

A New Vision for Summer School

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September 22, 2010



Webinar Functions

- Question – Submit a question to the panelists
- Hand Raising – use to be called on to comment, ask, or answer a question
- Poll – Given the question, select the best answer



**Our mission is to connect and equip
schools and community
organizations to deliver quality
summer learning programs to our
nation's youth to help close the
achievement gap.**



The Association works to:

- Increase the number of providers offering high-quality summer learning programs to young people living in poverty;
- Increase the number of organizations and policymakers that identify summer learning as a public policy priority; and,
- Increase funding for high-quality summer learning programs for young people who currently lack choices and opportunities.



Objectives for today:

- Understand what the New Vision for Summer School entails
- Understand the challenges and opportunities associated with making the New Vision a reality
- Understand how federal policy and the upcoming ESEA reauthorization can support the New Vision.



What is the New Vision?

- Transcend the remedial, often punitive summer school model of the past
- Replace it with comprehensive, engaging programming for more students
- Use the summer months as key strategy for closing the achievement gap, improving graduation rates, and driving innovative reforms.



Why a New Vision?

- Summer is an untapped resource in education reform
- Remedial model of summer school is insufficient
- Summer can be a “bridge” between various approaches to expanded learning and education reform
- Summer is ideal space for innovation
- **Goal is to make summer school an essential component of education reform**



Compelling Research

Over 40 studies confirm summer learning loss

- Most students lose 2 months of math skills
- Low-income students lose 2-3 months of reading skills
- **About two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years.**



Compelling Results

- Summer Advantage, USA
 - 2 month gains in Math and Reading
 - State test scores up 16 points in Reading and 12 in Math
- BELL
 - 5 months gain in math and reading
- Bridges to a Brighter Future/Furman University
 - 93% college enrollment over 12 years



What is the New Vision?

- 1) Increase time and scope
 - Detroit Public Schools
- 2) Expand participation
 - Philadelphia Public Schools
- 3) Comprehensive approach
 - Cincinnati Public Schools
- 4) Strong Partnerships
 - Baltimore City Public Schools



What is the New Vision

- 5) Focus on engagement
 - Council Bluffs Community School District
- 6) Innovative professional development
 - Detroit
- 7) Innovative approaches to learning
 - Chicago Public Schools
- 8) Focus on key transitions
 - Minneapolis Public Schools
- 9) Improved planning and funding
 - Pittsburgh Public Schools



The time is right

- Growing support for more time
- Federal funding through ARRA and ESEA
- New state and local interest
 - Over \$100 million in new investments
- Increased demand from parents
- Media attention (TIME magazine)



Policy Opportunities and Trends

- Low-performing schools and school improvement
- ESEA reauthorization
- ARRA implementation
- High School Reform
- Transitions
- STEM Education
 - Role of Technology



Potential Funding Sources

■ Federal

- Title I, School Turnaround Grants, 21st CCLC, Race to the Top, Summer Jobs, Service Learning , and Summer Food

■ State and Local

- Existing funds for education and school improvement, summer jobs, libraries, juvenile justice, and summer food
- Local and Regional philanthropy



Challenges

- A significant lack of capacity at the local level
- A difficult economic environment and reliance on temporary federal stimulus funds
- Concerns the summer months and expanded learning time will result in instructional seat time and “more of the same”
- Competition from other compelling education reform ideas, all competing for limited resources



Next Steps

New Vision for Summer School Network

- Community of 10 to 15 districts
- Network will feature best practices and learning in:
 - Evaluation
 - Partnership Building
 - Attendance/Incentives
 - Funding Alignment
 - Staffing and Professional Development
 - Outreach and Marketing



Next Steps

- New Research
- More funding
- More public awareness
- More advocacy
- More credibility
- Improved Policies at all levels



New Vision and National Conference

- How to implement the New Vision in your community with focus on school-community partnerships
- Sessions include:
 - General session with representatives from Chicago and Baltimore City Public Schools
 - Breakout sessions led by districts and non-profits implementing the New Vision and discussing key implementation issues





2010 National Conference on Summer Learning

November 9–10, 2010

**Optional trainings November 8
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown**

summerlearning.org/conference

***ESEA
Reauthorization
and
Summer Learning***



The current situation...

- While several ESEA funding streams CAN be used for summer programs, there is no requirement that states and districts invest any federal funds in summer learning.
- There are no data collection requirements to determine how much federal funding is currently being used for summer learning at the state and local levels.



The current situation...

- States and districts do not use significant amounts of existing federal funding to support summer programs.
- Those states and districts that do invest in summer, typically provide remedial programs limited in scope, duration, and impact.
- Summer programs are often the first to be cut during difficult economic times, as we are currently seeing across the nation.



We recommend that Congress:

- **Require states and districts to collect data and report on the amount of federal funds to serve students in summer learning programs.**
- **Create a dedicated program and funding stream that would focus exclusively on the summer months as a strategy to close the achievement gap based on the *New Vision for Summer School*.**



- Utilize existing funding streams, particularly Title I and Title I School Turnaround Grants for summer.
- Identify summer as a preferred delivery time for Supplemental Education Services (SES).
- Encourage alignment of diverse federal, state, and local funding streams.
- Support research to understand the costs and benefits of various approaches to summer school.



- Provide a robust role for local, state, and national intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance, build capacity, facilitate school-community partnerships, monitor program quality, and disseminate best practices.
- Continue and expand support for summer programs through 21st Century Community Learning Center funds without sacrificing other 21st Century priorities.



- Ensure a role for summer in key initiatives in the Administration's Blueprint for Reform:
 - Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students
 - Promise Neighborhoods
 - STEM Education
 - Race to the Top
 - Investing in Innovation



Thank you!

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