WHO WE ARE

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Map of Cuyahoga County showing locations of libraries and key roads.
WHAT IS CONNECTED LEARNING?

Connected Learning is:

- A research-based approach to facilitate youth learning.
- Based on the principle that learning happens best when it is:
  - interest-driven
  - peer-supported
  - academically oriented
CONNECTED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS ARE VIBRANT
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- Teens can hang out, mess around, geek out
- Teens pursue their own interests and learn skills with real-world benefits
- Interests are tied to academic pursuits
CONNECTED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS ARE SOCIAL
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- Teens can develop a social connection with each other
- Teens can develop a connection with adult and peer mentors
**Why Libraries?**

- Libraries already serve as locations for out-of-school-time programming
- Libraries embrace HOMAGO: Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out
CONNECTED LEARNING
AT CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Interest-Driven
- Academically Oriented
- STEAM-focused
- Mentoring Component
- On-the-floor or on-the-fly programs
CREATING YOUR CONNECTED LEARNING PLAN

- Your Mission & Strategic Plan
- Administrative & Staff buy-in
- Funding
- Partnerships & Collaboration
STAFFING FOR CONNECTED LEARNING

- Library staff as educators
- Library staff as facilitators
- Library staff as lifelong learners
Offer programs based on teens’ interests
CONNECTED LEARNING PROGRAMS THAT WORK

- On-the-floor program benefits
  - Remove barriers
  - Engage a larger crowd
  - Teens can observe before participating
  - More opportunity to engage

- Traditional program formats
TECHNOLOGY & CONNECTED LEARNING PROGRAMS

- Does it need to include technology?
- What if we don’t have a budget to constantly update technology?
- Technology makes me nervous
MENTORS & VOLUNTEERS IN CONNECTED LEARNING PROGRAMS

- CCPL’s work with volunteers
- Where do I find volunteers?
- What details do I need to consider?
REACHING YOUR AUDIENCE

- Marketing to teens works differently
- How do you reach out?
- To whom do you reach out?
Assessment & Evaluation

- How do you know it’s working?
- Making changes
- Sustainability
RESOURCES


- Connected Learning Alliance: [https://clalliance.org/](https://clalliance.org/).


- DML Research Hub: [https://dmlhub.net/](https://dmlhub.net/).
RESOURCES


RESOURCES

- Visualizing Funding for Libraries Data Tool: 
  http://libraries.foundationcenter.org/.

- YALSA Partnering to Increase Your Impact Toolkit: 

- YALSA STEAM Toolkit: 
  http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/YALSA_STEAMToolkit_WEB_Dec2016.pdf