint Paul youth will develop their abilities as learners, contributors and navigators so they can recognize and achieve their greatest potential.

For example, we want to know:

- How many Saint Paul youth participate in OST, and are we missing some young people?
- How do we improve our OST offerings and make them even more meaningful, relevant and impactful?
- What benefits do young people in Saint Paul experience as a result of OST?
- And, most importantly, how can we do even more?

We're proud of the progress Saint Paul has made thus far in using multiple channels to collect data that will inform decisions, and know there is more to do. **But we need your help.**

We want you to "Find Out What DATA Moves You." *How can information improve your program? Who does your program reach today . . . and who could it be reaching tomorrow? What can we all do to improve the lives of young people in Saint Paul?*

**We're all in this together.** We know that our community is stronger, and our respective organizations are more effective and more efficient, when we act in partnership.

In Saint Paul, we already know what "Moves Us" – successful youth. Now let's use data to do even more for the young people of our community. Thank you for being part of this important effort.

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor  
Saint Paul

Valeria Silva  
Superintendent  
Saint Paul Public Schools

Fr. Kevin McDonough  
St. Peter Claver Church  
Chair of Sprockets Leadership Group

## Goal of Sprockets Data Sharing

To provide reliable information about the state of OST learning in Saint Paul and to elevate conversations about youth success, access to OST and improving outcomes.

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA BUILDS BRIGHTER FUTURES

**YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LEARN; THEY'RE PROBLEM-SOLVERS AND SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL.** They contribute to our community. They're resourceful navigators who make positive decisions. They thrive, firmly grounded in determination, persistence and hope.

That's our **Framework for Youth Success**, our shared vision for the young people of Saint Paul. *But how can we turn our vision into reality?* We need data – lots of it – to answer that question.

That's why last year, Sprockets launched several data-collection tools that will help begin to answer questions about how youth are learning and growing during their afterschool and summer hours. We now gather and share information via:

- Sprockets shared data system, managed by Wilder Foundation
- A program mapping study
- Aggregate scores from the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)
- Sprockets online program finder
- Saint Paul Public Schools academic and OST data

And, Sprockets recently introduced the **Survey of After-School Youth Outcomes (SAYO)**, a specialized tool licensed by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time. Now for the first time in Saint Paul, we'll know how our OST efforts are actually impacting youth.

High-quality OST increases young people's chances for school success, and it helps them develop lifelong skills – like perseverance and self-confidence – that can make a difference at school and beyond. By working together, we can harness the power of OST and give these advantages to the young people in Saint Paul.

## Did You Know



Mayor Coleman's Second Shift Initiative led to Sprockets. 350 community members came together to develop Saint Paul's Framework for Youth Success, which still guides and inspires our work today.



## Got Questions?

Are youth who participate in OST engaged in school? What are their attendance and high school graduation rates?

## SAYO Can Measure Many Different Youth Outcomes



## Sprockets First Foray Into SAYO

- **15 program sites**
- **2 group outcomes measured:**  
Engagement in Learning & Relations with Adults
- **+1 SAYO outcome choice** per program

“What excites me the most is learning all the potential I have.”

– DELMAR, 15, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network

## What can Sprockets learn from 9th–12th graders?

Plenty. The Saint Paul Youth Commission advises the city – and Sprockets! – with ideas to help make Saint Paul a better place for youth. Recently, they developed a “win win” partnership with Metro Transit that makes it easier for young people to ride the bus to OST activities, and brings more riders to Metro Transit.

## Moving Forward

The 2012–13 school year is the first time we're implementing SAYO. Now we'll have a baseline to compare non-academic youth outcomes across programs. Exciting!

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA IMPROVES QUALITY

**QUALITY— IT'S THE BACKBONE OF A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.** It's a big deal in Saint Paul, and we're proud to be home to Minnesota's only coordinated citywide effort to systemically improve quality.

Thanks to our data sharing work, we can begin to dig deeper into program-level questions, like:

*What does the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) reveal about my program? How can I use what I've learned to make significant changes?*

And, as a community, we can start to evaluate system-wide quality issues, such as:

*Do families in Saint Paul have enough access to quality programs? How many programs are regularly using a quality improvement tool, and how can we encourage even more to do so?*

Three big ideas – supported by research – make a big impact when it comes to quality\*.

