

The National Summer Learning Association 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, National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) trained staff, visited programs, highlighted best practices, developed leaders and advocated for our field. Highlights include:

## HOSTED 2-DAY SUMMER PLANNING BOOTCAMP



**nsia**  
national summer learning association

**SUMMER PLANNING BOOTCAMP**  
MARCH 13-14 1-3 PM EST. DAILY

Join us for our two-day webinar series designed to equip you with tools, ideas, and best practices to elevate your summer program planning.

Learn from leaders in schools, community-based programs, camps, libraries, outdoor education programs, and more.

SCHOLASTIC | stemOnext | Discovery Education | MeshEd | MEMOURS QUESTIONS | ProSolve | Hoot

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 71 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 48<sup>th</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> in Reading and from near the bottom to 32<sup>nd</sup> in Math.

### 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.

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

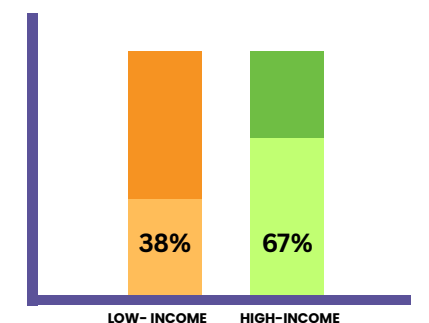
With federal funding cuts to education, communities are finding creative ways to pool resources and sustain summer programs. We saw numerous innovative partnerships created between schools and libraries, public housing authorities, non-profits, sports, teams, hospitals, museums, universities, camps,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

### 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.

### 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.



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

**71**  
SUMMER PROGRAMS

**48**  
CITIES

**23**  
STATES

**THANK YOU TO THE 71 PROGRAMS FOR HOSTING NSLA**

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



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**SUMMER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED**