

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## How Summer Programs Can Advance Student Learning



### ITEST Webcast

Tuesday, September 25, 2007  
2-3pm EDT

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Build IT: Girls Building  
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# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement

- Report commissioned by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- Published June 2007
- "...researchers have arrived at a similar set of conclusions...children in all socioeconomic groups are learning at nearly the same rate... *during the school year...*"

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement, cont'd

- "...the differences in achievement between poor and middle-class children are rooted in the inequities that young people experience outside the schoolhouse door."

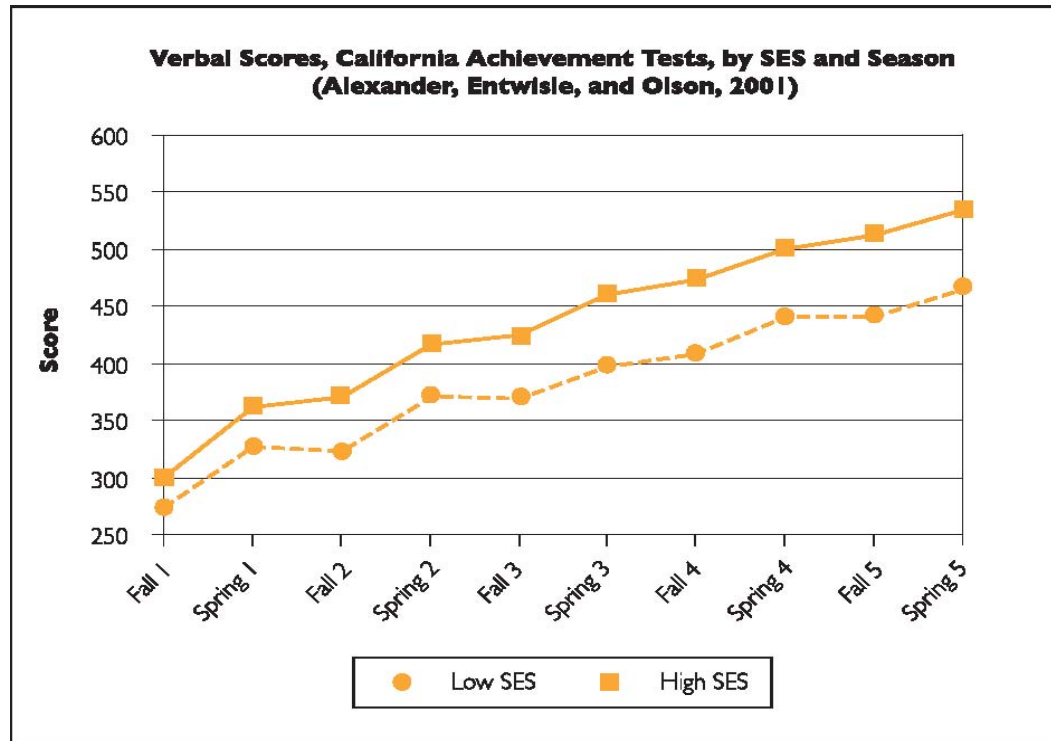
# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement, cont'd

- Include strategies that focus on where children are and what they are doing outside the classroom.
- More nuanced understanding of social conditions.
- Understanding that cognitive, emotional, and social competence provide a strong foundation for cognitive abilities.

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement, cont'd



# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement, cont'd

"Over the last decade, a new model of summer programs has developed...These programs have the goal of boosting children's academic performance, but unlike traditional summer schools, *they take an accelerated, rather than remedial approach...*"

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement, cont'd

"...They combine the qualities of typical youth development programs—building self-confidence, sense of mastery, sense of belonging...with high-quality curricula that increase engagement in learning and specific skills in reading, math, and other subjects."

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Effective Summer Programs:

- skilled, caring staff
- an appropriate, engaging curriculum
- cultural relevance
- parent involvement
- an appropriate, engaging curriculum
- what have you seen in your program??





# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Summer Programs:

### What have you seen in your program?

- Concentrated time (2 weeks, 5 hours per day) may have an impact\*:
  - Summer participants more likely than their school year peers to be interested in IT careers.
- Field trips may be more influential than IT professional visits
  - Field trips generally last longer than IT professional visits
  - Girls see many careers in one field trip
  - Field trips more frequent and possible during the summer
- \*Note: All summer participants also attended Build IT during the school year



# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Effective Summer Programs:

### Skilled, caring staff

- Partnership with Girls Inc. is critical to the success of Build IT
- Successfully building staff capacity
  - Staff not always comfortable with IT content.
  - Girls are achieving technology fluency.



# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Effective Summer Programs:

### Cultural relevance

- Staff and as frequently as possible, IT professionals, reflect girls' ethnic backgrounds (African American and Latina)
- Girls created web sites in Spanish and English
- Girls developed web sites for a community organization (Girls Incorporated of Alameda County)





# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Effective Summer Programs:

### An appropriate, engaging curriculum

- Girls apply their design skills to creating their own website that includes (and needs!) a chat feature
- Girls create a website for a client
- Girls attend fieldtrips to IT companies that create interactive online sites (Google, LeapFrog, SRI)



# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## SUCCEED Apprenticeship Project Shodor, Durham NC



The SUCCEED Apprenticeship Program provides an opportunity for students **excited** about science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) to gain the **experience** they will need to become **experts** and pursue a career in one or more of the Information Technology (IT) areas.

# Youth Learning in Summer Programs

## Key Components of Effective Summer Programs:

### What have you seen in your program?

- skilled, caring staff
- an appropriate, engaging curriculum
- cultural relevance
- parent involvement
- an appropriate structure









