Closing the Achievement Gap through SUMMER READING

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AGENDA

• Describe current state
• Review research
• Identify possible solutions
• Discuss ways to implement ideas within schools
CURRENT STATE

The ACHIEVEMENT GAP between economically advanced and disadvantaged children GROWS dramatically across the elementary school years.
RESEARCH

What we know about the ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Researchers have been reporting on the impact of summer reading setback for a long time.

Summer reading setback contributes to the reading achievement gap between rich and poor children.
Economically Advantaged and Disadvantaged Students’ READING PROGRESSION
RICHARD ALLINGTON
Research on Summer Reading
RESEARCH ON SUMMER READING

...Children who DO NOT READ in the summer can lose two to three months of reading development. ...kids who DO READ tend to gain a month of reading proficiency.

-Dr. Richard Allington and Dr. Anne McGill-Franzen, professors of education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
RESEARCH

What we know about SUMMER READING

Children from lower-income families have more restricted access to books.

Better readers read more than poorer readers – volume of successful reading experiences are needed to develop reading proficiency.
RESEARCH

MORE OF WHAT WE KNOW

HOME LIBRARIES exert a positive effect on students as they grow as readers

Need to match children with BOOKS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR LEVEL of reading development and interest
DIGGING DEEPER INTO RESEARCH

Based on a three-year study researchers from the University of Tennessee found that giving **ACCESS TO BOOKS** at spring Book Fairs and allowing students to **CHOOSE BOOKS** that most interested them had a **significant effect** on the summer reading gap.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER READING

Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read SIX OR MORE BOOKS over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.


www.scholastic.com/summer
CURRENT STATE

Achievement Gap Between Rich & Poor

Restricted Access to Books

Poor Readers Don’t Get Enough Practice

SOLUTIONS

Match Children with Appropriate Books

Offer Student Choice

Children Must Read 4+ During Summer
ARTICLES

1. UT Researchers Demonstrate Test Scores Soar With the Summer Reading Book Fair
   http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/email/principal_enews/2012/feb/

   http://www.readingrockets.org/article/394

3. Summer Reading Loss by Maryann Mraz and Timothy V. Rasinski
   http://www.readingrockets.org/article/15218/

What can be done to curb the summer reading loss?
**EDUCATOR**
- Wants students to read over the summer
- Wants manageable, motivational tools to keep them reading
- Wants to monitor students’ progress

**STUDENT**
- Wants to monitor his personal progress
- Wants incentives and rewards for reading

**SOLUTION**
- Access to books through a book fair, school or community library;
- Monitor progress through Read for the World Record program;
- Free website resources
ENGAGING STUDENTS

• Interactive reading minute logs
• Read for the World Record!
EDUCATOR SUPPORT

- Tracks students’ reading minutes
- Customizable reading lists
Jackson Elementary
Wins 2013 Scholastic Summer Challenge
HOW DID WE DO IT?

• Created a school-wide action plan
• Involved everyone
• Planned activities
• Executed plan
CREATE A CULTURE OF READING

Instill pride in school’s reading efforts and make reading fun

– Promote reading through fun activities
– Give away books
– Set a reading goal and display it
– Monitor school-wide reading progress
BUILD EXCITEMENT

• Launch competition by hosting a campus read-a-thon
• Invite parents to read with children during the day
• Encourage teachers to read-aloud their favorite books
CHALLENGE
CLASSROOMS/STUDENTS

Hold weekly competitions in May and August for most minutes read

– On a daily basis, announce the minutes read by classrooms in each grade level

– At the end of the week, reward winning classrooms in each grade
RECOGNITION

• Post top classrooms/students on school website and school newsletter
• Visit classrooms and praise them for their efforts
• Celebrate each reading milestone
INVOLVE PARENTS

• Show reading regression statistics
• Share Scholastic website link
• Share ways to encourage and promote reading (visit local library…)
• Request children read at home at least 30 minutes a day
• Distribute reading log forms
SEND REMINDERS

• Mail out flyers to parents to remind them about competition and importance of summer reading
• Call parents using phone messenger to remind them about challenge
• Announce summer reading challenge on school marquee
A Successful SUMMER Reading Program Includes

- ACCESS to books kids want to read
- CHOICE in book selection
- FAMILY INVOLVEMENT to encourage and monitor reading
- DAILY READING PRACTICE
GETTING STARTED

1. ACCESS to books kids want to read
2. CHOICE in book selection
3. Use a MONITORING system
4. Determine ways to ENCOURAGE and MOTIVATE
5. Set GOALS & REWARDS