



Summer Learning Talking Points

During the summer months too many children, especially disadvantaged children, lose academic ground and suffer what's known as the summer slide. Summer slide results in students falling further behind academically and widens the academic achievement gap. Summer learning programs, often run by afterschool providers, keep kids on track. These programs also provide critical support to working families by keeping kids safe and offering healthy meals and snacks.

1. Poverty

- The gap between the poor and the wealthy continues to widen and low-income students in Vermont consistently perform at significantly lower levels academically.¹
- Parents with the means invest more time and money than ever before in their children while lower-income families are increasingly stretched for time and resources.²

2. Equity

- All children and youth in Vermont deserve a summer filled with rich learning opportunities.
- More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.³

3. Access

- Over 30,000 children and youth in Vermont do not have access to summer learning programs.⁴
- It is important for every child to learn during the summer to avoid losing skills they have gained during the school year.⁵

4. Solution

- All communities in Vermont need high-quality summer learning programs to ensure that our children and youth thrive.

¹ Vermont Department of Education. *School Data and Reports: NECAP Assessment Report*.

² Reardon, S.F. (2011). *The widening academic achievement gap between the rich and the poor: New evidence and possible explanations*.

³ National Summer Learning Association. (2009). *Research In Brief: Summer Can Set Kids on the Right – Or Wrong – Course*.

⁴ Afterschool Alliance. (2010). *America After 3PM Special Report of Summer: Missed Opportunities, Unmet Demand*.

⁵ National Summer Learning Association. (2012). *Summer Learning Day Key Messages and Story Angle*.