

# **S.U.C.C.E.S.S. This Summer!**

BOOST 2010  
Palm Springs, CA



# Today's Objectives:

- Understand key research points that supports summer learning
- Recognize seven strategies that improve summer learning program quality
- Collect and share best practices for summer programming



**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.**

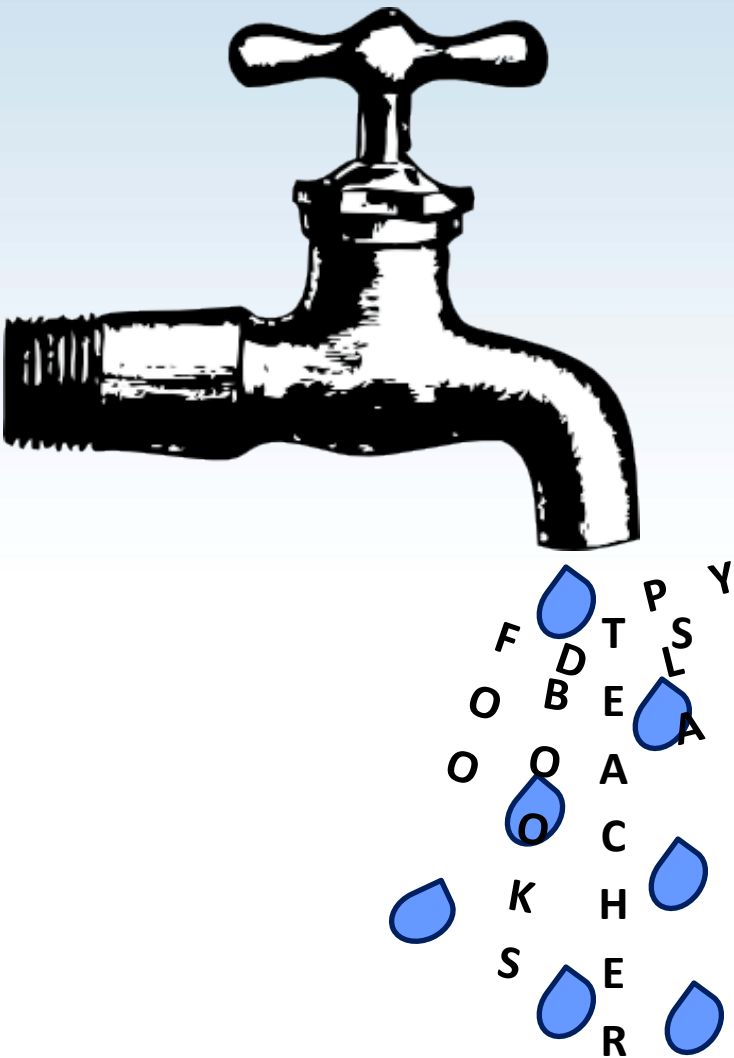


The Association works to:

- **Improve the quality and quantity of summer programs** through professional development and evaluation
- **Build awareness and support** through outreach and communications
- **Generate public investment** through informing policymakers and engaging stakeholders



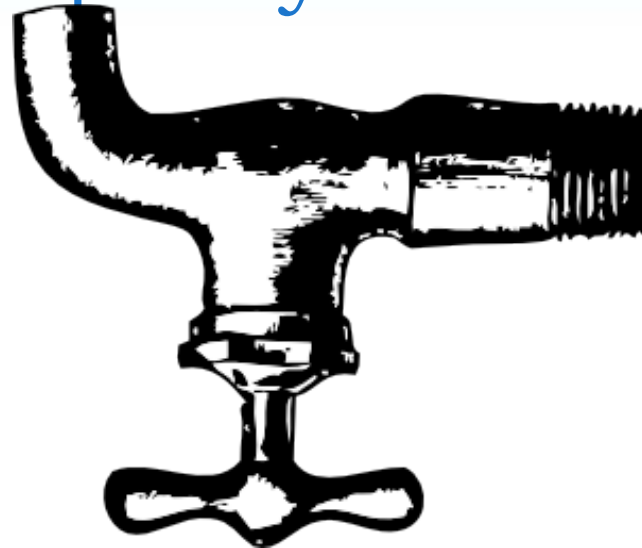
# School Day, Afterschool, and Summer



Faucet Theory: learning resources are turned *on* for all children during the school year because of equal access to public education.

