

SUMMER LEARNING

A 2011 study by the RAND Corporation highlighted several key points related to summer learning.

- **FIRST:** Summer learning loss disproportionately impacts students of color from low-income communities. Its effects are cumulative, making summer learning loss a substantial contributor to the achievement gap.

- **SECOND:** Students who attend summer programs have better outcomes than similar peers who do not attend these programs.

- **THIRD:** Partnerships can strengthen the quality and impact of summer learning programs.

Partners in School Innovation (Partners) has more than 20 years of experience providing support to under-performing public schools and districts in urban areas that are committed to closing the achievement gap. We improve outcomes for students of color and English Learners by building the capacity of teachers to deliver more effective and culturally responsive instruction. Partners

offers targeted services to ensure that existing summer school programs achieve maximum gains for students.

SERVICES

Our summer programs accelerate learning for BOTH students and teachers. By collaborating with school and district leaders to design a customized program that is tailored to the strengths and needs of each partner school and district, we build the capacity of teachers to deliver a summer learning experience that ensures results for students. Our staff work with leaders and teachers to:

- Set goals for student learning
- Define a focus area for teacher learning
- Develop a training and support plan for teachers (trainings, co-teaching, 1-1 coaching, etc.)
- Monitor the impact of the program

¹RAND Corporation. *Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Student Learning*. Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2011.



RESULTS

Partners staff conducted a pilot summer learning program in 2015. Using a co-teaching model, we worked alongside staff in three of our partner districts to increase students' mastery of foundational literacy skills and Common Core standards while building the capacity of teachers to teach the standards. From this work, we achieved promising results for students and teachers alike:

STUDENT RESULTS AT SITE 1:

- **68% of students met or exceeded** the accelerated reading targets set by the curriculum adopted by the site.

STUDENT RESULTS AT SITE 2:

- **100% of Partners-supported classrooms** made at least one month of progress in reading, and four of eight moved up half a grade level or more in reading.

Additionally, teachers reported increased confidence in their ability to develop units and lessons that support student mastery of Common Core reading standards, noting that Partners staff supported them to "use authentic student work to monitor progress" and to "align Common Core and important social justice studies in a way that doesn't take emphasis away from Common Core subjects."