

Summer Learning in Georgia

Why Summer Learning?

Summer can be a time of great opportunity but many youth – especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds – lose access to resources available during the school year, do not have access to programs in their community, and suffer summer learning loss.



Most students lose **2 months of math skills** & low-income students lose an additional **2-3 months of reading skills**¹



2/3 of the achievement gap in reading between low and middle income children by 9th grade is due to summer learning loss²



Only **1 in 7** students qualifying for free or reduced lunch receive summer meals³

High quality summer programs can stem learning loss, close educational and opportunity gaps and:



Broaden students' horizons



Include a wide variety of activities



Help youth build skills

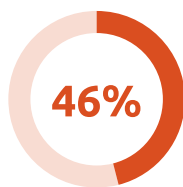


Foster cooperative learning

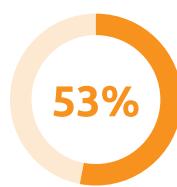


Promote healthy habits⁴

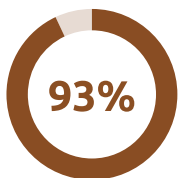
Summer Learning by the Numbers⁵



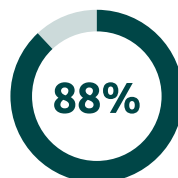
46% of Georgia families report that their child participated in a summer program in 2019



53% of Georgia families would have enrolled their child in a summer program if one were available



93% of Georgia parents are satisfied with their child's structured summer experience



88% of Georgia parents support public funding for summer learning opportunities

What do Georgia parents look for in a summer program?⁶



Barriers to summer program enrollment⁷

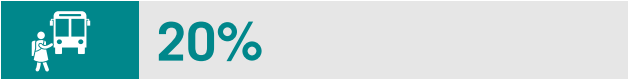
Family does other things during the summer



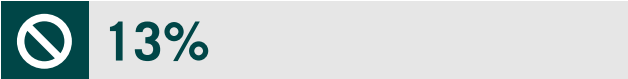
Programs are too expensive



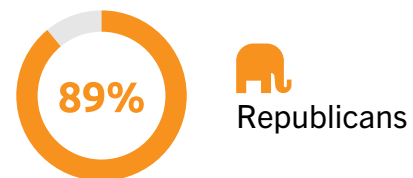
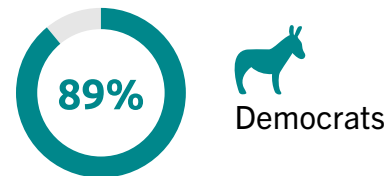
Issues with location or transportation



No summer programs available in their community



Support for summer learning is strong and bipartisan in Georgia⁸



1. Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996). The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test scores: A Narrative and Meta-Analytic Review. *Review of Education Research*, 66 (3), 227-268.
2. Alexander, K. L., Entwisle D. R., & Olson L. S. (2007a). Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap. *American Sociological Review*, 72, 167
3. Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report. (August 2020). Food Research and Action Center. Retrieved from <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/FRAC-Summer-Nutrition-Report-2020.pdf>
4. Catherine H. Augustine, Jennifer Sloan McCombs, John F. Pane, Heather L. Schwartz, Jonathan Schweig, Andrew McEachin, and Kyle Siler-Evans. Learning from Summer: Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth. RAND Corporation. (September 2016). Retrieved from https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1557.html
5. America After 3 PM. Afterschool Alliance (2020) <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM-2020/GA-AA3PM-Summer-2021-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.

For more information on afterschool in Georgia, go to www.afterschoolga.org.