



Summer's Influence on Teaching and Learning All Year

A century's worth of research has documented that young people lose academic skills over the summer break. These losses, especially in reading, accumulate to contribute significantly to the achievement gap between low-income youth and their middle-income peers. Summer learning loss also holds students and schools back from reaching higher performance targets required to get young people ready for college and careers, such as the

new Common Core State Standards. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) works with school districts as members of the New Vision for Summer School Network, which has 31 district members serving more than 2 million children, and promotes a new model of summer learning that transcends the strictly remedial model of summer school.

NSLA surveyed 500 teachers from 16 school districts around the country on a variety of topics designed to understand the connections between summer learning and school year learning. The survey showed that teachers considered summer learning an important factor in students being prepared for school, and in their own ability to work with students effectively. It also documented the waste of money and time caused when teachers must use a large portion of the beginning of the school year to re-teach material forgotten over the summer:

- **66 percent** of teachers said it takes them at least 3-4 weeks to re-teach the previous year's skills at the beginning of a new school year. Of those, **more than a third** said it takes them 5 weeks or more.
- **77 percent** of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that students who have participated in a summer learning program are better prepared for school in the fall.
- **72 percent** of teachers surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the professional development they received during the summer would help to improve their school year practices.
- **88 percent** of teachers said summer learning is an important part of the overall plan to support student success in school.

Teachers are integral partners to any summer learning effort. Not only do they know the academic and developmental needs of youth, but they recognize the opportunity summer presents to keep kids moving forward.

