The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is roughly **30 TO 40 PERCENT LARGER** among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier.1

**“...EDUCATION IS A WAY OUT OF POVERTY — BUT POVERTY IS ALSO A HINDRANCE TO EDUCATION.”** 2

Parents with the means invest more time and money than ever before in their children while lower-income families, which are now more likely to be headed by a single parent, are increasingly stretched for time and resources.3

During the summer months, disadvantaged children tread water at best or even fall behind. It’s what we call “SUMMER SLIDE” while better off children build their skills steadily over the summer months.

**SUMMER LEARNING LOSS** accounts for about two-thirds of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading.7

Low-income youth lack options in the summer, and sometimes come to the library because it’s air conditioned.4

FOR EVERY ONE LINE OF PRINT READ BY LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, MIDDLE-INCOME CHILDREN READ THREE.5

What Happens to Children DURING THE SUMMER?

How Summer Learning Can Help CLOSE the Achievement Gap.

**SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS TARGETED TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS** can help close the achievement gap that has been attributed, at least in part, to cumulative learning loss during the summers and that has been shown to be steeper for low-income students than for others.

Longitudinal studies indicate that the effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation.6

---


National Summer Learning Association | www.summerlearning.org