



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

# Summer Learning: Promising Practices and Innovation Strategies

June 2, 2016



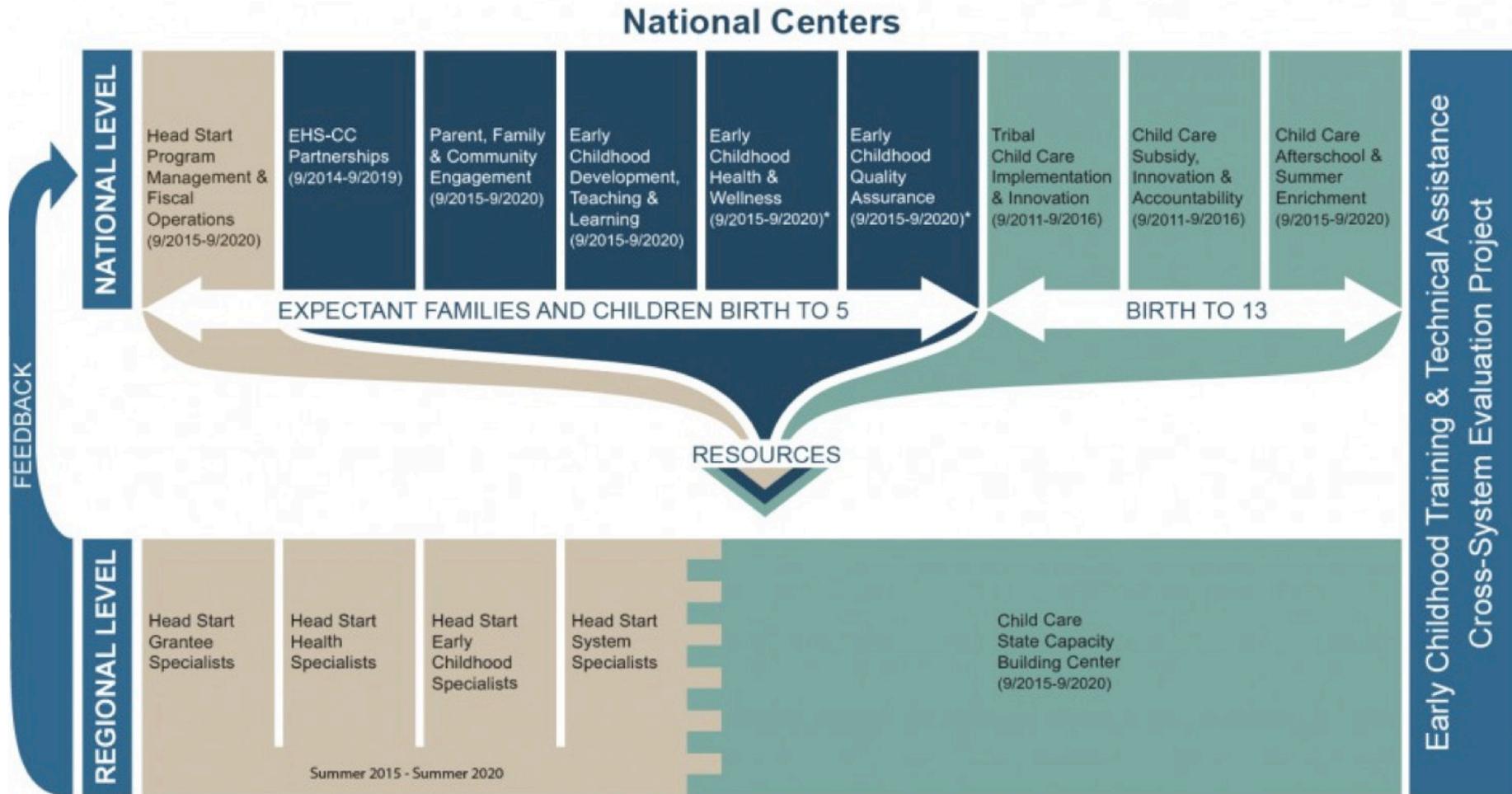
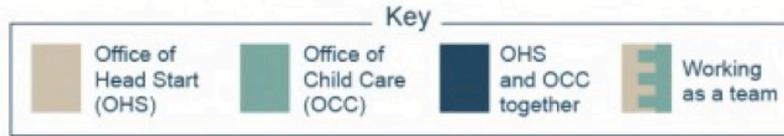
# NCASE Overview



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The broad goal of NCASE is to ensure that school-age children in families of low-income have increased access to afterschool and summer learning experiences that contribute to children's overall development and academic achievement.

# ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM



# Agenda



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- Why Summer Matters
- What is Program Quality?
- What Does High Quality Programming Look Like?
- Summer Learning Resources
  - Program Quality and Improvement
  - Policy and Funding
- Reflection and Questions

## ***Rose, Bud, Thorn Activity***

**Please share...**

- **Rose:** Positive, proud, liked about summer 2015
- **Bud:** New idea or hope for summer 2016
- **Thorn:** Challenge, want to change from summer 2015

# Why Summer Matters



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**What happens to children when they are not engaged in positive, supportive activities in the summer?**



# Why Summer Matters



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- ✓ Compelling research base
- ✓ Laboratory for innovation in teaching and learning
- ✓ Support for working families
- ✓ Spans transition periods
- ✓ Growing importance in the education reform/time and learning debate
- ✓ Significant opportunities for partnerships

# Why Summer Matters



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- Summer learning loss in the elementary school years alone accounts for at least half of the ninth-grade reading achievement gap.
- Research suggests that three to four consecutive summers of high-quality learning beginning in pre-kindergarten can get kids reading on grade level by third grade, making them four times more likely to graduate from high school.

# Why Summer Matters



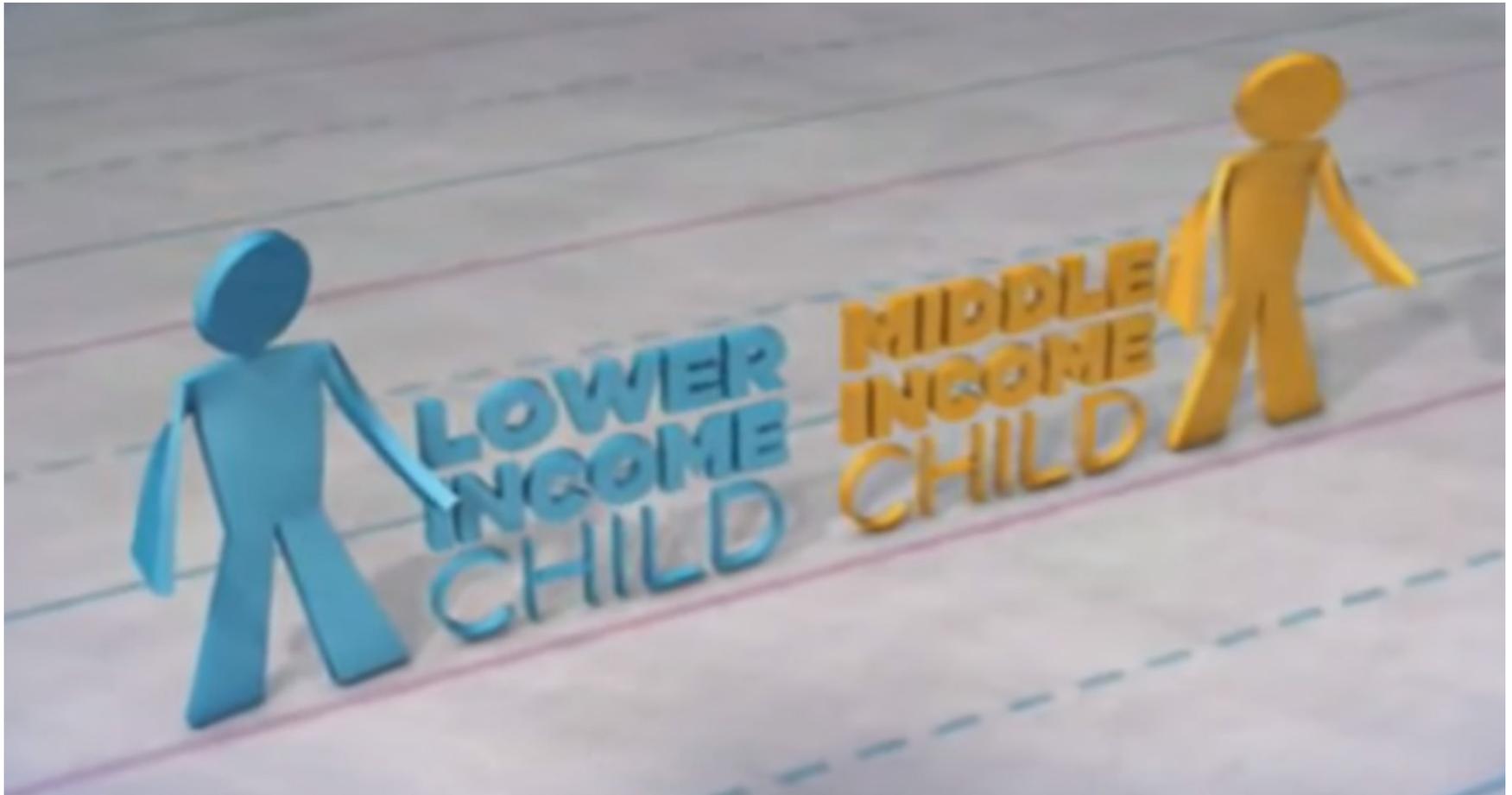
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- Only 1 in 8 children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals access them in the summer months.
- High-quality summer learning programs have been shown to also improve school attachment, motivation, and relationships with adults and peers.
- The average number of hours children ages 6-12 are left alone triples during the summer to 4-12 hours.

