Summer Learning Toolkit - Introduction

A guide to leading your team in an evidence-based discussion about:

Creating effective summer learning programs aligned to eight key **design principles**

Slide Deck #1

EdResearch
For Recovery

About EdResearch for Recovery

Facing some of the most difficult education challenges of their careers, education leaders and practitioners are eager to ground their decisions in the best available evidence and data. But they don't have time to wade through the existing research base to find answers to these questions.
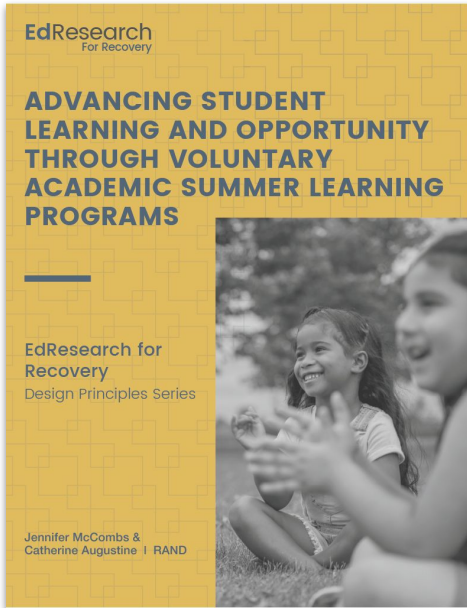
Education researchers can help by providing actionable insights, rooted in high-quality research, to help education leaders make informed, student-centered decisions as they consider which strategies will work best in their schools and their communities. That's why we created **EdResearch for Recovery**, a joint project of **_Results for America_** and the **_Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University._**

One particular area of focus for EdResearch for Recovery, has been the synthesis of evidence around effective summer learning programs. In the wake of COVID-19, evidence-aligned summer programming is a key strategy for many districts as they seek to accelerate student learning. The American Rescue Plan requires that states spend at least 1% of the money designated for K-12 schools on summer learning programs.

Summer learning programs can lead to academic gains for students and provide opportunities for additional social and emotional development, particularly for low-income students. However, simply offering a summer program does not guarantee positive effects for students.
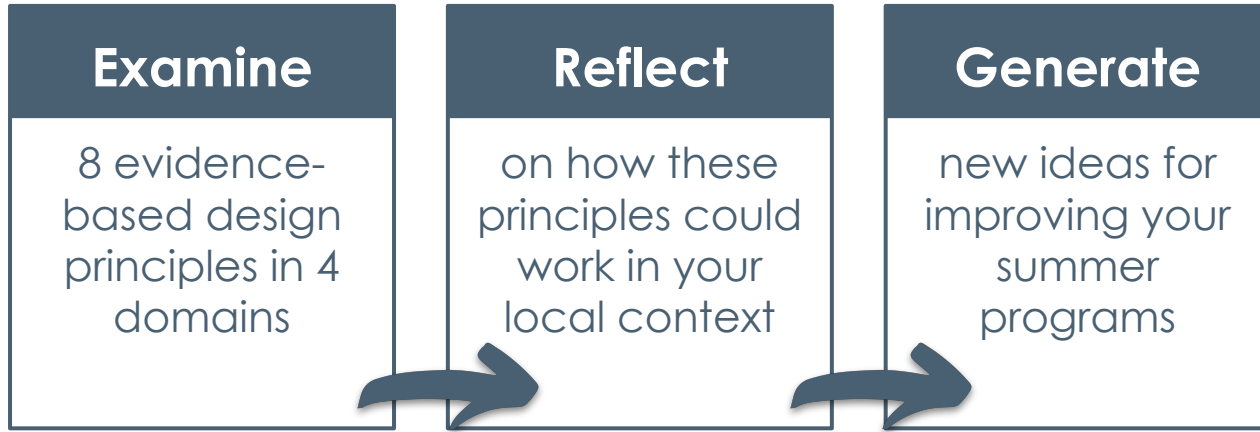
What is the Summer Learning Toolkit?

EdResearch
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ADVANCING STUDENT LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTARY ACADEMIC SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

EdResearch for Recovery
Design Principles Series

Jennifer McCombs & Catherine Augustine | RAND

Using content from **our design principles research brief**, we examine the key components of successful summer learning programs. In this brief, Dr. Jennifer McCombs and Dr. Catherine Augustine draw on a significant body of research to highlight evidence-aligned design principles for summer learning programs.

