

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[DATE]

CONTACT:
[Your Program Name]
[Contact Name]
[Phone]
[E-mail]

Summer Learning Week Celebration
[Your City] Event Part of Nationwide Celebration of Summer Programs

[Note: Include a picture of your event if possible!]

[Your City]- Children, parents, business and community leaders came together on **[date]** at **[program name]** to promote the critical role summer programs play in keeping kids safe and healthy, supporting academic growth, and helping working families as part of Georgia's *Summer Learning Week* celebration. This event brought leaders together to learn about and celebrate the positive results of summer programming.

[Add event specifics, similar to the following]: Attendees saw students conduct scientific experiments and perform music, while **[insert names of any leaders in attendance, such as your mayor, school officials, business leaders]**, parents and students discussed the importance of afterschool programs.

"Throughout Georgia, summer programs provide students with a safe place to go and the opportunity to continue learning," said Katie Landes, Director of Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative dedicated to high quality afterschool and summer learning programs in Georgia. "Summer learning programs have been shown to improve academic performance in reading and math, foster cooperative learning, promote healthy habits, and help youth build life skills."

Summer can be a time of great opportunity but many youth – especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds – lose access to resources available during the school year, do not have access to programs in their community, and suffer summer learning loss. This is often referred to as the "summer slide" and accounts for about two-thirds of the achievement gap in ninth grade reading.

High quality summer programs can drastically help mitigate the effects of these disparities and help stem learning loss, close educational and opportunity gaps that persist across communities in Georgia. However, many families struggle to find high-quality, affordable summer programs in Georgia. According to a survey conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, 46% of Georgia families reported that their child participated in a summer program, while 53% reported that they would like to enroll their children in a program if it were available. Unfortunately, 36% of Georgia families report that the high cost of programs is a barrier to enrollment.

[Add a quote from attendee such as a parent or a community leader, similar to the following]: "Children rely on programs such as **[your program]** for a safe and enriching place to go during the summer months," said **[parent or community leader]**. "It is nice to come out and celebrate what these programs do for Georgia's youth year round."

Insert a description of your program here – how long your program been in operation, how many children are enrolled in your program, the communities/neighborhoods that you serve, any feedback you have gotten from K-12 teachers and/or parents about the impact of your program on a child, etc. We recommend that descriptions be limited to 60-80 words.

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About The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) (www.afterschoolga.org) is a public-private collaborative that envisions a day when all communities in Georgia have access to high quality afterschool and summer learning programs. Our mission is to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool and summer learning programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.