After-School and Summer Programs in Rural Areas
Why YOUR DISTRICT Should Staff and Fund Them

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Outline
• Pecatonica's Story: Open Enrollment and Strategic Planning
• What the Research Says...
• How We Got Started
• The Impact on our Community
• The Impact on our Kids
• The Impact on our School
• Conclusion

Pecatonica’s Story
• Where is Pecatonica Area School District?
• Distance to and from major employers
• Population Trends
• Open Enrollment Trends
• Open Enrollment Survey
• The Problem That Emerged....
Where is Pecatonica?

The Research Says...

- First of all, there is a LACK of:
  - Summer Programs in Rural Areas
  - After-School Programs in Rural Areas
  - Day Care in Rural Areas
  - Access to field trips or extra curricular or enrichment activities in Rural Areas
- What we noticed is:
  - Unaccompanied Children
  - Quality
- What we desire for our kids is.....

How We Got Started

- After-School Program
  - Space Concerns
  - Other Concerns
  - The Opportunity
- The Summer “Camp” Program
  - Space Concerns
  - Staffing Concerns
  - Funding and Programming
What We Learned
- Staffing
- Programming
- Financing

Community Impact
- Feedback

Kid Impact
- How did these programs impact the kids?
- No longer unsupervised
- Finishing “homework” before parents picked them up
- Summer is “funner.”
- Good program for teens interested in working with youth
- Mitigate the summer slide and screen time.
School Impact
- Enrollment “Out” vs. Enrollment “In”
- We lose money on it, but...
- Kids are healthier and happier.
- Families are happier.
- It’s a great career exploration program for teens.
- Relationship building between students.
- Social skill development for younger and older students.
- Great PR for our school.

In Conclusion & Lessons Learned
- The community cannot imagine life without these programs now. Why:
  - It’s a selling point now.
  - Parents depend on it now.
  - Kids enjoy it
  - Each year it grows and changes
  - It’s an investment in community and in kids.
- Bottom line: Keep it Affordable. You will lose more money (through OE, for example) than you would if you carried a loss with these programs.

One Last Picture...
Contact Information

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