



## **The Summer Slide and What We Can Do About It!**

Prepared by Kristen Pozzoboni, PhD.

Denver Afterschool Alliance Leadership Team

The summer slide is what happens to students when they do not practice academic skills learned throughout the school year during summer vacation. According to the National Summer Learning Association (2017), students can lose up to two months of math skills and two to three months of reading skills over the summer. By ninth grade, this learning loss can account for two-thirds of the “achievement-gap” in reading between students from low-income families and their middle-income peers.

Research suggests that summer programs can reduce learning loss when they offer kids opportunities to engage in fun, hands-on learning activities with real-world application. Experts agree the most effective programs offer a minimum of 5 weeks of programming, dedicate 3-4 hours per day to academic content, and maintain small groups with a staff to youth ratio of about 1:15. In addition, summer learning programs that provide training and curriculum guidance for program staff are most effective. Want to read more about what makes summer programs successful? Check out this report: [Getting to Work on Summer Learning: Recommended Practices for Success](#) published by RAND in 2013.

Another way to help prevent summer learning loss is to get involved with Youth One Book One Denver (YOBOD)—a summer reading program that offers children ages 9-12 a shared reading experience along with fun educational events and activities tied to one book chosen for summer 2018. To learn more about the book, view a calendar of events and download a FREE activity guide, click [here](#). Books and FREE adventure guides are also available at Denver Barnes & Noble stores and Denver Public Library Branches.