



## Summer Success

**Overview:** A groundbreaking Johns Hopkins University study of low-income students entitled “Summer Slide” found that while low-income children were learning at the same rate as other students during the school year, they fell further behind during the summer when more affluent students participated in reading, science, arts, travel, and other enriching activities. High-quality summer programs for these young people can help close this summer learning gap.

Since 2001, **Summer Success** has given youth-serving organizations the help they need to provide underserved young people with activities during the summer months that support them academically, promote literacy, build interest in learning, and teach essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and creativity. In 2010, PASE is continuing this important work and focusing its efforts on middle school youth, recognizing the need to ensure this pivotal age group is engaged in school and on the path to academic and personal success.

### Activities:

- Five centralized training sessions on topics such as middle school summer program design, identifying and training staff, adolescent development, group work, project-based learning, developing a culture of literacy and learning, hands-on math and science programming, service learning, effective field trips, planning culminating events, and program assessment.
- 60 hours of individualized technical assistance for 5-10 summer programs on the topics listed above to help them build and sustain quality.
- Placement of five college-age tutors in summer programs in order to develop and support a culture of summer learning.
- A forum for 200 afterschool professionals and a smaller best practice panel for 50 individuals to share effective summer programming strategies with a wider audience.

**Evaluation:** A three-year external evaluation of the Summer Learning Initiative indicated that almost all staff and program directors found assistance through the Summer Learning Initiative to be useful and effective in preparing them for their work and enhancing their summer programs. Ongoing internal evaluations have shown that PASE has been successful in addressing summer learning loss, both through attitudinal shifts and concrete skill development, and has been effective in increasing program capacity to provide academically-supportive activities.

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