

Summer Starts in September: Why Quality Matters in Summer Programming

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Poll Question

*What's your experience level with
summer learning?*

- Just beginning work in summer learning
- 1-3 years experience with summer learning
- Seasoned summer learning provider or partner





The diagram features five icons in a row, connected by arrows pointing from left to right. From left to right: a red graduation cap over an open book labeled 'SCHOOLS'; an orange silhouette of a person holding a clipboard labeled 'PROVIDERS'; the National Summer Learning Association logo (a sun with colorful figures) labeled 'NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION'; a green house icon labeled 'COMMUNITIES'; and a blue silhouette of a family labeled 'FAMILIES'.

NSLA's mission is to connect and equip schools, providers, communities and families to deliver high-quality summer learning opportunities to our nation's youth to help close the achievement gap and support healthy development.

NSLA seeks to:

- Improve the quality of summer learning opportunities
- Expand access to summer learning
- Increase demand for summer learning



The Need for High-Quality Summer Learning Programs

Since 1906, numerous studies have confirmed that **all young people** experience learning losses in math and reading without continued opportunities for skill building over the summer (White, Heyns, Cooper, Downey, Alexander)

Elementary students lose most in **reading** and **math** skills.

Average **loss in math** over the summer is about **2.6 months** of grade level equivalency.

White, Heyns, Cooper, Downey, Alexander & Entwistle

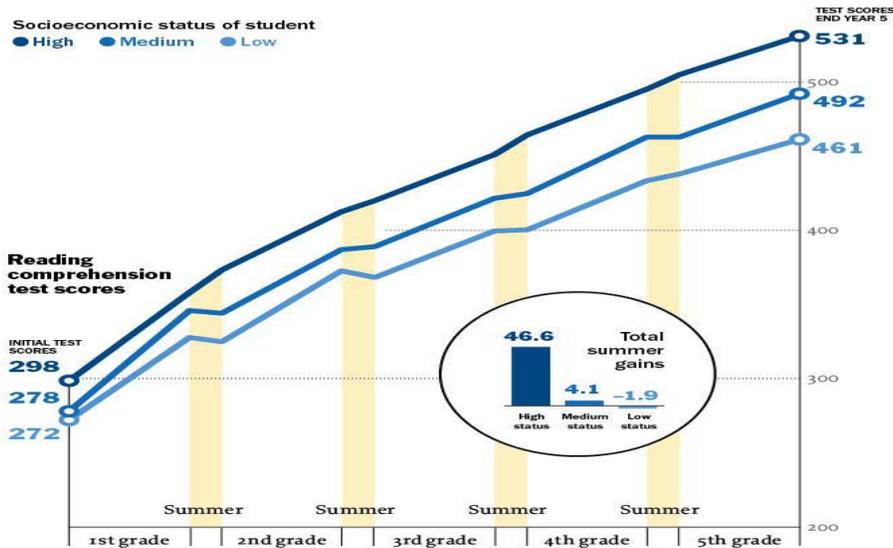
Summer Learning & the Achievement Gap

- 2/3 of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years (Alexander, Entwisle & Olson, 2007)
- Summer learning losses have later life consequences, including high school curriculum placement, high school dropout, and college attendance (ibid.)



The Summer Slide

Reading Comprehension Gains, School Year and Summer, Over the Five Years of Elementary School: Lower-Income Children in Baltimore Fall Behind



Summer Learning & the Achievement Gap

What's the reading gap look like in grade 9?

- 3.4 grade equivalents difference on average
- 6.6 grade equivalents difference between low-income youth who eventually drop out vs. higher-income who eventually enter college



Summer Learning Works

- Programs can reduce summer learning losses and even lead to achievement gains
- Voluntary, mandatory, and home-based summer program programs all found to have positive effects
- Studies have found effects of summer learning programs endure for 2 years after the student has engaged in a summer program



Research-based program design



Poll Question

How many hours of high quality programming should youth receive each summer?

- 50 hours
- 80 hours
- 100 hours
- 150 hours



Keys to Success

- Students must attend to reap benefits (85% ADA)
- Research indicates certain program characteristics are linked to student achievement gains
 - Smaller class sizes (1:5- 1:8)
 - ~150 hours per summer, at least two consecutive summers
 - Providing individualized instruction
 - Involving parents



Keys to Success

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



Keys to Success

- Remove structural barriers
 - Provide transportation
 - Offer full-day programming
- Entice students
 - Food (breakfast, lunch, snacks)
 - Engaging enrichment activities
 - Camp-like atmosphere
 - Experiential learning



What is the Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs?

(and where did it come from?)



CASP Development

- Research from the fields of summer learning, afterschool, youth development, non-profit management and K-12 education
- NSLA's database of site visit reports
- Excellence Award applications
- In-depth interviews with program staff



CASP Development

- 80 Indicators of quality on a 4-point rating scale
- Interview and Observation tools collect information for feedback reports
- National review of content validity
- Piloted in summers 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 (~150 sites total)



Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs

Program Infrastructure Point-of-Service

PURPOSE

FINANCE and
SUSTAINABILITY

PLANNING

STAFF

PARTNERSHIPS

INDIVIDUALIZED

INTENTIONAL

INTEGRATED

UNIQUE PROGRAM
CULTURE



Poll Question

What methods do you use for assessing your summer program? (check all that apply)

- Formal program observations
- Document reviews
- Focus Groups
- Stakeholder surveys
- We do not have any formal tools in place.



