

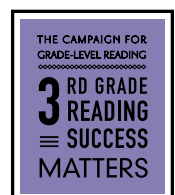
CORE MESSAGES FOR SUMMER LEARNING DAY AND GRADE-LEVEL READING



**NATIONAL
SUMMER
LEARNING DAY
JULY 14, 2016**

Summer Learning Day presents a great opportunity to spread the word about the important role that summer learning plays in ensuring that all children read at grade level by the end of third grade. The following core messages can be used by all communities with an interest in elevating awareness around summer learning.

- It is important for every child to read and engage in literacy activities during the summer to build on their skills and avoid losing knowledge they have gained during the school year.
- Low-income students lose more than two months of grade-level equivalency in reading during the summer, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains.
- Sixty-six percent of teachers polled by the National Summer Learning Association reported that it takes them at least three to four weeks to re-teach the previous years' skills at the beginning of a new school year. Summer learning can help reduce the time teachers spend recovering skills lost over the summer.
- High-quality summer programs can help low-income children achieve reading proficiency and even register gains that help keep them on track for high-school graduation and productive careers.
- Summer is an ideal time for instructional innovation that can transform teaching and learning all year. Some programs are helping to integrate the Common Core state standards, prepare for college- and career-readiness and advance grade-level reading goals.
- For low-income students, summer learning programs are an important link in the safety net, supporting their development with healthy meals and physical activity that, in turn, increases their reading proficiency and readiness to learn.
- Summer literacy activities should include even the youngest learners. Families can engage in fun activities together that are also learning opportunities, like reading books together, going to the library and local cultural institutions, or even reading street signs and billboards.
- Many cities have summer learning programs and activities for young children. Parents can check with teachers, school administrators, and social service sites for information about free or low-cost learning opportunities over the summer.
- Summer is also a time that puts nutrition at risk for low-income children. They are more likely to [gain weight during the summer](#) without structured activity and balanced meals.
- Six out of every seven schoolchildren who qualify for federally funded meals during the school year [do not have access to those meals in summer](#) or know where free meals are available.
- Families can access summer reading and healthy summers tip sheets online at www.summerlearning.org.



Visit summerlearning.org or email glrpartnership@summerlearning.org for more information.