Why Summers Matter
ABOUT NSLA

NSLA is a national, non-profit organization focused on the powerful impact of one achievable goal: investing in summer learning to help close the achievement gap. NSLA uses the power of research, advocacy, training, and policy to transform America’s neighborhoods and communities, one child at a time.

Our work is based on the simple idea that summer—a time that is easily overlooked yet critical to educational development—is bursting with possibility, and instrumental in closing the achievement gap between privileged children and our most vulnerable children.
SUMMER LEARNING LOSS: THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

51% OF FAMILIES
Not participating in a summer program say they would if one was available to them.

Of families who pay for summer programs, the average weekly reported cost is $288 PER CHILD per week.

ONE IN SIX youth eligible for the federal Summer Food Service Program received subsidized meals during the summer, leaving millions of dollars in federal funding on the table and many young people to needlessly go hungry when school is not in session.

Minority children gain weight up to TWICE AS FAST during the unstable months of the summer as during the school year.

Over the past 12 years, there has been a nearly 40% DECLINE in summer youth employment opportunities.

Without summer counseling and support, ONE-THIRD of first generation college attendees fall victim to the “summer melt” and fail to enroll in the fall, even after being accepted.

1/3 OF HOUSEHOLDS say that at least one child participates in a summer program.

In the summer of 2014, 3.2 MILLION young people received a meal through the USDA’s programs on an average day.

Waiting lists for summer youth jobs are in the THOUSANDS in most major cities, despite promising findings around reduced crime and mortality rates for participants.
Time for Improvement
Summer learning is for students and adults.

Time for Innovation
Empower staff to try out and measure new ideas, solutions, strategies before scaling

Time for Integration
Break down artificial silos in education and partner leaders and organizations in new ways

Time for Impact
Experiential learning is immediate, and lasting. Set up success for school. A Solvable challenge.
Deeply Empathetic

Hyper-Creative

Hyper-Collaborative

Hi-Tech and Low-Tech

Relationship and Trust-based
Summer Starts in September
A Comprehensive Planning Guide for Summer Learning Programs
Summer Program Quality Assessment

Engagement
- Planning
- Choice
- Reflection

Interaction
- Belonging
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Adult Partners

Supportive Environment
- Warm Welcome
- Active Engagement
- Encouragement
- Session Flow
- Skill-Building
- Reframing Conflict

Safe Environment
- Emotional Safety
- Healthy Environment
- Emergency Preparedness
- Accommodating Environment
- Nourishment

Youth Voice in Governance
Professional Learning Community
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CYCLE

• **PLAN**: Set quality improvement goals and develop and implement a plan for achieving them.
• **TRAIN**: Develop staff understanding and ownership of program quality goals and strategies.
• **ASSESS**: Look for evidence of quality improvement during the program.
• **REFLECT**: Review summer program data and debrief with key stakeholders.
Families

- *When Schools Are Closed*
- Learning Heroes
- Scholastic
- National PTA
- Understood.org

Foster Youth

- Supporting Older Youth Who are Experiencing Homelessness or Have Experience in Foster Care
- Tips and Resources for Teens in Foster Care
- COVID-19 Targeted Strategies for Child Welfare
Resources

Academic
• Camp EDMO
• Khan Academy
• Springboard Collaborative
• School of the New York Times: 2020 Course Catalog
• Scholastic Grab and Go Take-Home Book Packs

Operations Guidance
• Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance
• Contingency Plan Framework
VOICES OF SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES

- Operations Guidelines
- Family Engagement
- Online Teaching
- Virtual Resource Fair
- Sports
- Literacy
- Social Emotional Learning
- Arts

https://www.summerlearning.org/webinars/
National Summer Learning Week is a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer – all so students return to school ready to soar!

www.summerlearning.org/summer-learning-week
Find NSLA on social media to keep updated on 
#summerlearning

@SummerLearning  @SmarterSummers

Join our Community!

https://www.summerlearning.org/join-our-list/
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