

The Urgent Summer Learning Loss Issue

Duane C. Sergent
Consultant

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants
Rockville, Virginia

BOOST Conference
Palm Springs, California
April 2014

Audience Composition?

Sector

- School system
- Community based organization
- Faith based organization
- State or federal agency
- Other...

Grade level

- Elementary educators
- Middle school educators
- High school educators
- Higher Education
- Other...

Overarching Principles

Summer Learning Programs:¹

Maintain and advance participants' academic and developmental growth

Support working families

Keep children safe and healthy

Send young people back to school ready to learn

Research on Effects

➤ **Studies have confirmed** that children experience learning losses in math and reading without continued opportunities for skill building over the summer (White, Heyns, Cooper, Downey, Alexander)

➤ **Elementary school students** lose most in reading and math skills. (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olson, 2007)

➤ **All youth lose** an average of 2.6 months of math skills without practice over the summer²

➤ **Average loss in reading** is 2.3 months of grade level equivalency for low income youth²

➤ **Remedial Summer School Programs**²

A survey of the 100 largest school districts recently found that all districts operated some type of summer program. More than 90 percent of summer programs were described as "remedial," targeting only students who were not on grade level. Remedial summer school programs are typically intermittent single-summer interventions offered only at gateway grades.

Research on Effects

➤ Study of the Chicago's Summer Bridge program findings

- ❑ Extremely positive students responses about their experiences in summer school
- ❑ Teachers' knowledge of their students before summer school important predictor of test-score increases and teacher practice
- ❑ Higher-achieving schools ran more effective summer school programs
- ❑ The quality of interactions between teachers and students was a distinguishing factor between the most effective and the average classrooms
- ❑ Students whose teachers spent more time individualizing the curriculum and working with students outside of class had greater learning gains than students in classrooms where teachers spent less time adapting the curriculum and providing individualized attention
- ❑ Summer school may be a useful intervention for students who are behind, but it is not a substitute for effective instruction during the school year. There was no evidence that Summer Bridge had an impact on school-year learning rates.

➤ Download the National Summer Learning Association's report, [*Healthy Summers for Kids, Turning Risk Into Opportunity.*](#)

Healthy Summers for Kids, Turning Risk Into Opportunity.

Topics

- Summer challenges to health and learning
- Risk for obesity on the rise in summer
- Food insecurity when school is out
- Promising practices
- Dr. Steven Pont interview

Research on Effects

New report: *How Summer Learning Strengthens Students' Success* by Nikki Yamashiro

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/New-report-how-summer-learning-strengthens-students_05-24-2013.cfm

- Kids participating in the summer learning programs saw their instructional grade level vocabulary assessment increase by more than 1/3 of a grade
- Improvement in grade level vocabulary over the summer was most significant among middle schoolers who had below grade level vocabulary skills at the start of summer
- Summer learning program participants maintained high school day attendance rates
- Nearly 7 in 10 parents (68%) shared that their child improved their attitude toward reading
- 77% of parents say that their child's attitude toward school has improved since attending the summer program
- Close to 9 in 10 parents (89%) say the summer learning program helped their child get along better with other children and 82% say that the program helped their child get along better with adults

Research on Effects

➤ Discussion on Current Interventions²

- ❑ Remedial Summer School Programs (data previously cited)
- ❑ Modified School Year Calendars
- ❑ Extended School Year
- ❑ New Directions – Summer Learning Programs

Income Level Achievement Gap

- Gap in standardized test scores between affluent and low-income students had grown by about 40 percent for children born in 2001 compared to those born 25 years earlier, and is now **double the testing gap between blacks and whites**
- Researchers say that wealthy parents invest more time and money than ever before in their children (in weekend sports, ballet, music lessons, math tutors, and in overall involvement in their children's schools), while lower-income families, which are now more likely than ever to be headed by a single parent, are increasingly stretched for time and resources

New York Times, Feb 9, 2012, *Education Gap Grows Between Rich and Poor, Studies Say*, Sean F. Reardon, Stanford University.