# School Day, Afterschool, and Summer

- During the summer, the faucet is turned *OFF* for low-income youth.
- A limited flow of resources in the summer has major implications for summer program quality.



# The Need for High-Quality Summer Learning Programs

**All young people** experience learning losses when they do not engage in learning activities during the summer.

White, Heyns, Cooper, Alexander & Entwistle, etc.



# The Need for High-Quality Summer Learning Programs

Elementary students lose most in **spelling** and **math** skills.

Average **loss in math** over the summer is about **2.6 months** of grade level equivalency.



# The Need for High-Quality Summer Learning Programs

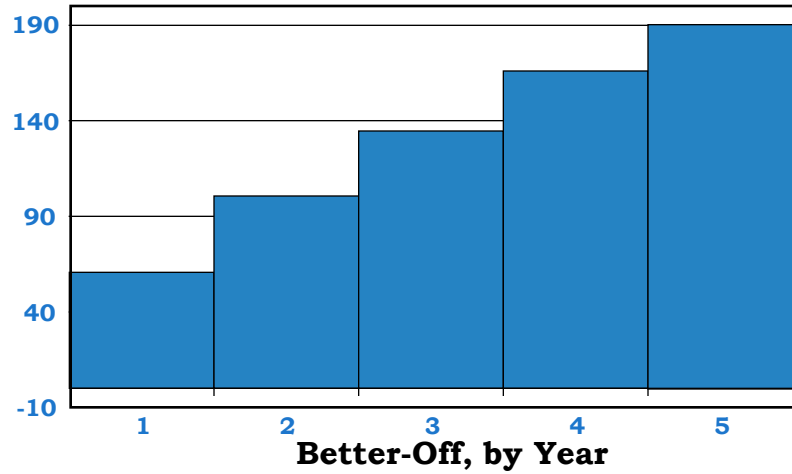
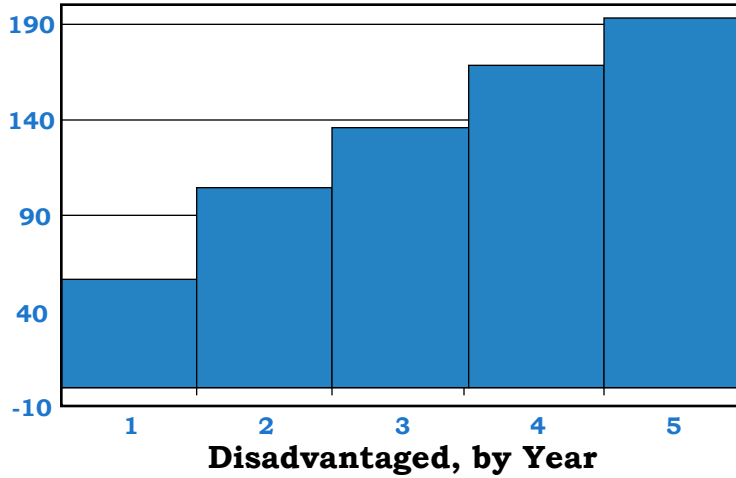
Kids from disadvantaged backgrounds are disproportionately **impacted** by losses in **reading** (2-3 months loss).

Two-thirds of the achievement gap in reading can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.

