

# Summer Learning Advocates

## **National Campaign for Summer Learning Progress Update February 2010**

In the summer of 2009, the National Summer Learning Association, with the generous support of the Atlantic Philanthropies, launched a National Campaign for Summer Learning, with the goal of increasing public investment in summer learning programs by \$50 million by 2012.

We are pleased to announce that we are already more than half-way to that goal less than one year into the campaign. Following is an overview of new public investment in summer learning programs that have involved the Association.

### **Program Details:**

#### **NASA Summer of Innovation**

As part of the President's "Educate to Innovate" Campaign, President Obama called for the expansion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics opportunities for all young people. NASA is launching the Summer of Innovation pilot to increase the scope and scale of the Agency's commitment to answer the President's call. Summer of Innovation is designed to improve STEM teaching and learning in partnership with federal agencies, universities, industry, museums, nonprofit organizations/associations, and states and localities. The objectives of the Summer of Innovation will be accomplished by the strategic infusion of NASA content and products into evidence-based summer learning programs at the state level. Additionally, the program will involve design competitions and flagship events open to students and teachers nationwide. A significant outcome of the program is to expand the pool of students, particularly females and those from low-income and underserved populations, to consider and pursue STEM professions.

#### **Pittsburgh Public Schools Summer Dreamers Academy**

Pittsburgh Public Schools recently approved the use of \$10.6 million in Title I, ARRA funds to create a new summer learning program focused on improving middle school literacy. Called the "Summer Dreamers Academy", the program consists of morning academic instruction focused on literacy through a hands-on curriculum and afternoon enrichment programs run by community partners that also focus on literacy. NSLA has consulted with the district extensively and is responding to an RFP to provide the evaluation of the program.

#### **Baltimore City Public Schools Summer Learning programs**

Over the past year and a half, we have made considerable progress in facilitating large-scale public investment in summer learning offered by public schools and recreation centers. We have been able to play a vital local role in building capacity and systems that leverage our experience and expertise gained

over the past 15 years. Specifically, our partnership building, strategic consulting and policy development efforts were instrumental in increasing:

- The quality and level of student engagement in summer learning opportunities for all Title I schools (from a four hour day to a six hour day to incorporate enrichment activities);
- Public investment in summer learning by \$2.7million dollars for Title I schools;
- Participation in summer school in summer 2009 by facilitating efficient and effective planning at the school level and among program providers;
- Greater collaboration and coordination between City Schools and the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Enoch Pratt Free Library System providing a consistent, full-day summer learning programs of integrated educational enrichment and healthy physical activity in 33 schools; and
- Participation by 11 percent in the Summer Food Service Program from 464 feeding sites in 2008 to 525 sites in 2009.

#### **Cincinnati Public Schools Fifth Quarter program**

In 2009, Cincinnati Public Schools launched the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter program, a four week, full-day extended year program for 13 low-performing elementary schools. School year teachers serve as the summer faculty, allowing students to deepen connections to caring adults. Mornings are devoted to academic learning with differentiated instruction. Following lunch, Fifth Quarter participants enjoyed enrichment activities offered by a variety of community partners including field trips, science projects, and other hands-on activities that promoted collaboration and creativity.

#### **Montgomery County Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning**

The ELO SAIL is a school-wide Title I program, designed to provide supplemental academic support to students from low-income communities. The primary goal of ELO SAIL is to provide opportunities to acquire and preview concepts and skills in reading and mathematics to alleviate summer academic loss and promote continued learning by students.

This innovative program combines Title 1 and 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds to provide a free four-week summer program for elementary schools in Montgomery County, Maryland. The ELO-SAIL program, initiated in 2002, features a four-hour instructional day of reading, language arts, and mathematics to entering kindergarten, and first- to- fifth-grade students, and provides an arts and recreation program in the afternoons through 21st CCLC funds to complement and reinforce the academic skills taught in ELO-SAIL.

## **Related Policy Victories**

### **California**

NSLA has worked closely with a number of key stakeholders in California to advance summer learning policy. Key victories include:

- Passage of legislative task force to study summer learning. The task force met late last year and featured testimony and support from NSLA staff. The next hearing is scheduled for March and will again feature NSLA staff testimony and resources.
- Earlier this year, the state Senate passed a bill that would require that increased funding for the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers would be dedicated for summer programs.

### **Rhode Island**

NSLA has worked with key stakeholders in Rhode Island for several years now, resulting in several key policy developments:

- Passage of a legislative task force to study summer learning. NSLA helped draft the legislation and will testify at upcoming hearings.
- Passage of a bill to begin planning for state funded afterschool and summer learning programs. NSLA is currently writing part of the paper to present to the state legislature.

### **Kentucky**

NSLA has worked with key stakeholders in Kentucky for several years, resulting in the recent introduction of summer learning legislation that would provide academic and enrichment activities for low-income children in grades 2-5. NSLA assisted in the drafting of the bill and is providing a letter of support and other resources to help get the bill passed.

### **U.S. Department of Education**

As part of President Obama's FY2011 budget, \$2.7 million was requested to add fall testing to the data-collection schedule for the 2010 Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, better known as ECLS. This would allow researchers to get a better handle on "summer learning loss," the achievement dip that occurs when students are out of school over the summer and which affects different population groups differently. The Association included a similar recommendation in their federal policy agenda recommendations to the Obama Administration.