

Putting Summer To Work

A series of reports on the development of high-quality summer learning programs in California.



Three new reports explore how high quality summer learning programs in six diverse communities across California impact students and their teachers. They demonstrate that summer is an essential time for districts and their community partners to support student learning, particularly given the well-documented reality of summer learning loss for students from low-income families and English language learners. The reports tie summer learning to districts' ability to meet time-sensitive priorities around Common Core implementation, social-emotional growth, and teacher and staff development.

The programs profiled are part of the Summer Matters campaign, the first-ever statewide effort to expand and improve summer learning programs across California. Using data from surveys, focus groups and program observation in the summer of 2013, the reports are intended to help education leaders and program providers understand specific strategies and activities in the following three areas:

Getting a Head Start on the Common Core This report describes how summer learning experiences prepare students and staff for the new expectations and teaching strategies under the Common Core. Through high-quality summer learning programming, students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- tackle complex open-ended questions;- make active choices about their learning;- work collaboratively in different groupings;- connect ideas and skills across subject matter; and- hone their communication skills through various media and in public speaking.	Teaching Kids How to Succeed in School This report describes how summer learning programs are intentionally structured to support participants' social and emotional development, including their self-confidence, persistence, willingness to try new things, and sense of belonging to the school community. These skills are connected to the student engagement, school climate and student achievement priorities of the Local Control Funding Formula.	A High Impact Training Ground for Teachers & Staff This report describes how summer learning provides important professional development opportunities for program staff and teachers, and details the ways that program managers use planning and staff learning activities to align summer goals and district priorities. It also details staff and teacher perceptions regarding the effect these summer experiences will have on their professional practices during the regular school year.
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The papers highlight the importance of:

- community partners and after-school providers in bringing staff, resources and a fun, engaging environment that motivates students;
- well-planned, comprehensive staff development; and
- an intentional quality improvement process and targeted support from a program expert.

Together, the three papers make a compelling case for the essential role that summer learning plays in young people's development and academic success, and for the benefits that school districts realize from investing in summer learning.

Please visit us to download the full reports:
<http://summermatters2you.net/putting-summer-to-work>

