

**Celebrate Summer Learning Day!**

June 19, 2015 is Summer Learning Day, the annual kickoff to summer where The National Summer Learning Association recognizes the high-quality summer learning opportunities across the country that are making a difference stemming summer learning loss and closing the achievement gap.

Research shows that summers without quality learning opportunities put our nation’s youth at risk for falling behind – year after year – in core subjects like math and reading. The math and reading skills low-income students lose each summer are cumulative and contribute significantly to the achievement gap between lower- and higher- income kids.

Many kinds of high-quality learning opportunities during the summer can make a difference in stemming learning loss: from reading and math to sports, cooking, nature, arts, STEM, and more.

Summer programs also play a critical role in child nutrition, serving as feeding sites for the federal summer meals program. Summer meals ensure that low-income students who rely on subsidized meals during the school year do not go hungry in the summer, and draw students to attend learning and enrichment programs.

Afterschool programs often play a critical role in keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy during the summer months too. Please join us in celebrating and promoting summer learning on June 19th or anytime during the summer. Add an event to our [map](http://www.summerlearningdaymap.org/index.php), take the [pledge](http://www.summerlearningdaymap.org/formPledge.php), and use these [resources](https://summerlearning.site-ym.com/?page=SLD_Communities) to promote high-quality activities for youth all summer long!

Many resources are available for spreading the word to families, media, and the community.

* If you are hosting an event for Summer Learning Day, or just want to tell us about your summer program, add it to our [map](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=sld_events)! In 2015 we are aiming for over 700,000 kids reached through summer programs.
* This [infographic](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=TheAchievementGap) illustrates how a lack of summer learning opportunities contributes to the achievement gap.
* Resources for families include [tips sheets](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=SLD_Families) on keeping kids learning, healthy, and engaged over the summer, even in absence of formal programs.
* Youth who receive free/reduced price lunch also qualify for summer meals. Help families find their nearest summer meals provider [location](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks), usually a nearby school or recreation center.
* Help us get #summerlearning trending! Use these [social media tips](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=SLD_Social) and samples to spread the word about #SummerLearningDay and #KeepKidsLearning all summer long! You can also participate in the Summer Learning Day Thunderclap! (See instructions below.)
* [Stay connected](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=SummerTimes) with the National Summer Learning Association this summer and all year long. Throughout the year you’ll receive news about planning and executing youth programs, evaluation tools, webinars, policy updates, and more!

**How to Participate in Thunderclap**

* After June 1, 2015, you can search for the “National Summer Learning Association” at [www.thunderclap.it](http://www.thunderclap.it).
* Click on one or more of the following buttons
	+ “Support with **Facebook**”
	+ “Support with **Twitter**”
	+ “Support with **Tumblr**”
* Once you have clicked a social media button, if you’d like, you may customize your message. If you do customize your message, make sure to keep the link and hashtag #KeepKidsLearning in the message.
* Click “Add My Support”
* Log in to your social media account when/if prompted.
* That’s it. You are all finished! The messages for each social media vehicle you chose will be scheduled to post on June 17, 2015 at 1:00 PM ET. Thank you for your support!