# Why Summer Matters



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## The Achievement Gap Walk

- Two volunteers representing one low-income youth (LI) and one middle (MI) income youth
- Have them stand side by side, with the LI youth taking one step back
- For each cycle (complete 3 times):
  - Both youth take 9 heel-to-toe steps forward
  - LI youth takes 3 steps back
  - MI youth takes  $\frac{1}{2}$  forward

# Why Summer Matters



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“Virtually all of the advantage that wealthy students have over poor students is the result of differences in the way privileged kids learn when they are *not* in school....America doesn't have a school problem. It has a summer vacation problem ...”

**Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers*, pp. 258-260**

# Why Summer Matters



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**How is this happening in YOUR community?**

# What is Program Quality?



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Regular attendance in high-quality summer programs is associated with a **range of positive academic and social development outcomes:**

- Improved skills in literacy (Chaplin & Capizzano 2006) and math (Roderick & Nagaoka 2003)
- Improved self-esteem and leadership skills (Bialeschki, Henderson and James 2007)
- Increased attachment to the labor market and increased likelihood of future employment (Sum, 2006)

# What is Program Quality?



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While summer learning programs have the potential to help close the achievement gap and provide valuable opportunities for children, **not all summer programs are created equal:**

- Program attendance alone is not sufficient to make a difference for young people.
- As many as half of existing programs show no positive youth outcomes (Granger, Durlak, Yohalem and Reisner 2007).

# What Does High Quality Programming Look Like?



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- Highly-qualified and specially-trained staff, along with early planning that engages partners with clearly delineated roles.
- Smaller class sizes, individualized instruction, and sufficient time on task (operating the program for at least five weeks, with three to four hours of academics per day).

# What Does High Quality Programming Look Like?



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- Involving families and maximizing student attendance with firm enrollment deadlines, clear attendance policies, and electronic student records.
- Strategic use of partnerships.
- Using evidence-based, commercially available curricula, and standardizing its use across sites.
- Providing carefully planned, engaging enrichment activities.

# Building a Unique Program Culture



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- Creates a spirit of community and pride among all youth.
- Has principles that set culture through continuous communications of key ideals, strengths, or talents that describe youth and staff.
- A culminating event rewards youth for their success and gives them an opportunity to showcase their work or new skills that they have developed.

# Building a Unique Program Culture



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- The physical environment promotes creative thinking and exploration.
- Staff provide a flexible workspace to accommodate different learning styles.
- Arrival, departure, transition, and meal times are positive experiences that incorporate themes of the program culture.

# Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® Program

## Harambee at Freedom School Partners



FREEDOM  
SCHOOL  
PARTNERS

# Quality Self-Check



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1. We need to further define what quality looks like within our state or network.
2. We have started implementing program practices that reflect high quality standards.
3. Most of the programs represented by our state or network understand and have fully implemented quality practices.



# Upcoming Events



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## National Summer Learning Day is July 14, 2016!

