



Chaired by **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson**, Summer Matters is the first-ever statewide campaign focused on summer learning for all California youth. Since launching in 2009, Summer Matters has been successful in:

- **Policy and Legislation** — Senate Bills 798, 429 and 1221 made 21st Century Community Learning Centers and After School Education Safety Program funding more flexible and accessible to year-round programs across the state.
- **Piloting innovative programs in low-income communities** — In 2013, these programs reached more than 7,300 students across the state. Program evaluations document significant positive results in grade level vocabulary, program quality and parent satisfaction.
- **Engaging school leaders** — Superintendents and school boards are investing Local Control Funding Formula, Title 1 and other education dollars in summer learning because they understand that they need summer learning to reduce the achievement gap, prepare for the Common Core, train teachers and staff, and target their highest need students.
- **Raising public awareness** — Campaign communications strategies have generated print, radio, TV and online coverage of summer learning programs shared with millions of stakeholders across California.
- **Growing the Summer Matters coalition** — There is now strong momentum and support among education, elected, business, civic and philanthropic leaders, along with parents, educators, child advocates and programs across the state.
- **Evaluating and improving** — The Summer Matters campaign has engaged communities in a field-tested continuous improvement process; creating stronger programs, cultivating more confident staff, and resulting in greater opportunities for children.

Summer Matters is an initiative of **The Partnership for Children & Youth** and its partners at **The David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, **ASAPconnect**, **FowlerHoffman**, the **National Summer Learning Association**, and **Children Now**.

The Partnership for Children & Youth is a California-based non-profit that supports communities, schools and government agencies to work together as unified systems to ensure all children have the learning, health and social supports they need to succeed in school and life.



SUMMERMATTERS

LET SUMMER WORK FOR YOU



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A child's need for meaningful learning and enrichment does not end in June.



Research has proven that without high quality and engaging summer learning opportunities, children — especially those in low-income communities — fall dramatically behind in reading and math, and gain unhealthy weight from too much time indoors and poor nutrition.

Across California, communities are addressing this challenge with innovative summer programs and partnerships that give children the chance to learn, grow and play all summer long.

The vision of the Summer Matters campaign is that all young people in California can be engaged in high quality summer learning opportunities to support their year-round learning and well-being.

Summer Matters' focus is on young people with the greatest need and fewest resources.

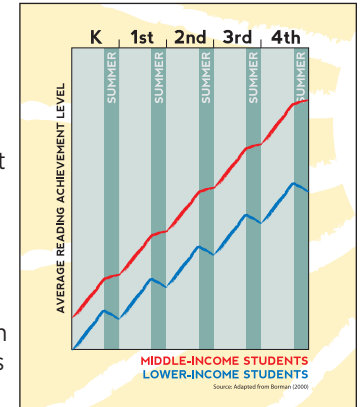
The Long Term Effects of Summer Learning Loss are both permanent and significant. Research defines summer learning loss as the measurable and quantifiable loss of math and reading skills over the summer.

Cumulative effects contribute directly to a widening of the achievement gap between low-income and middle-income students.

Research shows low-income children are nearly **three grade equivalents behind** their more affluent peers in reading by the end of the fifth grade, due to summer learning loss.¹

Unequal summer learning opportunities during elementary school are responsible for about two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap between children from lower and higher income families. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.²

Most children gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school for summer, with summer weight gain especially pronounced among African American and Hispanic children.³



1. (National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), 2009).
2. (Alexander et al., 2007).
3. (von Hippel et al., 2007).



The Summer Matters campaign works to promote high quality summer learning programs that:

- **Broaden children's horizons** – by exposing them to new adventures, skills and ideas.
- **Include a wide variety of activities** – such as reading, writing, math, science, arts and public service projects – in ways that are fun and engaging.
- **Help children build skills** – by helping them improve at doing something they enjoy and care about.
- **Foster cooperative learning** – through team projects and group activities.
- **Promote healthy habits** – by providing nutritious food, physical recreation and outdoor activities.
- **Last at least one month** – giving children enough time to benefit from their summer learning experiences.