Summer Expanded Learning Opportunities

Every summer, Washington students lose critical academic and social emotional learning skills. The body of research on summer learning loss reveals that young people are falling behind in school at different rates. This research attributes more than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth to unequal access to summer learning opportunities. According to a report by the RAND Corporation, students who attend high-quality summer learning programs have positive academic and behavioral outcomes.1

THE SUMMER SLIDE
Reverts school-year performance in a cumulative and disproportionate way that ultimately contributes to the growing achievement gap between low and middle to high income students.2

THE GAP
The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is 30-40% larger among children born in 2001 than among those born in 1976.4

Did You Know?

OF WASHINGTON STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH:3

- ONLY 23% are reading proficiently by the end of 4th grade.
- ONLY 30% are meeting proficiency in math by the end of 4th grade.
- ONLY 25% are meeting proficiency in reading or in math by the end of 8th grade.

What Makes a Program High-Quality?1

- 5-6 consecutive weeks
- 3-4 hours of academic content each day
- High staff to student ratio
- Hands-on experimental learning
- Summer specific curriculum

The effects of summer learning programs can endure for at least two years after the program.1

Take Action

1. Address issues of accessibility to high-quality summer programs for low-income youth.
2. Utilize high-quality summer learning programs as an essential component of school reform and improvement.
3. Improve partnerships and coordination between schools, community-based organizations, businesses and other stakeholders to leverage resources at the local level to support summer programs.

Washington State must address summer learning loss to tackle the opportunity gap and support all students in achieving school success.1,2
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are high-quality afterschool and youth development programs that provide innovative, hands-on learning and can be a part of the solution to the opportunity gap. These programs are vital as Washington State faces a widening Achievement Gap. Low-income students and students of color are less likely to meet grade level standards and graduate at lower rates than their white and middle to higher income peers.

Parents Support Afterschool Programs

- Support public funding for afterschool programs: 80%
- Agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children during work: 75%
- Agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs: 69%

Importance of Afterschool

No single learning setting will prepare students for success. Rather, an integrated approach to learning across the day, the year, and over a student's lifetime is required for 21st century academic and career success.

What do Afterschool Programs Offer?

- 85% offer physical activity
- 70% offer reading or writing
- 67% offer drinks and snacks
- 64% offer academic clubs
- 62% offer STEM learning

Academic Impact

1. Improved test scores
2. Improved school grades
3. Improved school attendance
4. Increased engagement in learning
5. Lower dropout rates

Fact

Research shows that kids in afterschool programs go to school more, see improvements in their behavior, and increase their likelihood of moving on to the next grade level and graduating.

Take Action

1. Increase federal, state, and local support for expanded learning programs.
2. Utilize the Washington State Quality Standards for Afterschool & Youth Development Programs to provide guidelines for what quality should look like in a program setting.
3. Continue to build partnerships between districts, schools, and expanded learning programs housed both in schools, and in community-based organizations.

For more information contact David Beard at DBeard@schoolsoutwashington.org (206) 323-2396