1. **Quality Program Features:** Programs that give young people a sense of safety and belonging, model positive relationships, integrate home and school, and build skills.
2. **Youth Worker Expertise:** Staff who value youth and continually increase their expertise through professional development.
3. **Engaged Youth:** Young people are connected and fulfilled because they've found something that ignites their passion.

Quality matters. It's measurable, and it makes a powerful impact. Quality isn't a destination, it's a journey. The quest for quality is an ongoing cycle of evaluation, improvement and action. We want every young person in Saint Paul to have the skills and confidence they need to succeed. That's why, with you, we're coming together to help each other raise the bar on quality in Saint Paul.

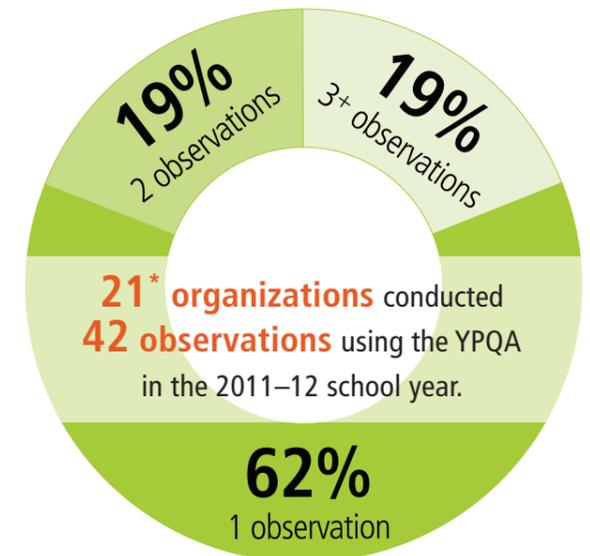
\* *Once We Know It, We Can Grow It: A Framework for Quality Nonformal Learning Opportunities and Youth Work Practice*, University of Minnesota Extension, Youth Development, 2009

## Did You Know

Sprockets helps programs continuously improve quality through the YPQA, individualized coaching and foundational skills workshops.



- **20 organizations** trained on the YPQA tool in partnership with the Youth Work Institute
- **94 coaching sessions**, trainings, and workshops
- **176 participants** attended foundational skill workshops



\*Thanks to the SPPS Foundation this includes more organizations than Sprockets trained alone.

## Moving Forward

Plan a YPQA observation (or two . . . or more) for your organization, and then put those findings into action. (And then do it again and again!) Join the YPQA community in fall 2013.

“Sprockets and the YPQA have allowed us to continue to improve and elevate quality. Our youth program staff has the tools and resources they need to infuse quality into many aspects of our youth programming.”

– KARI GONZALEZ, Youth Program Manager, CommonBond Communities

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA ENGAGES YOUTH

**CHOICE MATTERS.** Young people need lots of options so they can explore OST experiences that spark their interests, drive their passion and ignite their self-confidence.

So it's important that our community provides many different programs – from drama and dance to academics and athletics – with a keen eye on deliberately helping young people find the “spark” that helps them envision and plan for a positive future.

Once that fire of enthusiasm is lit, it carries over into the school day. That's just one way OST supports teachers and enhances classroom learning.

*But how do we know if we have the right mix of programs to spark the interest of all youth?*

We're working hard to answer that question. So, we've identified 10 different categories of activities from Sprockets' first year of data. With only 16 organizations participating – including a robust representation from Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education – we are already able to categorize 394 programs, as you can see in the table on the right.

“ You're feeling a sense of empowerment that you know how to do something yourself. ”

– BROOKLYN, 17, Cycles for Change



## Got Questions?

Do we have the right program mix to meet the interests of Saint Paul's diverse youth and families?

