



national summer learning association



SUMMER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) works to ensure all of America's students, regardless of background, income, or zip code, can access and benefit from a high-quality summer learning experience every year. Leading up to and throughout Summer 2025, NSLA trained staff, visited programs, highlighted best practices, developed leaders, and advocated for our field. Highlights include:

HOSTED 2-DAY SUMMER PLANNING BOOTCAMP



NSLA hosted more than 1,400 program leaders for our annual Summer Planning Bootcamp, a two-day virtual event focused on program innovation, student success, and quality partnerships. We held six exciting panels and 30 expert speakers and practitioners sharing guidance, strategies, and resources for summer programs to utilize.

LAUNCHED NEW GET READY FOR SUMMER TOUR



During the Spring, NSLA's VP of Programs and Systems Quality, Brodrick Clarke, hosted and led day-long staff trainings across the US for more than 1,000 youth development leaders. The hands-on sessions brought NSLA's new training manual, *Destination Summer Learning: A Guide to Program Innovation*, to life. The trainings were co-hosted with local partners in:

- 📍 New York City • Co-hosted by Partnership for After School Education
- 📍 Atlanta, GA • Co-hosted by Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
- 📍 Canby, OR • Co-hosted by Oregon ASK
- 📍 Philadelphia, PA • Co-hosted by Fab Youth Philly
- 📍 Miami, FL • Co-hosted by Fuller Center

RAN CONGRESSIONAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



For the fifth year, NSLA ran its all-expense paid Congressional Summer Internship Program for college student leaders who are alumni of exemplar summer programs. They worked for their Member of Congress and participated in weekly leadership and mentoring events. Special thanks to the Managed Funds Association for their support of this powerful experience.



"This experience has truly changed the trajectory of my career! I received a full-time job offer to work in the Senator's office. I will forever be grateful that you saw something in me and showed me so much grace and kindness. I am truly honored to be part of the NSLA team."

Nabila Chowdhury, NSLA Congressional Intern

NSLA ADVOCATED FOR SUMMER LEARNING BEFORE CONGRESS



NSLA CEO, Aaron Philip Dworkin was invited to provide testimony on the benefits of summer learning before a Congressional hearing on education led by U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii.

NEW 50 PROGRAMS IN 50 DAYS NATIONAL TOUR



NSLA launched a new initiative of visiting 50 summer programs in 50 days. The NSLA team exceeded the goal and visited 75 diverse summer programs nationwide, observing new models, locations, and approaches. Through these experiences, we gained valuable insights to share.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **SUMMER PROGRAMS GET REAL RESULTS**

Across the country, families and schools rely on summer programs to keep kids learning, having fun and preparing for the next school year. Combining academic programming and enrichment and sports programs lead to better attendance and results as seen in Alabama where their summer programs helped the state move up national rankings from 48th to 34th in Reading and from near the bottom to 32nd in Math.

- **CELEBRITIES CHOOSE TO INVEST IN SUMMER PROGRAMS**

We visited programs founded and led by rapper Darryl 'DMC' McDaniels, Broadway star Idina Menzel, musician Zac Brown, and race car driver Richard Petty. While they have many ways to give back, each has chosen summer programs as one of the most impactful avenues to make a difference.

- **MORE STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS ARE FOCUSED ON SUMMER LEARNING**

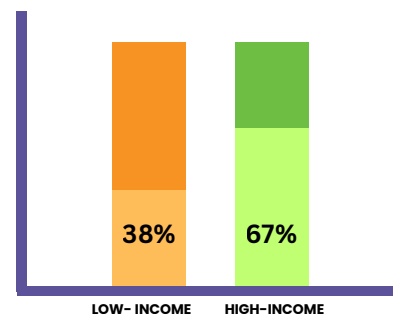
In addition to school superintendents, we saw more Governors and Mayors make summer learning a top priority. States like Oregon, California, Texas and Michigan have made significant funding investments in summer programs while cities like Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and Madison have utilized intermediaries to better coordinate local program delivery to students city-wide.

- **DATA THAT DEMANDS ACTION**

The national summer opportunity gap remains but closing it is possible. Recent Gallup polls show that of the 30 million K-12 students in structured and supervised programs, 20 million (67%) were middle and higher income while 10 million of the 25 million receiving free and reduced lunch (38%) were low income. Adding 7 million more low income students into summer programs would help the country close this gap.

- **MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY TO SUSTAINING PROGRAMS**

With federal funding cuts to education, communities are finding creative ways to pool resources and sustain summer programs. We saw numerous innovative partnerships created between schools and libraries, public housing authorities, non-profits, sports, teams, hospitals, museums, universities, camps, religious organizations and private corporations to create more spots, experiences and paid jobs for young people.



10 million low-income students (38%) out of 25 million participated in programs compared to 67% of higher income peers.

75

SUMMER PROGRAMS

48

CITIES

23

STATES

THANK YOU TO THE 75 PROGRAMS FOR HOSTING NSLA

Little Rock Public Library	AK	Creative Network	IL
Our House Shelter, Little Rock	AK	Skokie Public Library	IL
Breakthrough Collaborative	AL	Chicago Public Housing	IL
Children’s Fresh Air Farm	AL	LaundryCares Foundation	IL
Empower Community School	AL	YMCA Boston	MA
Legacy Prep	AL	WPS Institute	MA
Prattville YMCA	AL	River Valley Ranch	MD
Life Skills for Youth, Inc	AR	Summer Arts Learning Academy	MD
San Francisco Public Library	CA	Summer Academic Research Experience	MD
Woodcraft Rangers	CA	Math Corps: Detroit	MI
Money Smarts	CA	Victory Junction	NC
LaundryCares Foundation	CA	Completely KIDS	NE
Aim High	CA	Camp Wheeler PPC Cub Scout Camps	NJ
Ascendigo	CO	Mid-Atlantic Regional Intern Program	NJ
LaundryCares Foundation	CO	Rowan University	
Camp A BroaderWay	CT	Math Corps: Rutgers University	NJ
Elm City Communities	CT	Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake	NY
Camp Courant	CT	Felix Organization	NY
Lee Montessori Public Charter School	DC	New York City Parks & Recreation	NY
Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School	DC	REACH Summer Spotlight	NY
National Intern Day Celebration	DC	Managed Funds Intern Program	NY
Washington Leadership Academy	DC	Camp Broadway	NY
318 Foundation	DC	LaundryCares Foundation	OH
Beacon House	DC	Boys & Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania	PA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington	DC	H.O.P.E for Tomorrow Summer Program	PA
Sidwell Friends	DC	Maple Unified Student Academy	PA
DC Scores	DC	SLB Radio Productions	PA
The Fuller Center	FL	Horizons at Lancaster Country Day School	PA
Branches	FL	The School District of Philadelphia and the	PA
Breakthrough Miami	FL	City of Philadelphia	
The ANYTOWN® Program	FL	YMCA of Greater Providence	RI
Camp Southern Ground	GA	Providence After School Alliance (PASA)	RI
Camp Twin Lakes	GA	SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young	TX
The International Rescue Committee in Atlanta	GA	Children’s Bereavement Center of South	TX
Horizons Atlanta at Georgia Tech	GA	Texas	
Horizons Atlanta- Woodward Academy	GA	The GEMS Camp Incorporated	TX
Camp Fire	IA	Aspire	VA
Algona Public Library	IA	Camp Dogwood Summer Academy	VA
Cedar Rapids Public Library	IA	Seattle Public Schools Washington	WA