

How the Summer Matters campaign is changing the course of “Expanded Learning”* in California.

Why Summer Matters



At the root of the opportunity gap between low- and high-income students is summer learning loss.



The existing model of summer school (with vocabulary quizzes and math worksheets) needed improvement.



The gap in spending on child enrichment activities between high- and low-income families has nearly tripled since 1972.

“Our students from low-income families start school from behind and they never catch up. Unless we have engaging opportunities for students in the summer, we’re never going to help them close the gap.” —school superintendent



12 school communities, 4 regional networks, and 9 organizational partners came together to improve summer programming.

SUMMER MATTERS CAMPAIGN



Support for new ways of teaching

Demonstration sites

Building diverse champions for the approach

Media campaign

Developing leadership and program capacity

“It changed the whole way we do summer school.”

—program provider

Policy Change

Public funding streams are now easier to use.

Experience-based learning

Programs are all using new quality standards. More kids in California had a great summer learning experience.

Increased Awareness

More superintendents are now champions of summer learning.

Ecosystem of coaches, advocates, teachers, superintendents, and policymakers developed. People can find support and ideas, and share successes.

“I like school again.”

—summer learning student

96%

of superintendents believe that summer learning loss is a somewhat or large concern for their district.

New models create quality learning experiences for low-income children.

* Expanded learning is a strategy to increase the amount of time students are learning, especially after school or in the summer months.