



## Mayor's Office Children, Youth and Learning

### History & Mission

The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Learning (OCYL) offers year-round educational opportunities for children and youth to learn and achieve in Cumberland, Rhode Island.



The OCYL is a one-of-a-kind, centrally located education center, embedded in the municipality, that supports children and youth as they learn, grow and achieve their fullest potential. Founded by ordinance in 2007, the unique model includes operational and administrative funding and support by the Town. The programs are supported by sponsorships, grants, donations and fee for service programs.

Our mission is to help foster a comprehensive learning environment for the first two decades of their lives.

At OCYL, we believe that the essential preschool and out of school time hours provide an invaluable opportunity for each child to engage and explore in their own learning through unique, enriching educational programs.

Throughout the past decade, programming at OCYL in basic education, afterschool enrichment and summer learning grew steadily each offering over 10,000 individual opportunities for engaging educational experiences annually through dozens of programs.

In 2015, OCYL implemented a strategy through 3 major initiatives: Early Childhood Education, the STEAM shop and Backpack to Briefcase. These initiatives demonstrate the values and leading educational trends in Early Childhood Education and Out of School learning time.

OCYL is committed to supporting the development of life-long skills necessary to succeed in life: collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, social-emotional awareness & a sense of community.

Throughout the past decade, programming at OCYL in basic education, afterschool enrichment and summer learning grew steadily filling thousands of individual opportunities for engaging educational experiences annually through dozens of programs. Early Childhood classes were housed at off-site locations until 2012 when the 2nd floor was fitted for classrooms. In 2013, OCYL, a long-time supporter of full day Kindergarten and advocate for more affordable preschool expanded the Literacy and Number Sense program (ages 4-6) to include children beginning at age 3. The program now is centered primarily on ages 3-5 as the district implemented full day K and has also expanded to include students during the summer who are entering Grades K, 1 and 2.



## TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

In 2015, OCYL implemented a newly structured strategy through 3 major initiatives: Early Childhood Education, The STEAM shop and Backpack to Briefcase. These initiatives demonstrate the values and leading educational trends in Early Childhood Education and Out-of-School learning time.