



Summertime, and the Learning's Easy

Story Ideas for Education Reporters

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Start with the Basics

- Remedial summer school
- Private enrichment: Math clubs, STEM camps, Tuition-based programs
- Partner programs: Nonprofits, for-profits, municipal agencies



Who's paying?

The Three “Ps”

- Public dollars
- Private grants
- Parents



Who's Teaching?

- Check state regulations for accreditation/certification
- What are requirements for regulating/auditing summer learning programs?
- Accountability: What reporting/tracking, if any, is done on student progress?



Check Out ... the Libraries

- Chicago Public Library's [Summer Reading Challenge](#)
- Seattle Public Library's [Summer of Learning](#)
- Boston Public Library's [Summer Reading Contest](#)
- [Get Ready for Endless Summer Learning](#) (Linda Jackson, School Library Journal)



Deeper or Different?

- Remediation vs. Enrichment – what is the goal?
- Are students in low-income areas more or less likely to be in programs that advance their learning, vs. helping them “catch up”?
- How difficult is it for less-affluent students to access high-quality summer learning programs?
- For Low-Income Kids, Summer Learning Opportunities are Hard to Find (Ann Dornfield, KUOW)



A Family Affair


- What are the stumbling blocks for families? How much does transportation and tuition factor into the equation?
- Host a parents' roundtable: what are their summer priorities? How would they feel about abolishing the three-month break?
- Look for organizations that are involving adults in children's learning: Family camps, "parent academies" are becoming more common.



A Summer “Bridge” to Fall

District programs focusing on easing transitions from:

- Elementary to middle school
- Middle school to high school
- High school to state university/community college



Physical location for summer learning programs: Indoors or Out?

- Look for partnerships among higher education and K-12 organizations to expose students to more challenging learning environments.
- Are students getting exposure to new settings, or is it an extension of the traditional classroom/school day?

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with a blue circle in the center, partially obscured by stylized blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue color.

Summer: An opportunity for innovative instruction or more of the same?

Talk to the Teachers

- Are teachers using the summer to learn, as well?
- What kind of professional development are teachers getting, and who's behind it?