Post your summer learning program or event at [www.summerlearningdaymap.org](http://www.summerlearningdaymap.org).



Follow the story with [#KeepKidsLearning](https://twitter.com/KeepKidsLearning).



# DARE TO DISRUPT!

THE PATHWAY TO EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING

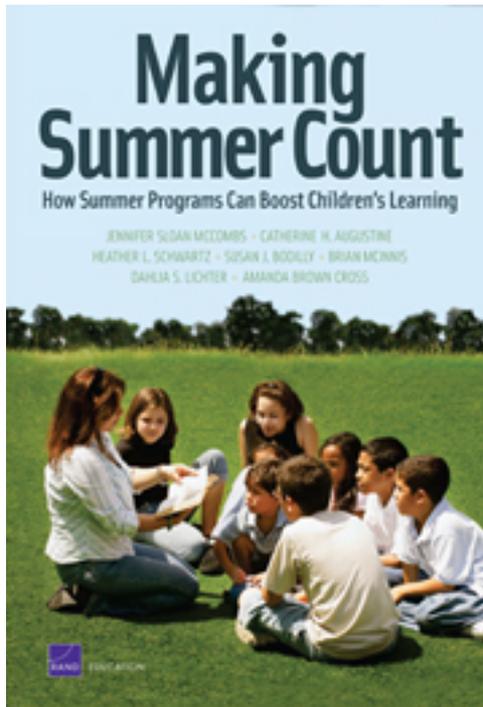
OCTOBER 24-26, 2016  
THE WESTIN SEATTLE  
[summerlearning.org/conference](http://summerlearning.org/conference)



# Program Quality and Improvement Resources



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The *Making Summer Count* report examines the need for summer learning programs and the existing evidence on effective, viable, and sustainable summer learning programs in urban districts.

[www.wallacefoundation.org](http://www.wallacefoundation.org)

# Program Quality and Improvement Resources



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The *Summer Starts in September* planning guide supports NSLA's vision that summer learning programs are designed, planned, and implemented to intentionally promote skill-appropriate learning and healthy development.

[www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project/resources-communities](http://www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project/resources-communities)

# Program Quality and Improvement Resources



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The *Summer Learning Program Quality Intervention* was designed to advance the science and practice of continuous improvement by focusing on qualities of the learner experience that optimize skill building in specific domains, active-participatory, and academic.

<http://cypq.org/SummerLearningPQI>

# Program Quality and Improvement Resources



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**Summer Learning Day** JUNE 19  
#KeepKidLearning  
NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION

**SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS AT HOME AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

All kids need to keep learning over the summer. If they don't, they lose what they've learned during the school year, and those losses add up year after year. Following are some ways you can help your child learn during the summer months and send them back ready for the new school year.

<p><b>Read at home every day.</b> Help your child pick books that interest them, set reading goals, and reward their efforts. Start a family book club. Read a book, watch the movie, and talk about the differences with your child.</p>	<p><b>Visit a library.</b> Libraries have more than just books. Your child can experience technology, create new things, and often get a healthy meal at some local libraries. Sign up and your child up for your library's free summer programs so you can explore and learn new skills together.</p>	<p><b>Keep a summer journal.</b> Have your child keep a journal about the books they're reading, their favorite summer events or activities, and the new friends they've made.</p>
<p><b>Look for free or low-cost activities near you.</b> Take trips to your local museum, aquarium, zoo, park, or nature center. Encourage kids to write about their trip and reflect on things they thought about in their summer journal.</p>	<p><b>Plant a garden.</b> Start simple with a tomato container garden or fresh herbs growing on your kitchen windowsill. It's a great way to encourage healthy eating with your child.</p>	<p><b>Use counting skills in daily activities or errands.</b> Baking a cake? Let your child help count out the ingredients or minutes to mix the batter. Turn a grocery list into a math lesson. Use coupons and help your child determine the discount.</p>
<p><b>Volunteer together.</b> Volunteering builds life skills and compassion. Help spruce up a school or local park, collect supplies for a shelter, or serve food at a soup kitchen.</p>	<p><b>Be active.</b> Children can gain weight during the summer. Get outside with your child. Walk a path for a nature walk, hike, bike, or check out your community's parks and recreation programs. But may offer many fun options.</p>	<p><b>Get creative.</b> Let your child's imagination soar. Turn household items like cardboard boxes into robots or old socks into hand puppets. Let them make up their own songs or dances.</p>