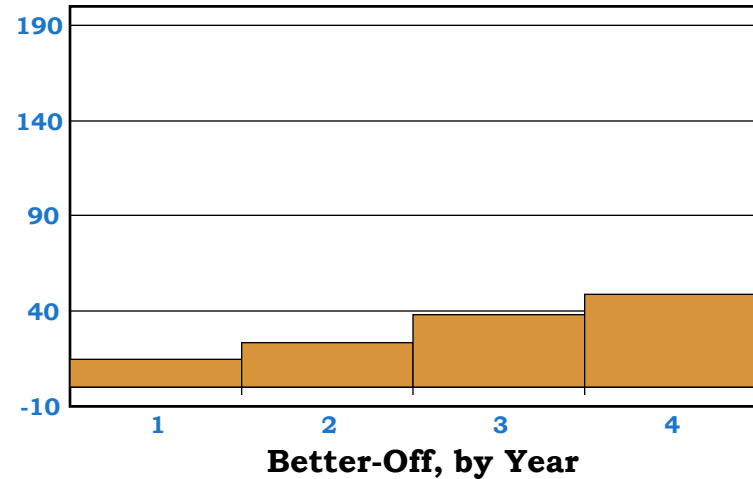
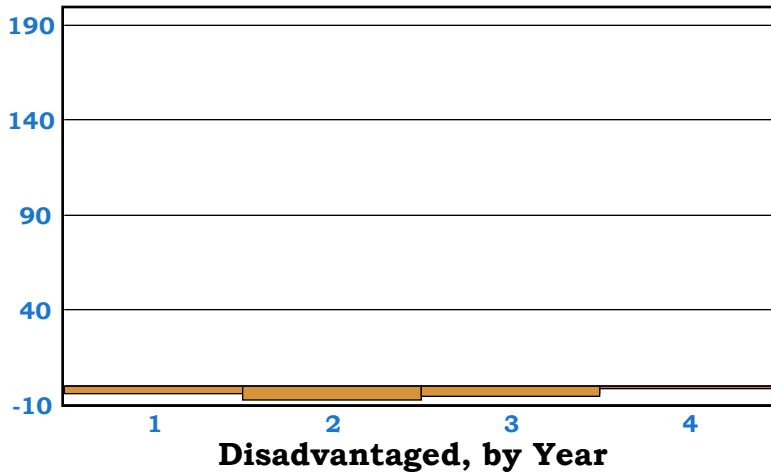
*Alexander, Entwistle and Olson, 2007*



