

### SUMMER ADVANTAGE USA OVERVIEW

Summer Advantage USA is a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing children accelerated academic and enrichment opportunities over the summer months. Whereas many children lose 3 months of academic skills over the summer (“summer learning loss”), **Summer Advantage USA scholars gain approximately 3 months of academic skills in the 5-week program.** The organization’s full day summer learning program provides students in grades K-8 with 160 extra hours of research-based academic and enrichment instruction, resulting in academic achievements that prepare them for success.

Summer Advantage USA mornings include rigorous mathematics and language arts instruction. Afternoons are filled with enrichment activities such as dance, theatre and art. Children also attend field trips to local attractions such as petting zoos, science centers and area colleges, and lead community service projects. Summer Advantage USA plans to educate over 100,000 scholars annually, providing a cost efficient summer learning program to children and families.

Summer Advantage USA helps scholars make strong academic gains, enhance their self-concept, increase problem-solving ability and improve social skills by implementing the following core program elements:

- **Skills-based Curricula** • **Mentoring**
- **Rigorous Evaluation** • **More Time on Task**
- **Parental Involvement** • **High Expectations**
- **Outstanding Staff**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summer Advantage USA is committed to rigorous evaluation in order to provide the highest quality experience for children. The program model has shown a statistically significant impact on reading scores and parental engagement, according to a two-year, randomized control study conducted by the Urban Institute/Mathematica.

This summer, an evaluation was conducted at three program sites to assess the organization’s progress on major factors linked to student achievement: academic improvement, parental engagement and teacher satisfaction. Nearly 1,000 scholars’ decoding, vocabulary and passage comprehension skill were assessed using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test, a nationally recognized external diagnostic tool. Eligible scholars’ NWEA RIT scores were compared to over 2.8 million students in order to assess their academic growth in a national context. Parent and teacher surveys, designed by Summer Advantage USA, assessed perceptions of the program’s content and efficacy, as well as levels of parental satisfaction.

Qualitative and quantitative evaluations demonstrate the powerful outcomes of Summer Advantage USA.

- Rather than taking the summer off,
- **Scholars gain academic skills to prepare them for a new school year—and a lifetime—of success;**
  - **Teachers gain critical professional development skills; and**
  - **Parents are deeply engaged in their children’s academic success.**



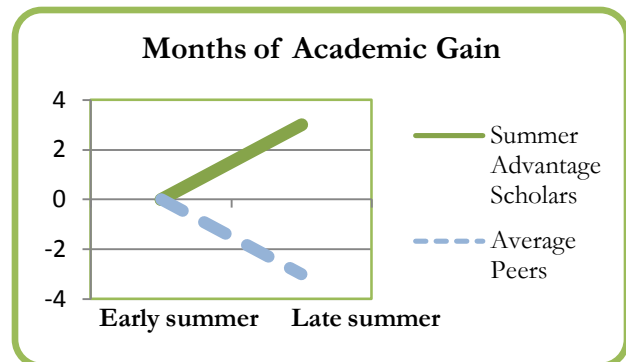
### ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

Over the summer months, **Summer Advantage USA scholars progress further in mathematics, reading and language usage than the national average**, according to NWEA RIT Scale data comparing 2.8 million students nationwide.

**Scholars make significant gains in reading.** According to the Gates-MacGinitie evaluation tool:

- **Approximately 3 months of reading skills gain over the 5-week period.** Grade-equivalent scores relate students' scores to the typical performance of students in specified grades tested in given month of the school year.

- **Over 6 NCE units gain in reading, indicating that on average scholars outpace students nationally.** Normal Curve Equivalents (NCE) show a student's relative position compared to others in the same grade and tested at the same time of year. A gain in NCE units indicates that the student has "grown" more than the norm group.



The average student demonstrates no change and generally maintains his/her position for an NCE gain of zero over the summer.

- **An improvement of nearly ten percentage points in comparison to peers nationwide, moving from the 42nd to the 51st national percentile rank.** Percentile ranks range from a low of 1 to a high of 99, with 50 representing the middle score and denoting average performance.

### PARENTAL SATISFACTION

According to a survey of parents of Summer Advantage USA scholars:

- **91% of parents report that their children enjoy the program;**
- **95% of parents report that they are very satisfied with the program; and**
- **97% of parents strongly recommend the program to other parents.**

### TEACHER SATISFACTION

According to a survey of Summer Advantage USA teachers:

- **98% of teachers feel Summer Advantage developed their professional skills;**
- **98% of teachers recommend the program to parents; and**
- **97% of teachers wish to serve with Summer Advantage again next summer.**

If you are interested in bringing high quality summer learning opportunities to your community, please contact Earl Martin Phalen, Founder of Summer Advantage USA, at [emphalen@summeradvantage.org](mailto:emphalen@summeradvantage.org) or 866-207-3169.