Summer Learning Loss Video

Narrated Video

Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahhj3wxxkdM>

(Wife, Jane Stoddard W... is the host and producer of Bloomberg EDU, Bloomberg Radio combining her two great passions of her professional life: education and media. National Board Chair of Horizons Student Enrichment Program)

Google: *Horizons National Summer Learning Video*

Summer Nutrition Programs

Only 1 in 5 (21.1 per 100) of the 15.3 million children who receive free or reduced-price school lunches on a typical day during the regular school year participate in federal nutrition programs during the summer.²

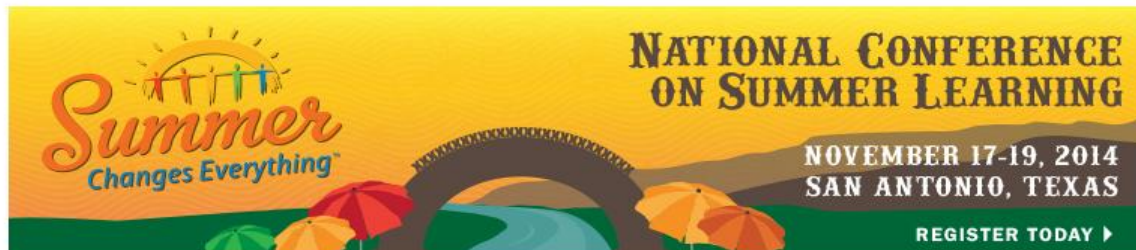
National Summer Learning Association Site

[Contact Us](#) | [Your Cart](#) | [Sign In](#) | [Register](#)



Together we can ensure that every child is safe, healthy,
and engaged in learning during the summer.

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [New Vision for Summer School](#) [Services & Training](#) [Publications & Resources](#) [Events](#) [Public Policy](#) [News](#) [Membership](#)



Summer
Changes Everything™

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SUMMER LEARNING**

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2014
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

REGISTER TODAY ▶

Search

[Search »](#)

[Member Sign In](#)

Special Announcements

Read the latest report on how NSLA's Teaching Fellows used Connected Learning in the summer

Save the date for Summer Learning Day 2014 on Friday, June 20, 2014

Register for year's *Summer Changes Everything*™ national conference at our **EARLY BIRD** rates

Summer Starts in September



The *Summer Starts in September: Comprehensive Planning Guide for Summer Learning Programs* includes research-based strategies, program examples, and tools that summer program staff, leaders, and trainers can use to intentional, high-impact

The Benefits of Membership



America's Promise Alliance Site

<http://www.americaspromise.org/News-and-Events/News-and-Features/2013-News/June/Summer-Learning-Day.aspx>



[Login / Register](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Donate Today!](#)

2213 dropouts already today
1 student every 26 seconds

▶ [Find Out How You Can Help](#)

[Home](#) | [Our Work](#) | [Act](#) | [Partners](#) | [Resources](#) | [News & Events](#) | [About the Alliance](#)

[Search](#)

[Home](#) > [News & Events](#) > [News & Features](#) > [National Summer Learning Day](#)



▶ [NEWS & FEATURES](#)

▶ [PARTNER EVENTS](#)

▶ [MAKE A DONATION](#)



Newsletter Signup

The America's Promise Bulletin biweekly e-newsletter is the best way to stay informed about the work of America's Promise.

National Summer Learning Day

6/11/2013

June 21 is National Summer Learning Day, a national advocacy day recognized to spread awareness about the importance of summer learning for our nation's youth in helping close the achievement gap and support healthy development in communities all across the country. Summer Learning Day is officially sponsored by the National Summer Learning Association, and there are several America's Promise partners that have resources and activities in support of these efforts.

The National Summer Learning Association's website provides several resources and ideas on how to participate in National Summer Learning Day. [Click here to see the full list.](#)

- ▶ Whether you have a physical event or a virtual event, you can celebrate Summer Learning Day any time during the summer--not just on June 21! [Download a list of event ideas.](#)



The You 4 Youth (Y4Y) Professional Development and Technical Assistance Site



Online Professional Learning and Technical Assistance for 21st CCLCs

Learn

Teach

Tools

Network

Search



<http://y4y.ed.gov/>

Contact Us | Join

Sign In



For Directors

Find valuable resources to help you and your staff.



Welcome

Our Blog

Find a Program

I'm very happy to share this online community



After School Programs & Providers

System Indicators for Success

- Shared vision and community wide coordination
- Engaged leadership
- Data management system
- Quality improvement system
- Sustainable resources
- Marketing and communications strategy

Challenges

Develop Strategies to Address

1. Community support/parent education
2. Recruiting and keeping qualified and effective staff
3. Funding (need partners and sponsors)
4. Transportation
5. Nutritional support
6. Lack of creativity: overcome challenges and implement best practices
 - Recruiting participants
 - Full day programming
 - Aligning the school year and summer curricula
 - Including content beyond remediation
 - Tracking effectiveness

