The National Summer Learning Association is committed to ensuring that youth in high-poverty communities have access to high-quality summer learning programs. We work directly with policymakers and key stakeholders to make investments in summer learning a national, state and local priority.

**Summer Learning Planning and Funding Tools**

**Summer Starts in September Program Planning Guide**

[summerlearning.org/SummerStartsinSeptember](http://summerlearning.org/SummerStartsinSeptember)

The Summer Starts in September Program Planning Guide is a comprehensive summer learning program planning guide full of research-based strategies, program examples and tools that program leaders can use to develop an intentional and high-impact program. Purchase it today.

**Funding Resource Guide**

[summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer](http://summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer)

Developed in collaboration with the National Summer Learning Association, the White House, Civic Nation and U.S. Department of Education, the 2016 Funding Resource Guide helps state and local leaders identify the most promising funding streams to support summer learning and shows how innovative states, districts, and communities have creatively blended public and private funding to develop programs, services and opportunities to meet the needs of young people during the critical summer months.

**Action Toolkit**

[summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer](http://summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer)

Developed as a part of the White House Summer Opportunities Project Initiative, this Action Toolkit is designed to share the key steps leaders can take this summer to increase access to high-quality summer learning, meals and jobs opportunities. Whether you are a city, nonprofit, school, business or philanthropic leader, you will find examples of how your peers across the country are finding innovative ways during the summer to expand access to learning, meals and jobs to more young people.

**Plan a Summer Learning Block Party**

[summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer](http://summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer)

Use this tip sheet as a guide to plan a summer block party that connects families with summer resources and opportunities young people need.
The Summer Slide
What We Know and Can Do About Summer Learning Loss

By Karl Alexander Ph.D., Matthew Boulay Ph.D. and Sarah Pitcock

bit.ly/TheSummerSlide

This book is an authoritative examination of summer learning loss, featuring original contributions by scholars and practitioners at the forefront of the movement to understand and stem the summer slide. The contributors provide an up-to-date account of what research has to say about summer learning loss, the conditions in low-income children’s homes and communities that impede learning over the summer months, and best practices in summer programming with lessons on how to strengthen program evaluations.

Summers Matter
10 Things Every Parent, Teacher, & Principal Should Know About June, July, & August

By Matthew Boulay Ph.D.

bit.ly/SummersMatterBook

Written in an engaging and fast-paced style, Summers Matter is a fun and easy read that will empower parents and educators alike. Readers will be entertained by the quotes and anecdotes, surprised by the facts, and, ultimately, encouraged by the knowledge that they can - and should - foster learning even when schools are closed.

Hope and Healing in Urban Education
How Urban Activists and Teachers are Reclaiming Matters of the Heart

By Shawn Ginwright Ph.D.

bit.ly/HopeandHealingBook

Hope and Healing in Urban Education proposes a new movement of healing justice to repair the damage done by the erosion of hope resulting from structural violence in urban communities. Drawing on ethnographic case studies from around the country, this book chronicles how teacher activists employ healing strategies in stressed schools and community organizations, and work to reverse negative impacts on academic achievement and civic engagement, supporting students to become powerful civic actors.
Summer Youth Employment Programs Offer More than Just a Summer Job
summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer
Expanding opportunities for youth still in school to work during the summer provide youth not only a wage, but a chance to learn social and soft skills that are valuable in both school and the workforce, such as self-efficacy and impulse control. Engaging students through mentorship, training and paid work is shown to have positive impacts on their behavior, skills and academic performance.

STEM in the Summer
The Joy of Meaningful Learning
summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer
Enhancing STEM learning in elementary and secondary education has become one of the most critical issues in education. Many sectors have a stake in student interest and outcomes in these topics. Under new education law, students will be tested regularly against science standards; employers have a growing need for a workforce trained in STEM-related skills; and communities have a desire to attract and retain businesses with a strong home-grown employee pipeline.

2016 Excellence in Summer Learning Awards
summerlearning.org/SummerExcellence
From elementary schools to universities, the winners of the 2016 New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning Award and Founder’s Award, show the power of summer to create brighter futures for America’s children and youth. The National Summer Learning Association recognizes this year’s winning programs for demonstrating excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for low-income students.

Libraries at the Center of Summer Learning and Fun
bit.ly/SLToolkit
Ready to expand your library’s summer reading program into a more diverse summer learning program? The Urban Libraries Council and National Summer Learning Association’s new online toolkit is designed to provide you with the resources, ideas and strategies that can help! This online toolkit includes links to tools and materials gathered from libraries across North America that are implementing summer programs designed to engage participants in active skill building, creative exploration and critical thinking.
Every Student Succeeds Act State-Level Stakeholders Guide

summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer

Summer learning loss has a tremendous impact on students’ short- and long-term academic success. Smart use of resources in the summer not only prevents the summer slide, but also ensures that students go back to school motivated, engaged, and ready to learn in the fall. Teachers also benefit from summer programs as a time to refine their practice and to develop deeper relationships with students and families. Investments in summer learning ensure that expenditures made during the school year don’t go to waste.

STEM Policy Brief

The Power of Summer
summerlearning.org/InvestInSummer

According to the National Research Council, many students are not graduating from high school with the knowledge and capacities they will need to pursue STEM careers or understand STEM-related issues in the workforce or in their roles as citizens. In 2015 and 2016, NSLA has tracked 35 pieces of legislation in Congress and 15 states that create possibilities for STEM learning in the summer.

Wallace Knowledge Products

Learning from Summer

Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth
bit.ly/LearningfromSummer

The largest-ever study of summer learning finds that students with high attendance in free, five to six-week, voluntary summer learning programs experienced educationally meaningful benefits in math and reading.

Resources for Nonprofit Financial Management

StrongNonprofits.org

StrongNonprofits.org provides best-practice guidance and plenty of hands-on tools to help nonprofits better manage their financial health. No gimmicks, logins, fees, or sign-ups required. The site offers carefully-vetted resources to address four areas of concern to a wide-range of nonprofit organizations: Planning, Monitoring, Operations and Governance.

Summer Learning Knowledge Center

wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning

Browse The Wallace Foundation’s Summer Learning Knowledge Center for reports and other resources for insights into summer learning