JCPS Summer Learning Initiatives – Closing the Opportunity Gap

Department of Diversity, Equity, and Poverty Programs

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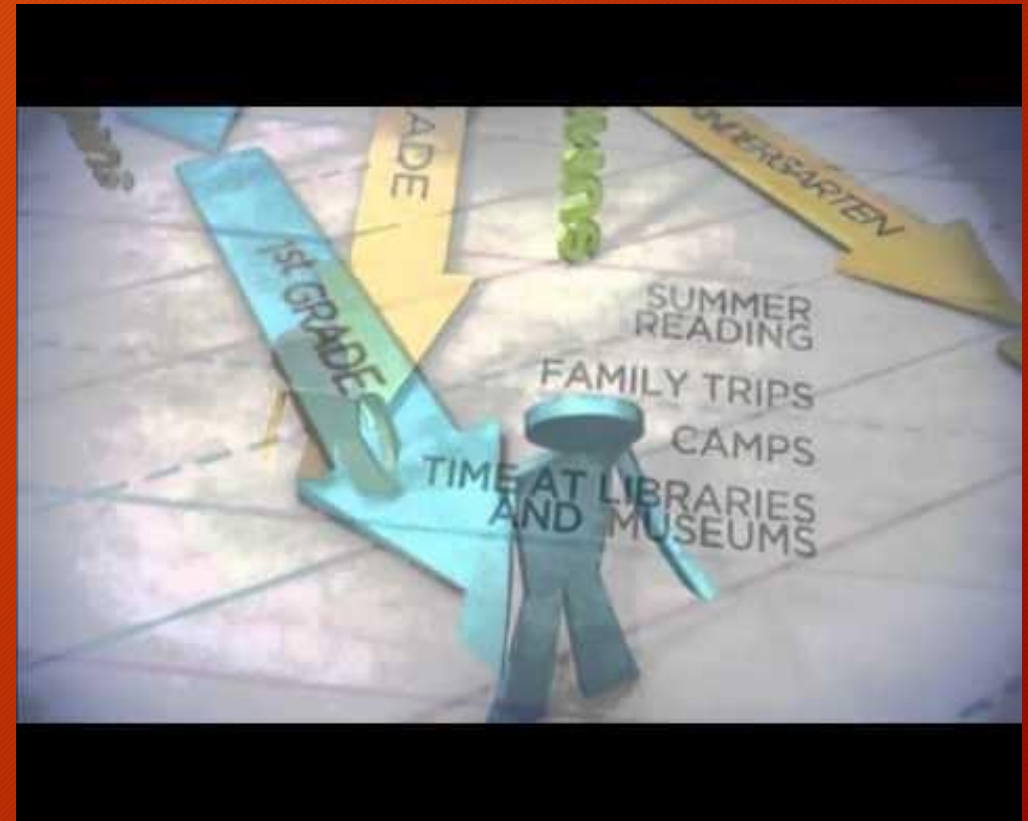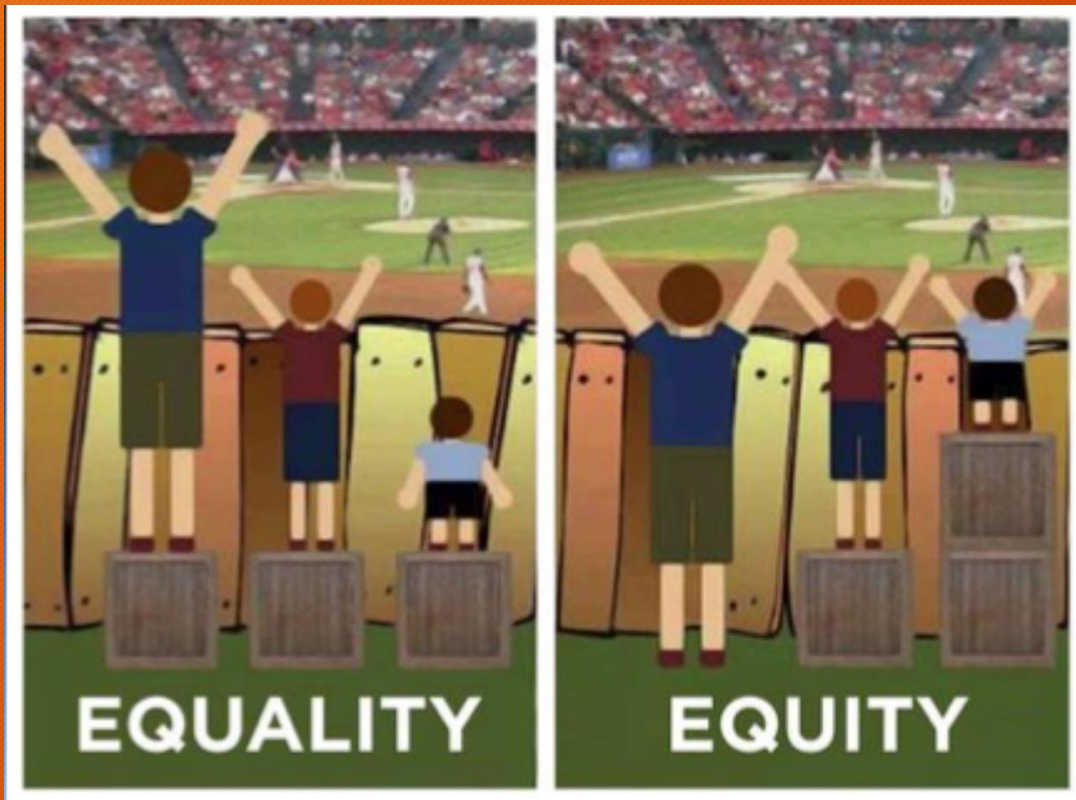Melissa Barman, Specialist, Community Information

