When Schools Close: Harnessing the Power of Summer for America’s Young People

WHEN: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

WHAT: What will summer hold for America’s students and families this season?

The COVID-19 crisis has illuminated the enormous digital divide, food insecurity, childcare, and learning loss challenges that millions of under-resourced students and their families experience every summer. The Covid-19 learning loss combined with the usual summer slide may have a ripple effect for years to come. Decades of research, however, show high-quality summer programs improve math and reading skills, and build critical social-emotional skills of students. However, these programs may look vastly different in a COVID-19 reality.

Leaders from across the country will come together to discuss the state of summertime experiences in America, summer solutions emerging in this pandemic, along with recommendations for the investments and policies needed to improve conditions for children and families during this COVID-19 summer and beyond.

WHO: Karl Alexander, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, John Dewey Professor of Sociology Emeritus, Academy Professor, nationally renowned researcher and sociologist who coined the term “summer slide.” Panelists include leading experts from: Afterschool Alliance, American Camp Association, Boston Afterschool and Beyond, Council of Chief State School Officers, Engaging Creative Minds, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Khan Academy, Learning Heroes, National League of Cities, The Education Trust, The Fresh Air Fund, and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

WHERE: The National Press Club | Washington, DC

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Hosted by the National Summer Learning Association

Audience members will hear from national experts who will:

- Share cross-sector findings from the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report: Summertime Experiences: Opportunities to Promote Healthy Development and Well-Being for Children and Youth.
- Offer education story ideas for journalists heading into the summer season
- Provide a snapshot of funding and policy implications for summer and afterschool programs
- Equip reporters with tips for families to make the most of summer