

Thank you to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District for your culminating \$30,000 grant to Aim High in summer 2021. We are lucky to have your three-year, \$90,000 commitment to students and families in our shared and vibrant community! We hope you enjoy our brief update on plans for this summer. Our final report, which we will share in October, will highlight the impact of your multi-year grant.

AIM HIGH 2021

This summer, Aim High will provide 100 Tahoe-Truckee middle school students with a free five-week summer learning program that will build their confidence, deepen their sense of belonging and develop their academic skills and mindsets in 2021. These students will be:

- 95% students of color.
- 90% live at poverty or low-income levels.
- 85% speak a language other than English at home.
- 90% poised to be the first-generation in their family to graduate college.



The Need: Aim High was founded to combat the summer slide, which is one of the leading contributors to the achievement and opportunity gaps. More than ever before, our work is essential during a global pandemic that is leaving a historic number of Tahoe-Truckee students behind—some a full year behind where they should be.

In addition to this unparalleled learning loss, Tahoe-Truckee students are navigating an uncertain school year, missing key milestones and struggling to develop their identities in isolation. These challenges are robbing them of the safety, belonging and well-being necessary to learn and thrive.

Program Activities: In June, Tahoe-Truckee students will join us for three days of virtual programming and one day of in-person field trips over five weeks. Components include—

Social and Emotional Skill Building: As we emerge from a global pandemic that is negatively impacting the mental health of our youth, this type of instruction is more necessary than ever. Our hallmark youth development course, Issues & Choices, offers students a safe space to explore

difficult but important topics including bullying, peer pressure and racism. Studies show that students who receive this type of instruction outperform their peers and develop more positive peer relationships.

Project-Based Academics: Students will build essential critical thinking, literacy and problem-solving skills that will ensure they rebound from the school closures fueled by the pandemic. Project-based STEAM activities and culturally-relevant humanities coursework will reinforce these skills and connect students with their learning.

College/Career Awareness: Students will create a vision for their future by connecting their middle school academic goals to their long-term success in high school and college. Activities include researching high school opportunities, learning about post-secondary options and financial aid, and exploring different career paths.

Enrichment Activities: The pandemic has limited students' access to activities, and many are not getting the daily amount of exercise they need to learn, grow and thrive. This summer, students will join their peers and teachers for incredible outdoor adventures, including rock climbing on Donner Summit, river rafting on the Truckee River, hiking up Shirley Canyon and paddleboarding on Lake Tahoe.

Parent Engagement: Aim High partners with families by providing them with the resources and connections they need to support their child's learning and growth. We will provide weekly program updates, a variety of educational workshops, family friendly activities, tutoring and enrichment, tech support and one-on-one guidance.

Gratitude: Summer is now recognized as a critical piece of our nation's recovery effort. Articles in the New York Times and NPR advocate for summer programs like Aim High that address both academic needs and also social/emotional issues.

With the Truckee Tahoe Airport District's support and partnership, Aim High will support students academically, socially and emotionally so that they succeed in high school, college and beyond. If you have any questions or need more information about our program, please contact Alec Lee, Executive Director, at (415) 425-3480 or alee@aimhigh.org. Thank you!