**TAKE THE PLEDGE** Pledge to keep your child learning this summer and find a Summer Learning Day event near you at [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org)

UMiGO

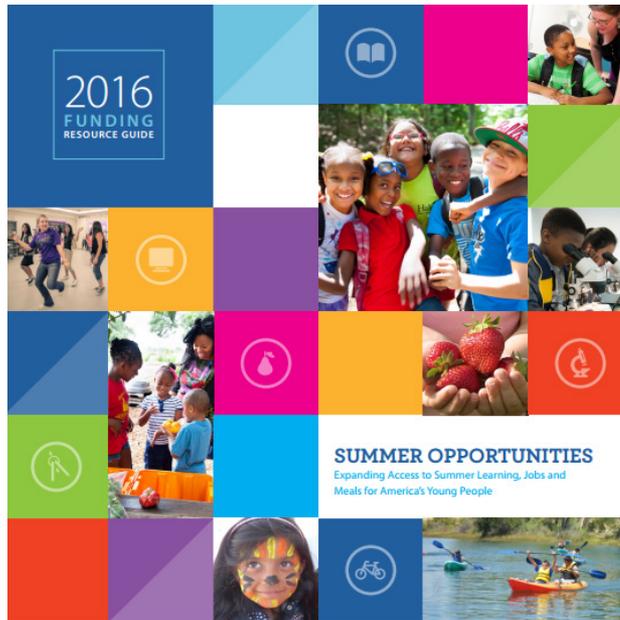
The Summer Learning Day tip sheets are available in both English and Spanish and are geared toward parents of early learners, tweens and teens.

[www.summerlearning.org/summer-learning-day/summer-learning-day-resources-families](http://www.summerlearning.org/summer-learning-day/summer-learning-day-resources-families)

# Policy and Funding Resources



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The *2016 Summer Opportunities Funding Guide* helps state and local leaders identify the most promising funding streams to support summer learning and shows how innovative states, districts, and communities have creatively blended public and private funding to develop programs, services and opportunities to meet the needs of young people during the critical summer months.

[www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project](http://www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project)

# Policy and Funding Resources



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The *Research in Brief* allows researchers to reflect on their work and share the results with you.



## Calculating the Return on Investment in Summer Learning



Linda Goetze  
Senior Researcher, Center for  
Education Policy Research  
University of New Mexico

For over 10 years, New Mexico's K-3 Plus program has been extending the school year for at-risk early elementary school children, with growth of the program fueled by positive findings from pilot studies.

Minimum program funding is defined by law, but cost per student varies widely across jurisdictions. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) spoke with researcher **Linda Goetze** at the University of New Mexico to understand the intersection of policy, funding, and return on summer reading investments.

**What prompted you to study this issue?** I have always wanted to work to eliminate poverty and I liked economics as a way to understand tradeoffs between equity and efficiency. I'm interested in how evidence fuels the evolution of policy. Preschool has that evidence base—studies show that it returns between \$7 and \$16 for every dollar invested. This has transformed the way that policymakers think about

For the first four years of the K-3 Plus pilot, programs were funded based on the number of expected students, rather than actual attendees, giving districts vital time and budget information for planning, but creating inefficiencies because of lower attendance in the voluntary program. As a response, in 2010 and 2011, funding was reduced to zero for students that attended fewer than 18 days of the summer. At the same time that total K-3 Plus funding dropped, student enrollment significantly increased. This left districts to cover the shortfall by borrowing from school-year operational funds. Several school districts that had been long-term K-3 Plus participants withdrew from the program in these years. In 2011, the findings that K-3 Plus associated with positive student outcomes in literacy and numeracy from the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment data

NSLA's *Research in Brief* series profiles key studies about summer learning and highlights the findings in easy-to-understand language.

[www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project/resources-communities](http://www.summerlearning.org/summer-opportunity-project/resources-communities)

# Reflection



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- Red light = Stop
- Yellow light = Continue
- Green light = Start

# Questions



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# Contact Information

Visit the NCASE website at:

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/national-center-afterschool-summer-enrichment>

To contact NCASE, please email us at:

[ncase@ecetta.info](mailto:ncase@ecetta.info)

Please let us know who we should connect with in your state, including contact information.

Thank You!



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