



Summer Learning Day is July 14, 2016!

**SUMMER OPPORTUNITY PROJECT
TALKING POINTS FOR SUMMER LEARNING DAY**

These talking points can be used in press releases, media interviews or other communications to help build awareness about why summers matter for America's young people. Visit summerlearning.org for more stats and facts.

About the White House Summer Opportunity Project

The White House Summer Opportunity Project is an unprecedented multi-agency initiative, in partnership with the National Summer Learning Association and partners across the country, designed to give young people access to their 'First Job,' and encourage investment in programs supporting summer learning and meals for America's young people in the summer.

Summer Enrichment and Access

We know from more than 100 years of research that the summer slide – the phenomenon in which young people lose approximately two months of academic knowledge – is REAL and the academic losses are cumulative.

Research also shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer.

- Every summer, low-income youth lose two to three months in reading while their higher-income youth make slight gains. Most youth lose about two months of math skills in the summer.
- These reading and math losses add up. By fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave low-income students 2 1/2 to 3 years behind their peers.
- More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a

result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

- Many kinds of, informal or high-quality formal, enrichment opportunities during the summer can make a difference in stemming learning loss, and ultimately closing the country's achievement gap.

According to the Afterschool Alliance's, America After 3PM Report, only about one-third of households participate in a summer program nationwide, and most school districts serve fewer than 10% of their students during the summer. Unmet demand is high- more than 50% of families would enroll their children in a summer program if one was available or affordable.

With the national reported average cost for a one-week summer program at \$288, even many middle income families are priced out of the market.

Summer Meals

Low-income youth lose access to healthy meals over the summer. Six out of every seven students who receive free- and reduced-price lunches lose access to them when school lets out.

- Children lose more than academic knowledge over the summer. Many lose access to healthy food and safe places to be active. Most children gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school for the summer break.

Summer Jobs

For older youth, a 40% decline in summer job opportunities, disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic teenage boys, has left many young people struggling to find their first job and stay safe over the summer months.

This employment gap broadens as young men get older, making them the highest percentage of the nearly seven million youth 16-24 disconnected from school and work.

Summer opportunities have been shown to divert youth from criminal involvement and reduce overall violence, and they also offer a chance for young people to get their first exposure to the workplace and build financial skills that they can build on throughout their lives.

- The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and [insert name of organization OR] its national network of partners, will join together for Summer Learning Day on July 14 – a national advocacy day led by NSLA to elevate the importance of keeping kids learning, healthy and safe every summer.