CASP PURPOSE Domain:

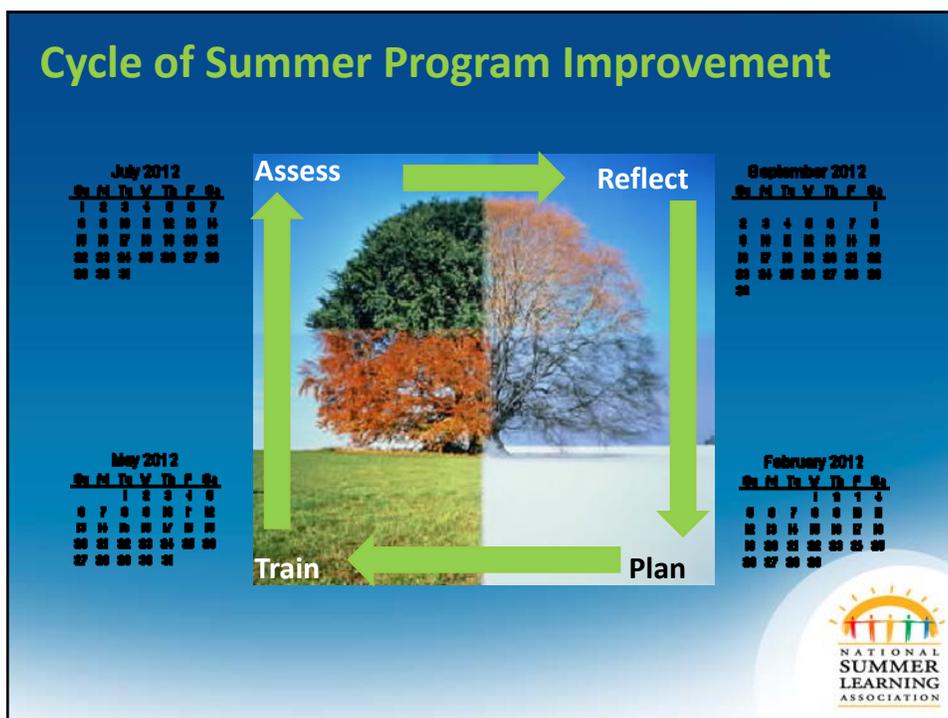
INDICATOR	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Grounded Mission and Vision	Program does not have a mission or vision statement.	Program has a mission and/or vision statement, but cannot connect it to a specific need of the community served.	Program has developed mission and vision statements that reflect the apparent needs of the community, without direct feedback from members of the community served.	Program has used a variety of information sources, including direct feedback from community members, to conduct a community needs assessment. Program has mission and vision statements that are connected to the needs of the community served.



Quick Reference Guide

- Organized by domain
- Includes the level 4 rating for each indicator

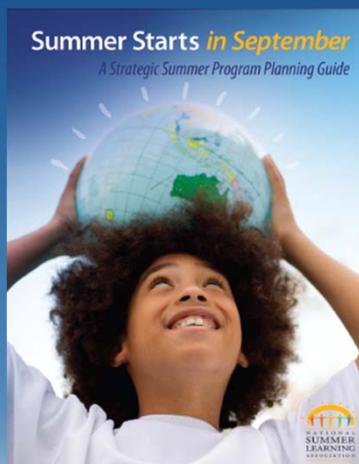




Events and Resources

This section is titled 'Events and Resources' and features a blue gradient background. The National Summer Learning Association logo is positioned in the bottom right corner, consistent with the previous slide.

Planning Guide



Full of tips and tools to use to plan your program, train your staff and evaluate your success.

Available at www.summerlearning.org in Publications and Resources



NSLA Training Institutes

<http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=training>



Excellence in Summer Learning Award

http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_summer

Applications available November 16, 2012



Summer
Changes Everything™

**National Conference
on Summer Learning**
Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh
October 22 – 24, 2012

Three small photographs showing children engaged in various activities: two boys talking, two girls playing, and a boy reading.

**NATIONAL
SUMMER
LEARNING
ASSOCIATION**

Register today at: www.summerlearning.org/conference



At the *Summer Changes Everything™* conference

Visit summerlearning.org/conference to learn more and reserve your spot!

Preconference Training Session: Cycle of Summer Program Improvement: Building Your Program on Lessons Learned

As soon as the most recent summer slips into the past, it is time to start thinking, assessing, and planning — while summer's lessons are still fresh in your mind. In this four-hour workshop, participants will receive the Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs (CASP) quality standards and hear and practice ideas for using them in a continuous program improvement process designed by the National Summer Learning Association.

Register for this optional, in-depth session today – space is limited! \$200 NSLA member/\$225 nonmember

Contact Us!

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*Find research and other resources at
summerlearning.org.*

