

# Know the facts about Summer Learning Loss

When students return to school after the long summer months, teachers are faced with the problem of making up for lost time before starting the new school year—as much as 3–4 weeks of re-teaching according to a recent study.<sup>1</sup>

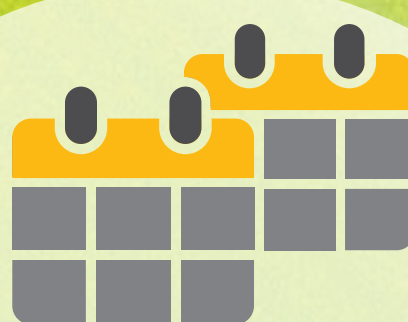
Despite the challenges that summer learning loss presents, a synthesis of 93 evaluations of summer school programs found that when they focus on prevention, improvement, or enrichment, the effects are positive.<sup>2</sup>



# 1

## If They Don't Use It, They Will Lose It

Research shows that without learning engagement over the summer, students score lower in tests at the beginning of the school year than where they left off in spring.<sup>3</sup>



# 2

## Summer Vacation = 1–2 Months of Lost Growth

On average, students lose one month of growth over the summer—two months for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds who do not receive additional opportunities and encouragement to read during the summer.<sup>4</sup>

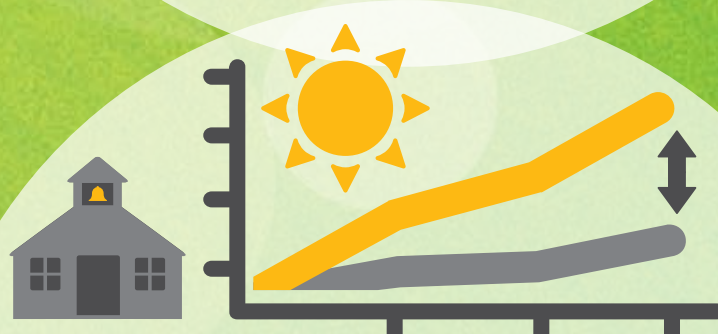
## Summer Learning Loss FACTS



# 4

## Technology Gap

Unequal access to technology is sharpest during the summertime for low income students, who visit the library for access but choose materials with less information and more visuals—reading about half as many words and spending significantly less time on educational activities.<sup>6</sup>



# 3

## Losses Add up, Year After Year

Summer learning loss accounts for two-thirds of the achievement gap among high school students. For those losing two months every summer, that becomes 1.5 years behind by 8th grade—more than 2 years by the end of high school.<sup>5</sup>

## So, What Can be Done?

When considering how to plan your summer school program, take into account the recommendations of the National Summer Learning Association's Summer Learning ABCs:

**A**ccess to books

**B**ooks that match readers' ability levels and interests

**C**omprehension

The ABCs of summer learning apply to math as well as reading. Programs rich in print resources that are accessible and of interest to all students, those that focus on comprehension, whether understanding fiction and nonfiction or the gist of a math problem, are all key to student success.

## Looking for Additional Ways to Promote Learning Over the Summer?

- Create a school bookworm contest where students fill out brief book reports for each book they read, and earn prizes when they come back to school.
- Check your local library for fun reading incentive programs and encourage your students to visit over the summer.
- Create a book exchange program at your school where parents can donate books, and once a week students can trade in a book to receive a new one.
- Encourage students to keep a journal during any trips taken over the summer.

1) National Summer Learning Association 2) Cooper et al., 2000 3) White, 1906; Heyns, 1978; Entwisle & Alexander 1992; Cooper, 1996; Downey et al, 2004 4) Cooper et al., 1996 5) Entwisle, D., Alexander, K., & Olson, L. 2000 6) Celano, D., Neuman, S.B., 2008

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