## Sprockets first year of shared data

Distribution of 394 programs

PROGRAM TYPE	DISTRIBUTION TODAY <i>(based on 16 organizations)</i>	DISTRIBUTION TOMORROW <i>(with more complete data)</i>
Academic	10%	
Arts & Culture	61%	
Career & College	6%	
Civic Engagement	3%	
Faith Based/Spiritual	0%	
Health	7%	
Mentoring	2%	
Sports and Rec	17%	
STEM & Environment	16%	
Youth Leadership	8%	

## Moving Forward

This data is PRELIMINARY. Imagine how much more complete – and accurate – our vision of OST offerings across Saint Paul will be when more data is collected and shared through the Sprockets data system.

## Did You Know



- Hundreds of young people participate in Saint Paul Public Schools after-school and summer learning programs each year. We're working on integrating them into the Sprockets data system right now.
- There are more than 7,000 youth (and counting!) in the Sprockets data system.

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA EXPANDS ACCESS

**HIGH-QUALITY?** Check. **LOTS OF CHOICE?** Check.  
**EASY ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY?** Hmmmm . . . Let's think about that.

*Are programs equitably distributed throughout the city? Are they near young people's homes or schools and along bus lines? Are they affordable? And most importantly: How can we maximize what we collectively offer across Saint Paul?*

## We intend to find out.

Cities from Chicago to Boston already have citywide data systems that help young people with the greatest need get access to after-school and summer programs. These cities are better able to use their resources efficiently, and measure the effectiveness of their efforts.

Mapping is one way we're breaking down the data to build success in Saint Paul. The data we've collected thus far tells part of the story. We now know something about "where" youth experience OST in Saint Paul. But to make the best decisions for youth, we need to dig even deeper. So stay tuned. Next up we'll be integrating this information with facts and figures about how long, how often and other participation data to reveal a more complete picture.

## Mapping Case Study: Boise, Idaho

A review of Boise's citywide data revealed a geographic gap in programs serving low-income areas. Their solution? A mobile recreation van now brings park & recreation programs to specifically-targeted underserved areas.

## Did You Know

Young people have more than 2,000 hours of discretionary time each year – more than twice what they spend in the classroom. It's during this time that they can participate in activities that support their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development – qualities that will empower them for the rest of their lives. (Youthprise)

