



D2S Summer Success!

2025

Parent/Guardian Handbook

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June 30 – August 1

Welcome Parents, Guardians, Friends and Participants to the 2025 D2S Summer Success Program at D.E.S.T.I.N.E.D. to Succeed, Inc.!

This is our fourth year providing D2S Summer Success and we would like to introduce participants and their families to the program. This handbook has been prepared to answer any questions you may have.



What is D2S Summer Success?

D2S Summer Success is a program of D.E.S.T.I.N.E.D. to Succeed, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) youth empowerment organization being held at Albertus Magnus College, 333 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT. The program incorporates a variety of components to ensure a well-rounded experience for all participants. Overall, D2S Summer Success is a five-week program designed to empower rising Grades 6 through 9 students. By combining sports instruction, Freshman prep, career exploration, college preparation, leadership development, and life skills, participants will experience holistic growth and be better prepared for the challenges ahead. Through this program, D.E.S.T.I.N.E.D. to Succeed, Inc. aims to inspire, educate, and support the next generation of leaders, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed academically and in life.

Who sponsors D2S Summer Success?

Currently, D.E.S.T.I.N.E.D. to Succeed, Inc. sponsors D2S Summer Success. This year we are awaiting grant funding, but we welcome partnerships between individuals and businesses in the Greater-New Haven area in an effort to secure funds to be able to run this program at little to no cost for Participants and their families.

What will Participants be learning?

We are providing a unique approach to learning through sports activity and a focus on our 4 Pillars of Excellence. Participants will develop their personal and social skills through our educational program. Participants will learn valuable skills to help them transition smoothly into high school, college preparation resources to inspire students to start planning for their future education, develop leadership skills giving them confidence to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities, and life skills, equipping students with practical knowledge to navigate challenges and make informed decisions. Topics covered include financial literacy, time management, effective communication, and conflict resolution.

Where will the participants be all day?

D2S Summer Success participants will use the facilities at Albertus Magnus College, 333 Huntington St., New Haven, CT. We will also utilize recreational facilities at Villano Park owned and operated by the Town of Hamden located one block from site.

Will the participants be fed?

All Participants will receive breakfast, lunch, and two snacks during the day along with water. Participants will prepare and eat their meals on campus. Participants will make their lunch daily which teaches them an important life skill. Some Participants may suffer from allergies, and as a result they should bring a brown bag lunch.

What is the age of the Participants?

D2S Summer Success is open for all children entering Grades 6, 7, 8 & 9 or ages 10-14. Participants who will turn 10 before the end of the program (Aug. 1) may be eligible. Certification of age may be requested for younger Participants.

What about transportation to and from Summer Success?

There is no transportation available, therefore, Participants will need to be dropped off and picked up. All children, whether arriving by bus, by car, or on foot, are expected to be at D2S between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. If Participant will be picked up by someone other than the parent/guardian, written permission from the parent/guardian is required and will be retained on file. If the alternate person is not listed in our file by written permission, we will be unable to release your child to that individual. This is done as a safety measure to protect you, your child, and the organization.

Will parents get a chance to see the Summer Success in action?

Yes, there will be D2S Summer Success Family Day & Award Ceremony. On this day, all parents/guardians will be invited to come to the Program to watch the participants in D2S Summer Success and to enjoy lunch with the children. In addition, parents are encouraged to attend D2S Summer Success on any day to see how their child is performing. Please contact Mrs. Jones to arrange your visit.

Any more questions that we did not answer?

Call D2S Summer Success at (203) 691-8540. We welcome all parent input and questions. Parents, friends, and family are strongly encouraged to stop by to visit this summer. We will do our best to make this a great program for you and your child!





What is a typical day like?

The Program will run from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Each day of the Program, there will be a minimum of two different athletic activities, an educational topic, lunch and two snacks. Here's a sample of a typical schedule:

Daily Schedule

8:45 - 9:00 am	Participant arrival/breakfast
9:05 am–9:10 am	Participants assemble / Icebreaker
9:15 - 9:55 am	Educational Enrichment (Art, Career, etc.)
10:00 - 10:45 am	1st Activity Period (sports instruction)
10:50 - 11:10 am	Snack
11:15-12 noon	Gender Specific Mentoring (YOUUniquely Me! Girls Empowerment & B.O.Y.S.)
12:05 - 12:55 am	Lunch
1:00 - 1:45	2nd Activity Period (sports instruction)
1:50 - 2:35 pm	Leadership Program (L.I.T.)
2:40 – 3:30 pm	Biz-E-Kid\$ Entrepreneurs
3:35-4:00 pm	Snack
4:00 - 5:10 pm	3rd Activity Period (sports instruction)
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Assembly/Debriefing/Departure

D2S Summer Success Rules

D2S Summer Success, like all other programs, has a set of rules that must be followed by all Participants. These rules are intended to ensure safety, encourage a fun environment, and establish respect between staff and participants and their fellow participants. The main rules are:

Proper attire should be worn daily:

Summer Success is an educational and sports program. Participants must come ready to run around. Proper clothing consists of a T-shirt, gym shorts or sweat pants, socks and sneakers. Participants should not wear cutoffs, skirts or any kind of jewelry. Participants who show up in the morning wearing jewelry like watches, earrings, necklaces, or rings will have those items taken by staff and returned to the Participant at the end of the day. All participants will receive two (2) D2S Summer Success T-shirts during the second week of the program.

Participants must attend each day:

D2S Summer Success will last for 5 weeks. Participants enrolled in the program are allowed only 3 absences. While this rule may sound strict, there are several reasons for it. First, we believe it is important for the staff to get to know each participant well and for Participants to get to know each other. This is difficult if a Participant doesn't come every day. Second, the sports skills and the educational enrichment are both designed to build knowledge from the first week until the last day.

Continued on Page Four

Continued from Page Three

Participants who miss days will fall behind the other Participants. Finally, we do have a waiting list of children who we could not accept into the program and families will be notified if a place in the program opens up. Parents can help by notifying the staff of any pre-planned absences. This way, we will know not to expect your child during vacations, appointments, etc. On a separate but related note, D2S Summer Success Participants cannot bring friends with them who are not officially enrolled in the program. We are only insured for the Participants who have completed the official program application.

Respectful, cooperative, positive behavior:

To encourage an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, any fighting, stealing, swearing, sexual harassment, name-calling, or other forms of disrespect will not be tolerated. These rules apply to all D2S Summer Success staff members equally. Participants will participate in athletic competitions, which can often lead to disrespectful behavior. We aim to teach them the benefits of competition as a way to test and improve individual skills and to foster teamwork. Disrespectful behaviors like taunting or making fun of other Participants are not consistent with either teamwork or athletic excellence and will not be allowed or tolerated during competitions or at any other time during D2S Summer Success hours.



D2S Summer Success Pledge

As a D2S Summer Success Participant, I pledge to conduct myself in decency and in order. I will do what is necessary to get along with others. I will have pride for myself and represent my parents well making sure to do nothing that embarrasses me or them. I will give my best effort in everything I do and always be honest and fair in competition and in life.

