

## What's New in Research June 2010

**The Report:** "America After 3 pm, Special Report on Summer: Missed Opportunities, Unmet Demand"

**Where It's From:** Afterschool Alliance, May 2010

**The Findings:** This special report is based on data collected in 2009 as part of the "America After 3 pm" study by the Afterschool Alliance. The study found that a majority of students do not participate in high quality summer programs, despite well-known research showing that summer is a dangerous time in terms of summer learning loss and risky behaviors. The report includes national and state-specific data; in Maryland, only 31% of students participate in a summer learning program even though 54% of parents would enroll their child in a program if one were available.

**Some Specifics:**

- Across the country, 25% of school-age students participate in a summer learning program. Almost half (43%) of participants qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- Across the country, 56% of school-age students would participate in a summer program, if one were available. Again, nearly half (46%) of those in this category qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- Eighty-three percent of all parents, and 90% of low-income parents, support federal funding for summer programs.

**The Full Report Is Available At:**

[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Special\\_Report\\_on\\_Summer\\_052510.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Special_Report_on_Summer_052510.pdf)

**The Report:** "A New Vision for Summer School"

**Where It's From:** National Summer Learning Association, 2010

**The Findings:** The National Summer Learning Association has recently released this report to share a new agenda and idea – a New Vision for Summer School. This New Vision includes well-balanced programming (academics and enrichment) for students that spans full days for six to eight weeks during the summer. The report details what this New Vision could look like, includes examples of some places where it is already in the works, and discusses how existing funding sources can help support it in districts and states across the country.

**Some Specifics:**

- The fact that summer learning loss exists, especially for low income youth, is backed up by over 100 years of research.
- The ESEA Reauthorization, Title I, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, i3, Race to the Top, and Promise Neighborhoods are some of the existing/upcoming funding sources that can be used to support summer programming.
- One-time funds from ARRA can be used to support a long-term solution by building the infrastructure of summer programming, including staff training, developing partnership agreements, creating data and evaluation systems, and improving school facilities for use in the summer (air conditioning and ventilation).

**The Full Report Is Available At:**

[http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/nvss/nsla\\_newvision\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/nvss/nsla_newvision_pdf.pdf)