

### ABOUT THE RESEARCH

With support from The Wallace Foundation, Learning Heroes and its partner Edge Research conducted a study during the 2020-21 school year to better understand how parents, teachers, and out-of-school-time providers (“providers”) perceive the role of these programs in developing children’s academic, social, and emotional skills, which parents often call “life skills.”

#### The research focused on three areas:

- ★ **Understanding Expectations:** What role do parents, teachers, and providers see out-of-school-time programs playing in children’s social, emotional, and academic development compared with school and home? What are the connections across settings?
- ★ **Defining success:** How do parents say they choose an out-of-school-time program? How do they define or assess quality? What does a successful program look like?
- ★ **Unpacking COVID-19 Impact:** How do parents, teachers, and providers feel COVID-19 has impacted these programs now and going forward?



#### The national research occurred in three phases:

- ★ **Qualitative (November-December 2020):** This included three K-8 parent focus groups (mixed race, Black parents, Latino/a parents in Spanish), three parent-child dyads with children in grades 4-6, two K-8 teacher focus groups (teachers with and without OST program experience), and six in-depth interviews with OST providers representing public schools, youth development organizations, and opportunity-centered providers, such as departments of parks and recreation. All sessions were virtual via a screen-sharing platform.
- ★ **Quantitative (February 9-March 9, 2021):** A large-scale national survey (n=3,031) recruited through an online, nonprobability sample with quotas set to ensure demographically representative audiences and following polling best practices. The survey (offered in English and Spanish) included 2,020 parents and guardians of K-8 children in public/public charter schools, with oversamples of Black and Hispanic families, as well as 631 teachers of K-8 children in public/public charter schools and 380 out-of-school time program providers.
- ★ **Final Qualitative (May-June 2021):** (1) K-8 teacher focus group, (1) OST parent focus group, (1) non-OST parent focus group, (6) in-depth interviews among district leaders.