

Ellie Mitchell



Ellie Mitchell, Executive Director of the [Maryland Out of School Time Network](#) is passionate about enhancing the lives of youth and families in Maryland. MPT spoke with Ellie to learn more about the great work she is doing locally.

“When young people have access to out-of-school time learning opportunities, their lives turn out better” said Mitchell. Ellie tells MPT that a growing body of research indicates that students who regularly participate in high quality afterschool and summer programs benefit academically, are more likely to attend school regularly, and be engaged in learning. *“Students who participate in out-of-school time benefit in social and emotional learning and developing positive relationships with peers and caring adults”* revealed Ellie. Committed to strengthening youth education, Ellie appeared as a special guest on Maryland Public Television’s [State Circle](#) program in July, 2015 to discuss the importance of quality learning programs.

 **See [Ellie’s video](#) to learn more.** *(Ellie’s segment begins at the 2.25 mark)*

Progress and Data

Progress is being made! Ellie tells MPT that early data from SummerREADS (a drop-in literary program) suggest that students who attend the program maintain or improve their reading skills, putting them on track to gain even more over the school year. *“Anecdotally, we hear from parents and teachers that the experience built students’ confidence and got them excited about reading and learning”* says Mitchell.

More About MOST

The Maryland Out of School Time Network works to expand the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities available to all school-aged young people across the state. They are accomplishing this mission through advocacy, training, and partnership development. Mitchell reveals that *“nearly 80% of a young person’s life occurs outside the school day. Unfortunately only 16% of Maryland’s youth have access to afterschool opportunities. Our network is working hard to increase OST investment from the public and private sectors. Our learning communities, in STEM, Program Quality and Healthy Behaviors are strengthening programs and supporting innovation.”*

MOST also runs a six-week, drop-in, literacy focused summer program focused on K-3 students at the Weinberg Libraries in Baltimore City Public Schools. SummerREADS has helped fight summer learning loss and provided MOST with best-practices around literacy integration into out-of-school time programs.

Welcome aboard Ellie and MOST Network! We are proud to honor your great work in Maryland.

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