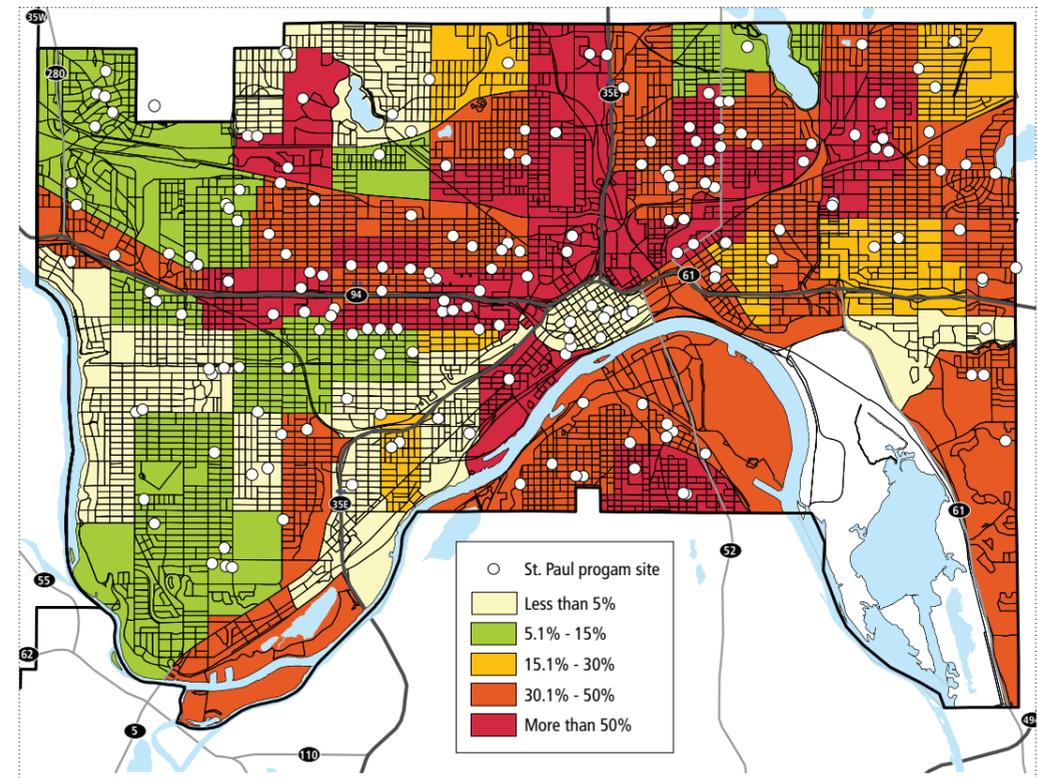


## Got Questions?

How many OST youth programs are in Saint Paul, and when do they operate?

## Mapping Tells Part of the Story

Saint Paul program sites and density of population under 18 in poverty



“It's about building relationships with people and learning about yourself and your community.”

– DESTINY, 17, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network

## Moving Forward

This kind of information will help us provide even better access to young people with the greatest need in our community.

# FIND OUT WHAT DATA INCREASES PARTICIPATION

## NADA. NIX. NOTHING. ZERO. ZIP. ZILCH.

Anyway you say it, that's what we've known about the full picture of OST across Saint Paul . . . until now. As we go to print, **the Sprockets data system includes more than 7,000 young people from 15 organizations throughout the city.** And it's still growing!

*So what do we know thus far?*

The chart on the right looks at how long the 3,800 youth in the Sprockets data system participated in programs at a single organization during the 2011–12 school year. We discovered that 84% of the young people in this micro-group were in elementary through middle school, with an even representation of girls and boys. We also found that this small group of programs is successfully reaching youth who are most likely to experience an opportunity gap – 81% were youth of color (as compared to 67% of all youth ages 5–17 in Saint Paul's 2010 census) – and that's something to celebrate.

Some of these young people attended programs in multiple locations. And that's terrific! But we wanted to take a deeper look at consistency, because young people need to participate regularly to experience the full range of benefits from OST.

The chart on the right details our first look at youth participation at one organization during the 2011–12 school year. We know so much more than we did a year ago, but questions remain. *Once we have more data, we can ask ourselves: Are programs structured so that youth can participate frequently enough to have an impact? What can we do to increase the frequency of their participation?*

Together, we're painting a more complete, community-wide picture of OST so we can continuously improve program offerings and give young people in Saint Paul the very best.

## Want to see the data system for yourself?

Contact Wilder Research or Sprockets staff for a personalized demonstration.



## Got Questions?

What are the demographics of youth who participate in OST programs as compared to Saint Paul's overall youth population?

## Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) 2011–12 by the numbers\*:

- 13,036 youth in after-school enrichment programs
- 5,392 joined summer programs
- 2,142 tried gymnastics
- 1,926 learned to swim
- 1,399 in Discovery Club childcare
- 1,036 learned to drive

\*We're thrilled that some young people take multiple community education courses! So please note that these numbers include duplicate counts. The Sprockets data system numbers reflect unique individual participants.

## Did You Know

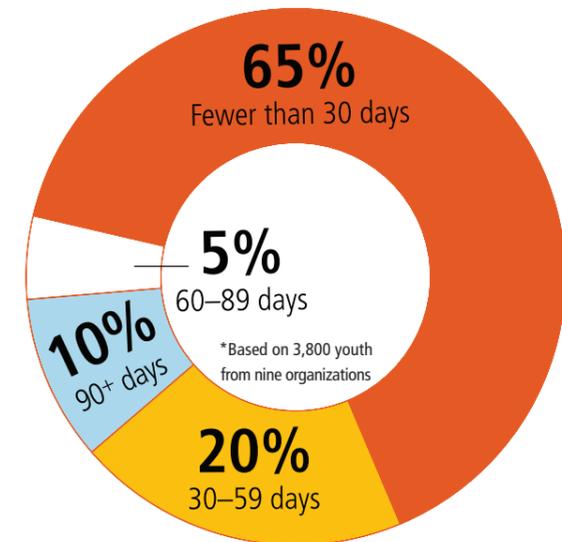


• Data system participants get a monthly enrollment snapshot, complete with detailed attendance reports on gender, race and age of participants.