# SCHOOL YEAR CUMULATIVE GAINS

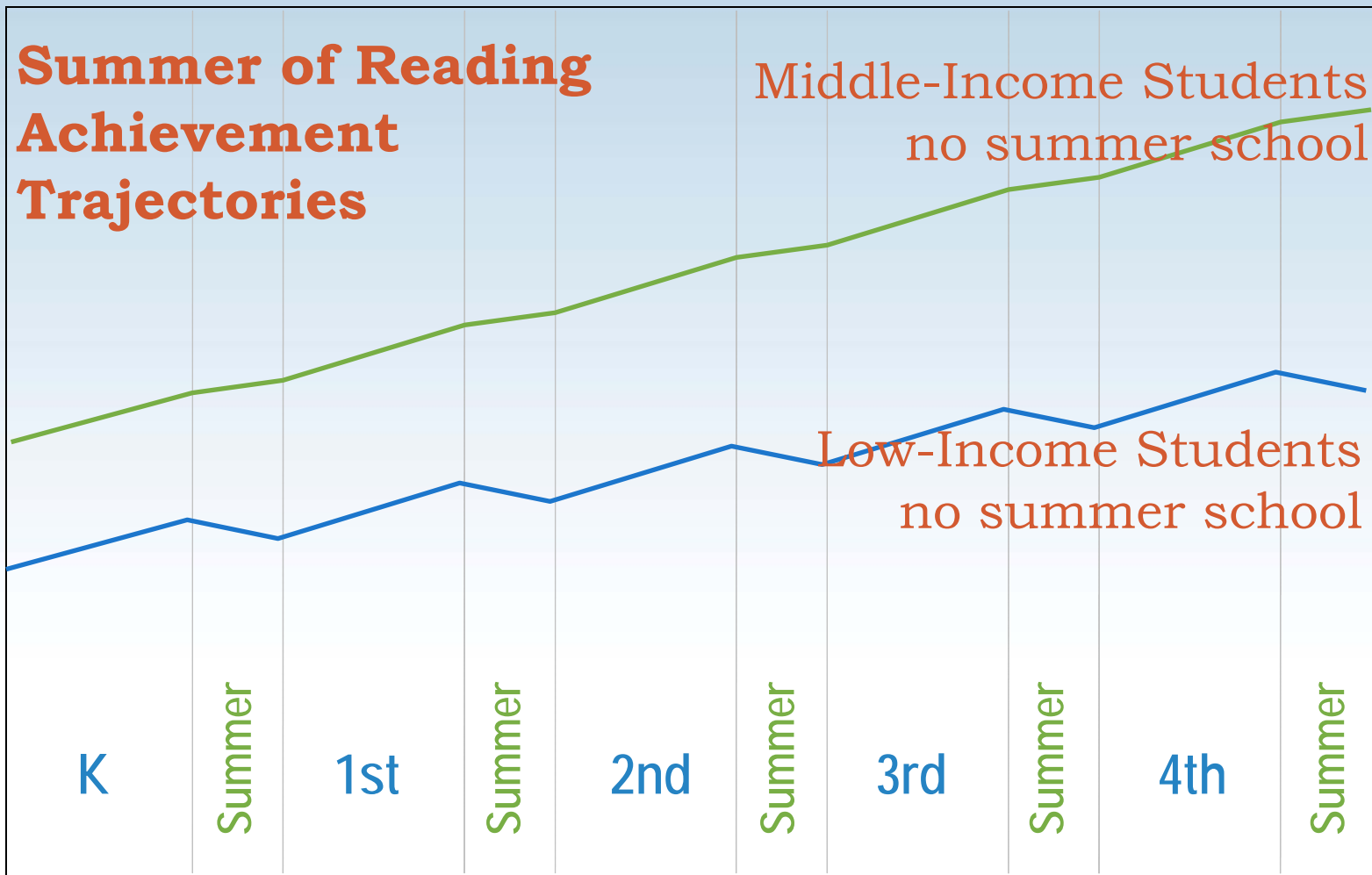


# SUMMER CUMULATIVE GAINS



# Summer Learning & the Achievement Gap

Average Reading Achievement Level



# What We Know About Summer

- 1 in 8** children who qualify for federally subsidized meals receive them during the summer.
- Out-of-school time is dangerous for unsupervised children and teens.



# Program Improvement System

Program  
Infrastructure

Point-of-Service

PURPOSE

INDIVIDUALIZED

PEOPLE

INTENTIONAL

PLANNING

INTEGRATED

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

PARTNERSHIPS



# SUCCESS this Summer

- **S**et goals
- **U**nderstand what youth and families want
- **C**reate intentional learning experiences
- **C**ommunicate expectations to staff
- **E**ngage kids with creative approaches
- **S**tructure time efficiently
- **S**eek partnerships



# Set Goals

- 3-5 academic, social, developmental goals

## HOW?

- Analyze standards: McREL, Search Institute
- Talk with feeder schools and afterschool programs
- Needs assessment



# Understand what kids and families want

- Be responsive to needs and wants of community

## HOW?

- Surveys and focus groups
- Integrate with your program goals



# Create Intentional Learning Experiences

- Design activities that help youth reach learning goals

## HOW?

- Establish the purpose for each activity
- Connect field trips to learning goals



# Communicate Expectations to Staff

- Help staff understand what it means to be an excellent employee

## HOW?

- Set expectations before hiring
- Staff observation tools
- Reward excellence



# Engage Kids with Creative Approaches

- Offer learning experiences that are unique to summer

## HOW?

- Change the physical environment
- Thematic, project-based or hands-on learning



# Structure Time Efficiently

- A well-organized schedule can contribute to increased program quality

## HOW?

- Lesson plans
- Sequenced activities



# Seek Partnerships

- Collaborate to increase access and participation

## HOW?

- Identify what you can offer and what you need
- Use your network



# Take Action!



# Thank you!

- Program Planning/Membership
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- Program Assessment
  - Sarah Pitcock –  
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- Summer Learning Day
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## Summer S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Action Plan

Area of Focus	Steps I can take at my site to implement this strategy:	Who can help?	By when? This summer? Next year?
<p><b>Set Goals:</b> Excellent summer programs have a handful of learning goals that guide young people toward all summer; 3-5 academic, social and developmental goals.</p>			
<p><b>Understand what kids and families want:</b> Excellent summer programs respond to the needs of a community.</p>			
<p><b>Create Intentional Learning Experiences:</b> High quality summer programs plan their activities with the intended goal in mind.</p>			

<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Steps I can take at my site to implement this strategy:</b>	<b>Who can help?</b>	<b>By when? This summer? Next year?</b>
<p><b>Communicate Expectations to Staff:</b> Help staff understand what it means to be an excellent employee.</p>			
<p><b>Engage Kids with Creative Approaches:</b> Offer learning experiences that are unique to summer and different than the regular school day.</p>			
<p><b>Structure Time Efficiently:</b> A well-organized schedule can contribute to increased program quality.</p>			
<p><b>Seek Partnerships:</b> Collaborate to increase access and participation.</p>			