

# Major Program Areas

**After-school Academic Centers:** SSFP South Towne is our anchor facility. It acts as an incubator, producing after-school strategies easily adapted to other sites. It's the first of its kind in Dane County, a youth center focused on academics. A youth center using richly layered, national award-winning curriculum. Lesson plans support the school day, but do not replicate the classroom. This is project-based learning. Student reporters easily transfer their newsroom skills to any classroom. Satellites operate at Capital Newspapers and local schools.

**Literacy Partnership:** SSFP operates a youth book club network. Students choose the club they join based on their interest or what they're reading at school. They publish content on various media platforms and blog with peers using a secure SSFP site. Students submit their book reviews at school or for publication. Our book network began in 1998, and we've developed dozens of book review lesson plans. Working with local libraries, students produce book trailers and publish their videos online. Students use new media technology to encourage peers to read our featured books.

**Wisconsin Idea/La Prensa Project:** La Prensa addresses what scholars call the "language achievement gap." The project is designed to help all students -- using methods proven to help ELL students. A partnership with UW-Madison, La Prensa synthesizes national research and SSFP curriculum. La Prensa students write and read extensively. They work across languages. They produce bilingual youth newspapers and publish content on various media platforms.

**School Support System:** School Support System (SSS): Activities at SSFP connect to the school day, but do not replicate the classroom. Students struggling in math, biology, or Spanish are matched with older peers who previously completed those courses. SSS also connects schools to after-school sites. School Support is central to newsroom operations. It contributes to the contagious culture of achievement that exists at SSFP. We look for students who are behind in school but likely to improve with support. We look for students who will benefit from positive peer influence. Students are often referred by classroom teachers.

**Writing for Publication:** Want kids to read your newspaper? Put a dinosaur on the front page. Articles about ancient pyramids, grizzly bears, and space science draw young readers into core subject learning. SSFP uses a multiple outcomes approach. Our student reporters learn very practical skills and inspire their younger peers. SSFP publications nurture imagination and encourage academic achievement. SSFP students create tangible, concrete, permanent community assets.