Keys to Success

- Best program practices
 - High quality instructors (credentialed teachers)
 - Aligning the school year and summer curricula
 - Including content beyond remediation
 - Tracking effectiveness

- Remove structural barriers
 - Provide transportation
 - Offer full day programming

- Entice students
 - Food (breakfast, lunch, snacks)
 - Engaging enrichment activities
 - Camp-like atmosphere
 - Experiential or project based learning

Key Elements for Design

- Establish target population
- Determine needs of population
- Emphasis on:
 - Literacy
 - Experiential learning
 - Include parental involvement component
- Offer programming closer to the start of the school year

Additional Considerations

- Offer maximum dosage
- Snack and sack lunch provided
- Transportation provided at no cost to parent
- Fun activities/field trips

Ideas for Summer Activities

- Recreation and physical activity-local playgrounds and parks are underutilized
- Field trips
 - State parks
 - Nature centers
 - Museums
- Allied Organizations (previous slides) and collaborations
 - YMCA's
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Local churches
 - Business organizations in community
 - Law enforcement agencies
- Other activities
 - Healthy kids health fair (see *Healthy Summers for Kids* article)
 - Get Fit summer youth camp (see *Healthy Summers for Kids* article)
 - College and High school mentoring
 - Community gardens

Ideas for Summer Activities

- Other activities, continued
 - ❑ Career readiness activities (age appropriate)
 - Preparing for interview, steps in the process; role playing
 - Non-verbal communications (handshake, eye contact,
 - ❑ Arts and crafts
 - ❑ Science fair-project based learning activities
 - ❑ Collaborated activities with 4-H at the local and state level
- Y4Y professional development website portal (see other slides for site shot and URL)

Ideas for Summer Activities

What are your ideas for activities?

Parental Involvement

Classroom Connections

Sending home notes for each child, weekly phone calls, recipes for families to do together, books to read at home, etc.

Weekly Postcards

Students send home a postcard each Friday with a picture and short retelling of what they learned that week! Parents stay informed, and students receive mail!

Activity Volunteers

Field Trip Chaperones

Family Reading Nights

Every Wednesday night, families join us for a puppet show, book reading, light refreshments, and library check out!

Family Day

Each class creates a presentation to share on our final day of Adventure Camp to show their parents what they have made and what they have learned!

Allied Organizations

➤ Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality leads the **Virginia Resource Use Education Council (VRUEC)**

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/EnvironmentalInformation/VirginiaNaturally/VirginiaResourceUseEducationCouncil.aspx>

Member Agencies/Organizations

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Education

Department of Environmental Quality

Department of Forestry

Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

Department of Health

Department of Historic Resources

Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy

Department of Transportation

Science Museum of Virginia

Shenandoah National Park

Smithsonian's National Zoo Conservation & Research Center

Allied Organizations

VRUEC Member Agencies/Organizations, continued

State Arboretum of Virginia & Blandy Experimental Farm

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Foundation for Ag. in the Classroom

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Virginia Museum of Natural History

Virginia Tech Science Outreach Program

Virginia Master Naturalist Program, Virginia Tech

Claytor Nature Study Center, Lynchburg College

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Danville Science Center, Science Museum of Virginia

Public Colleges and Universities

Allied Organizations

What organizations are accessible in your region?

Articles, Resources and Websites

➤ **The National Summer Learning Association** Site: <http://www.summerlearning.org/>

➤ **Reading is Fundamental:**

<http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/primer-on-summer-reading-loss.htm>

Click on “Home to School Connections”; click on “Primer on Summer Learning Loss” article

➤ **The Afterschool Alliance:** www.afterschoolalliance.org

➤ **You4Youth (Y4Y)** professional development and technical assistance web portal:

<http://y4y.ed.gov/>

➤ **America’s Promise Alliance Site** (previous slide):

<http://www.americaspromise.org/News-and-Events/News-and-Features/2013-News/June/Summer-Learning-Day.aspx>

➤ **New report:** *How Summer Learning Strengthens Students' Success* by Nikki Yamashiro

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/New-report-how-summer-learning-strengthens-students_05-24-2013.cfm

Challenges

Develop One Strategy to Address Each Challenge

1. Community support:	
2. Recruiting and keeping qualified staff:	
3. Funding:	
4. Transportation:	
5. Nutritional support:	
6. Lack of creativity:	
7. Other	

Contact Information

Duane C. Sergent

Consultant

Rockville, Virginia 23146

E-mail: duaneinva2@aol.com

Phone:

(w) (804) 749-8332

(c) (804) 402-1091