This toolkit includes six individual slide decks covering eight design principles across four domains. In addition to these domains, there is an introductory slide deck and a slide deck on measurement and assessment for summer programs. Embedded within each slide deck are goals, discussion questions, next steps, and planning tools. These tools were created by TNTP and TN SCORE for a group of Tennessee LEAs.

In each slide deck, content on design principles will connect to an example from the Woonsocket Education Department, a small, urban LEA in Rhode Island. This example will provide a lens to examine how these principles can work in a local context.

This toolkit was developed in partnership with __Tennessee SCORE__ and __TNTP__. While the corresponding tools were originally developed by SCORE and TNTP for Tennessee LEAs, the content and goals for summer programs are generally transferable across states.

TNTP reimagine teaching   SCORE State Collaborative on Reforming Education   EdResearch For Recovery

Your team of district and school leaders can use this toolkit to:

Examine	**Reflect**	**Generate**
8 evidence-based design principles in 4 domains	on how these principles could work in your local context	new ideas for improving your summer programs

Each slide deck contains:

1) A **presentation** of evidence-based principles and strategies
2) Discussion **questions** to guide team or individual reflection
3) Links to **tools** produced by TN SCORE and TNTP

In doing this, your team can gain a **deeper understanding** of the evidence behind the strategies and design principles, **critically assess** current programming, and **develop an evidence-aligned plan** for future summer programming.

Outline of the Summer Learning Toolkit

Slide Deck 1:
Introduction

Goal:
Orient to the structure and content of the Summer Learning Programs Toolkit.

Slide Deck 2:
Domain 1 - Students

Goal:
Generate and maintain high student attendance and engagement.

Tools:
- Enrollment Example
- Enrollment Staffing Worksheet
- Family Engagement Plan
- Partnerships with Families
- Summer Program Ad Example

Slide Deck 3:
Domain 2 - Personnel

Goal:
Establish roles and responsibilities for instructors and administrators.

Tools:
- Information Session Guide
- Sample Interview Questions
- Teacher Recruitment Plan
- Staff Preparation Guidance

Slide Deck 4:
Domain 3 - Program Structure

Goal:
Determine the class size and program duration that best meet student needs.

Tools:
- Planning for Summer School
- Summer Learning Acceleration

Slide Deck 5:
Domain 4 - Content

Goal:
Align curriculum and content for academic and enrichment activities.

Tools:
- Content Guidance - ELA
- Content Guidance - Math
- Case Study - Lenoir City
- Case Study - Union County

Slide Deck 6:
Measurement & Assessment

Goal:
Determine metrics for success and prepare measurement systems.

8 Evidence-Based Design Principles Across 4 Domains

Students

1. Attendance

1

Personnel

2. Academic Instructors
3. Enrichment Instructors
4. Administration

2

Program Structure

5. Duration
6. Class Size

3

Content

7. Enrichment Activities
8. Academic Curriculum

4

Measuring and Improving Summer Programs

In addition to slide decks on each domain, the final slide deck covers measurement and assessment for summer programs. While measurement and assessment are not specific design principles, all summer programs should be planned and constructed in a way that allows for accurate and timely evaluations of key programmatic metrics.

Examples of how districts have used summer data to make improvements:

Using site climate data, one district hired staff to focus on student behavior the following summer and thereby **greatly reduced the amount of bullying and physical fighting** reported in teacher surveys in subsequent summers.

One district **improved the cost-effectiveness** of their programs by accounting for the prior summer's no-show rates and, accordingly, hiring fewer staff at the site level OR admitting more students to fill slots.

What makes summer learning programs effective?

Dosage + Quality

Dosage: Scheduled days of programming, student attendance, hours of academic time on task, and teachers' use of time

Quality: The extent to which programs adhere to and incorporate key evidence-based design principles

Quality academic summer programs can produce significant and meaningful **academic improvement** for students **who receive sufficient dosage.** Benefits can be up to **15% of typical annual gain** in a school year after one summer and **20-25% of typical annual gain** after two summers.

Pre-Planning Reflection + Next Steps

Instructions: Spend time individually, or as a team, thinking through the following questions as you begin planning for summer.

To discuss:

- What did your LEA or organization try last summer for programming?
- What worked?
- What was challenging?
- What is the goal for this year's summer programming?
- Where are you in the planning stage for this coming summer?
- How do you plan to build-in measurement and assessment protocols?

Next Steps:

1. Bring together the right planning team
2. Establish key summer program goals

Dive deeper into planning with <u>tools from TNTP and TN SCORE.</u>