The Importance of Summer Learning

- Summer learning loss accounts for about two-thirds of ninth-grade achievement gap in reading. (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olsen, 2007)

- Summer slide can ultimately have an impact on whether a child graduates high school and makes plans beyond high school. (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olsen, 2007)

- The effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation. (RAND Corporation, 2011)

The Birth of the Achievement Gap

The Cost of Summer in the Classroom

More than 500 teachers from 16 different districts across the country were surveyed:

- 66% said they spend 3-4 weeks re-teaching skills lost over the summer. Some took 5 weeks

- 77% strongly agreed that summer program participants were more prepared for the beginning of school

- 88% strongly agreed that summer learning is important to their overall plan to support student success in school

(National Summer Learning Association)
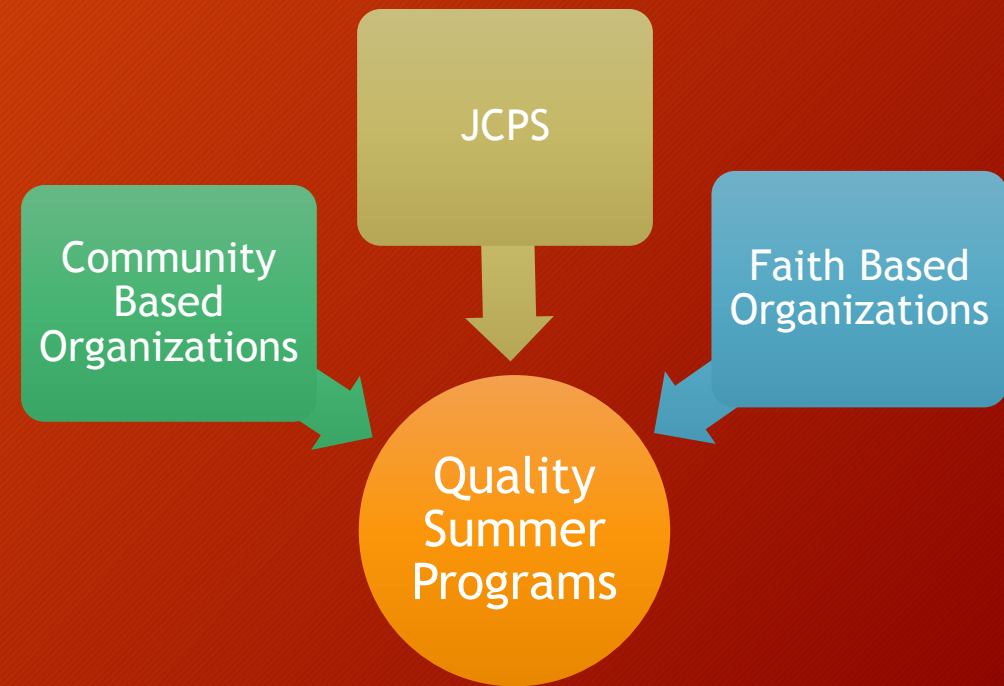
Summer Programs Align with Vision 2015

