

SCASL Conference March 2010

Summer Slide....

The Impact of Summer Learning Loss

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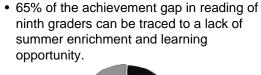
Summer reading setback....

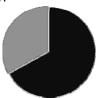
 Students who return to school after summer vacation with diminished reading skills, presumably from a lack of enough reading practice.

What does the research say?

- Research going back as far as 1906 documents summer learning loss.
- Often cited Barbara Heyns (1978) found that public libraries played an important role in the reading achievement of sixth and seventh graders....
- Many low income students may make great strides in academic skills during the school year, only to see their gains slip away over the summer break.
- Low income and minority students experience larger summer reading losses than their middle-class and white classmates.

- Low-income include kids lose two to three months in reading proficiency every summer...
- ...and it is cumulative.....
 - Every three years they can fall a year behind middle-class kids.
 - By grade 9 the reading achievement gap can be three to four years wide.





 What happens to your school's AYP when low-income students lose as much as three months of their reading proficiency every summer?



Connect the dots...

- Research demonstrates the relationship between access to reading materials and the amount of reading kids do.
- Research demonstrates the relationship between the volume of reading and reading proficiency.

 One study suggests that summer reading loss can be prevented if students read 4 to 5 books over the summer (Kim, 2004).



- But wait.....it may not be quite that simple!
- Results of some studies reveal that for younger children who are still learning to decode and read fluently, the support of an "intermediary" is important.



 "If we are serious about preventing summer reading loss, then we have to get serious about discussing how we motivate our students to read over the summer."

Kelly Gallagher
Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It
(Stenhouse, 2009)



To the rescue....



What can school librarians do to help address this problem??



 What efforts could you lead that would cost nothing beyond the resources your school currently has?



- What efforts could you lead that would cost nothing beyond the resources your school currently has?
- What could you do with some additional funding?
 - If I had \$??, I would be able to ?????



 What are some possible sources of funding?



- What challenges would you face?
- How would you try to overcome them?







