



Summer Matters Vision in California

The driving vision of Summer Matters is that young people in California have access to quality summer learning opportunities that support year-round learning and well-being.

The Summer Matters' mission is to promote quality summer programs that provide intentional, engaging, and relevant activities to prevent learning loss and support healthy behaviors in the summer. These programs are a core component of a broad set of educational supports that respond to the academic, social, emotional, and health needs of students, and are based on research about how children learn. These programs build on and complement California's school year and after-school investments, and expand children's learning opportunities throughout the year. While our vision is for all California children, our focus is on accessible and affordable summer programs for k-12 students with the greatest need and fewest resources.

Specifically, this campaign promotes summer learning programs where:¹

- Kids are engaged in learning activities that are active, meaningful, promote collaboration, expand their horizons and build mastery in a safe environment.
- Skilled staff have strong, positive relationships with students, and are intentionally working to deliver engaging learning experiences that meet students' emotional, social and academic needs and goals.
- The program is managed by visionary, knowledgeable leaders committed to continuously improving program quality and securing the resources needed to deliver the learning experiences students need.
- The program is anchored in its community, with tangible support from families, community-based organizations and civic leaders partnering with schools to maximize resources and provide the best overall experience for youth.
- Five to six weeks of full day programming addresses the needs of children and their families.

Innovative summer learning programs aligned with this vision are being piloted and evaluated across the state and the country. They are part of a growing, national movement that recognizes the important role that summer learning plays in closing the achievement gap and helping children succeed in school and beyond.

¹ See <http://www.learninginafterschool.org/position.htm>