• Your unique username and password will give you access to your data – yes, your program or organizational data only – for fundraising, board reports, and to help you manage, evaluate and improve your programs. Your data will then be anonymously shared in aggregate form to help improve OST throughout Saint Paul.

• This summer, SPPS's Community Education and Alternative Learning Centers will be added to the Sprockets data system.

## Youth Participation at a single program during the 2011–12 school year\*



“The best program I've experienced was the spoken word workshop. I enjoyed it because it was well structured, informative, and allowed creative flexibility.”

– CHAVA GABRIELLE, AGE 17, the Canvas Teen Art Center

# FIND OUT WHAT MORE DATA CAN DO

## WE HOPE YOU'RE EXCITED BY WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IN THIS REPORT.

It's a first glimpse, really, at what's possible for the young people of Saint Paul.

As a community, there is much to gain by collecting and sharing data. A 2012 National League of Cities report, *Collecting and Using Information to Strengthen Citywide Out-of-School Time Systems*, details the following benefits . . . benefits that we want to solidify for all of Saint Paul.

- Enhances ability to steer limited resources toward high-quality programs
- Shapes decisions about which programs are effective at attracting and retaining participants
- Generates widespread support for needed services
- Builds public will for supportive policies and investments
- Informs development of quality standards and professional development opportunities
- Sustains partnerships among cities, school districts and nonprofit organizations that create seamless learning opportunities for young people

## Be Part of Sharing Data & Ensuring Success

We hope you've been inspired to be part of our collective efforts to use data to build brighter futures for the young people in our community through OST.

For more information on how to join the Sprockets data system, SAYO, YPQA and other data-gathering or quality improvement efforts, contact Sprockets. You'll find our contact information under the "About Sprockets" section on our website.

**We look forward to building better outcomes with you, one piece of data at a time.**

*“ Our data is starting to reveal a fuller picture of how we are fostering young people who are hopeful and engaged. Imagine what we will be able to do with even more information to guide our decisions. ”*

– KARI DENISSEN CUNNIEN, director, Sprockets

## Thanks to the following organizations for sharing data.

Your participation in the Sprockets data system, YPQA, SAYO (or maybe all three!) is helping to improve outcomes for young people all across Saint Paul.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Athletes Committed to Educating Students (ACES) | McVay Youth Partnership                         |
| American Oromo Community of Minnesota           | Neighborhood House                              |
| Asian Media Access                              | Ober Center, Union Gospel Mission               |
| Breakthrough Saint Paul                         | Saint Paul Area Council of Churches             |
| Center for Democracy and Citizenship            | Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN)          |
| Center for Hmong Arts & Talent                  | Saint Paul Parks & Recreation                   |
| Central Community Services, Inc.                | Saint Paul Public Library                       |
| Cherokee Heights United Church                  | Saint Paul Public Schools                       |
| Children's Defense Fund                         | Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation            |
| Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)  | Sanneh Foundation                               |
| CommonBond Communities                          | Twin Cities Housing and Development Corporation |
| Community Design Center of Minnesota            | University of Minnesota Extension, Urban 4-H    |
| Conservation Corps of Minnesota                 | Urban Battles Tutoring                          |
| Cycles for Change                               | West 7th Community Center                       |
| East Side Learning Center                       | Wilder Foundation – Youth Leadership Initiative |
| Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center            | Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE)  |
| Genesys Works                                   | YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities                 |
| Hallie Q. Brown Community Center                | YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities/Beacons         |
| Hmong American Partnership                      | YouthCARE                                       |
| Kitty Anderson Youth Science Center,            | Youth Express                                   |
| Science Museum of Minnesota                     | Youth Farm and Market Project                   |
| Laura Jeffrey Academy                           | YWCA of Saint Paul                              |

“*The success of citywide systems in broadening access to high-quality OST programs for underserved children and youth often depends on the effective use of data.*”

– NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES INSTITUTE  
FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION & FAMILIES

**SUCCESSFUL YOUTH. QUALITY PROGRAMS. THAT'S SPROCKETS.**

SprocketsSaintPaul.org | “Like” us on Facebook. 

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