

Facts About Summer Learning Loss and Local Students

According to the Wallace Foundation (bit.ly/SummerLearningLoss), the same youth who would stand to benefit the most from summer learning programs are also the least likely to participate. This includes students who are economically disadvantaged, have low school engagement and exhibit problem behavior.

- Studies about summer learning loss have found that low-income youth regress more in reading skills over the summer than their higher income peers.
- One study found that about two-thirds of the ninth-grade academic achievement gap between economically disadvantaged and advantaged teens can be explained by summer learning loss during the elementary school years.
- There are likely a variety of causes for low-income students' summer learning loss: less time spent reading, less access to books at home, less time in the library, lack of structure and support in their homes and neighborhoods. When school is out, these students are left with no structure, support or qualified teachers.

Locally, data about the Ravenswood City Elementary School District reflects the data cited by the Wallace Foundation, and underscores the importance of summertime academic enrichment in the areas served by Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

- It is estimated that more than 50% of students from East Palo Alto, east Menlo Park and east Redwood City drop out of high school.
- About 80% of the students in the 2011 Summer Learning Academy were Latino, and the ethnic composition of the program is nearly the same this year.
- 70% to 90% of Ravenswood students, which includes East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park, are on the free or reduced lunch program.
- The Ravenswood district is 79% Hispanic, 11% African American, and 9% Pacific Islander.
- Ronald McNair Middle School, close to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's 2012 Sobrato Summer Learning Academy Teen Center, exemplifies the need for educational enrichment: 92% of students are socioeconomically disadvantaged and 76% are English Learners.