

# Investing in Summer Learning Opportunities

## Recommendations from the Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Council

### Why Summer Learning?

Summer can be a time of great opportunity but many youth lose access to resources available during the school year and suffer summer learning loss.



Most students lose **2 months of math skills** & low-income students lose an additional **2-3 months of reading skills**.<sup>1</sup>



**2/3 of the achievement gap** in reading between low-income and middle-income children by 9th grade is due to summer learning loss.<sup>2</sup>



Only **1 in 7** students qualifying for free or reduced lunch receive summer meals.<sup>3</sup>

High quality summer programs can close educational and opportunity gaps and:



Broaden students' horizons



Include a wide variety of activities



Help youth build skills



Foster cooperative learning



Promote healthy habits

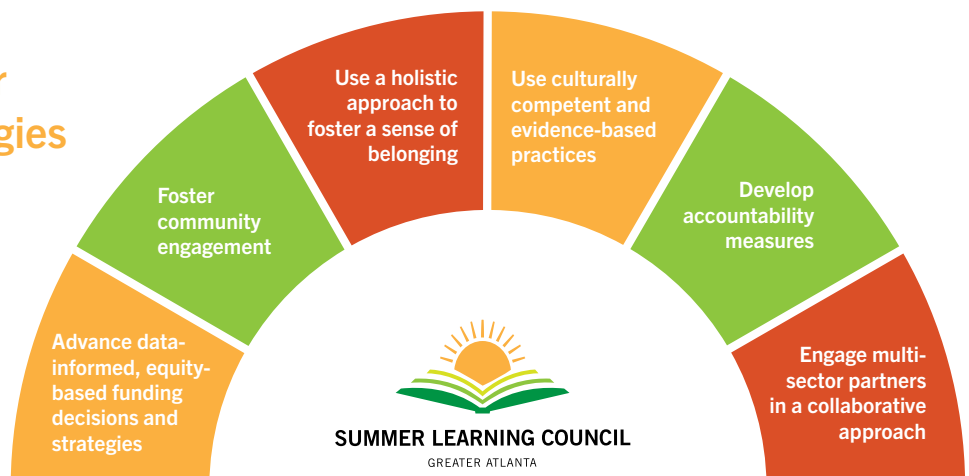


Last at least one month<sup>4</sup>

### Advancing Equity

Nearly half a million children in Greater Atlanta live in communities with [low or very low child well-being](#) and lack basic opportunities and resources needed to thrive. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated gaps in unequal outcomes for children in under-resourced communities due to long-standing inequities in educational opportunities, systemic barriers, and significantly [fewer opportunities to drivers of economic mobility](#). Lack of affordable high quality summer learning access contributes to these unequal outcomes. The Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Council has developed recommendations in order to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of Greater Atlanta's summer learning landscape, increase and coordinate funding, and serve the needs of the whole child. It is vital that Greater Atlanta implement these strategies to remove systemic barriers and create an equitable community where all children can thrive regardless of race or zip code.

### Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Council Strategies to Advance Equity



# Recommendations

To ensure that all youth across Greater Atlanta have access to high quality affordable summer learning opportunities and to promote equity, the Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Council recommends the following:

1. Build partnerships between stakeholders including school districts, summer learning program providers, and municipalities across the region to expand capacity, align services, and serve more youth, with an emphasis on children and communities most impacted by inequities.
2. Create a Greater Atlanta summer learning fund composed of diverse funding streams with investment from public and private sectors to create sustainable and equitable access to quality programs.
3. Create a system of quality to continuously evaluate and improve the quality and impact of programming offered across the region.
4. Create a network of summer learning providers that offer comprehensive programming in at least one critical content area.
5. Develop a region wide communications campaign to build awareness of the value of summer learning, drive investment, and connect families to resources, supports, and programs that promote academic, social and emotional resilience for all youth.
6. Establish a summer learning intermediary to implement the recommendations of the council.

# Intended Impact



**Improved academic outcomes**, including gains in reading and math, leading to improved graduation rates



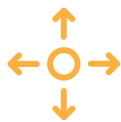
**Enhanced social emotional skills** and improved youth mental health



**Youth prepared for college and career pathways** and gain workforce skills



**Increased awareness** of and access to high-quality summer learning opportunities



**Improved quality and expanded capacity** of summer learning programs



**Data analysis at the systems level** with data-informed and evidence-based practices



**Increased community investment & engagement** in the summer learning system