- Summer Learning Programs align directly with the following JCPS *Strategic Plan:Vision 2015* Focus Areas:

  - Increased Learning Strategies 1.6, 1.9, 1.10
  - Graduation and Beyond Strategies 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
  - Stakeholder Involvement/Engagement Strategies 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8
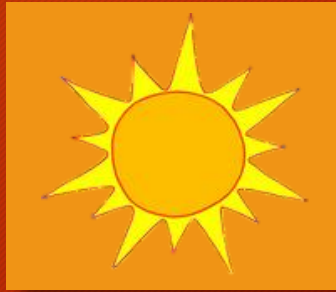 - Safe, Resourced, Supported, and Equipped Schools Strategies 4.11, 4.12

The Power of Partnerships in Summer Learning

- Partnerships with community organizations:
  - Are proven.
  - Are cost-effective.
  - Provide more meaningful summer learning experiences.
  - Enhance the capacity to achieve common goals.
  - Provide greater variation in program delivery methods.
  - Create more opportunities for quality programming.

JCPS

Community Based Organizations

Faith Based Organizations

Quality Summer Programs

Summer 2015 Programming Opportunities

- Community Schools Program
- Childcare Enrichment Program (CEP)/Teen Scene
- Y Power Scholars
- Y Summer Learning Initiative
- Literacy and Chess
- Newcomer Academy Summer Initiatives

- Coding at the Beech
- Summer Boost
- Learning Places/Out of School Time (OST) Programs
- Summer Food Service Program

Closing the Opportunity Gap

- What is DEP doing to increase program access?
  - New Community School – Carrithers MS
  - Building Louisville's Out of School Time Coordinated System (BLOCS)
  - BLOCS Summer program guide
  - BLOCS Summer Learning Grants
  - Curriculum alignment of VBS materials
  - Collaboration with Cultural Consortium/Summer Adventures Brochure
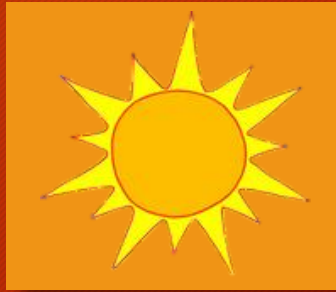 - Zones of Hope Initiative
  - Males of Color Initiative

Goals for Summer 2015

- Gather benchmark data on summer programming
- Analyze data for goal setting
- Gradually increase program access and attendance

Summer Learning in Review

- Summer learning loss is **preventable** with the support of high- quality, engaging, accessible summer programs.
- The achievement gap widens more during the summer than at any other time of year.
- Summer learning loss adversely affects student achievement, including high school graduation.
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are at the highest risk of summer learning loss.
- The effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation. (RAND Corporation, 2011)
- The cost of summer slide is more than money – it is student success.

(National Summer Learning Association)