

# THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is roughly **30 TO 40 PERCENT LARGER** among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier.<sup>1</sup>



“...EDUCATION IS A WAY OUT OF POVERTY — BUT POVERTY IS ALSO A HINDRANCE TO EDUCATION.”<sup>2</sup>



Parents with the means invest more time and money than ever before in their children while lower-income families, which are now more likely to be headed by a single parent, are increasingly stretched for time and resources.<sup>3</sup>

LOW-INCOME YOUTH LACK OPTIONS IN THE SUMMER, and sometimes come to the library because it's air conditioned.<sup>4</sup>



FOR EVERY ONE LINE OF PRINT READ BY LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, MIDDLE-INCOME CHILDREN READ THREE.<sup>5</sup>

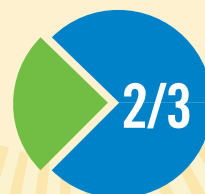
## What Happens to Children DURING THE SUMMER?



During the summer months, disadvantaged children tread water at best or even fall behind. It's what we call

### “SUMMER SLIDE”

while better off children build their skills steadily over the summer months.



### SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

accounts for about two-thirds of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading.<sup>7</sup>

## How Summer Learning Can Help CLOSE the Achievement Gap.

### SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS TARGETED TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

can help close the achievement gap that has been attributed, at least in part, to cumulative learning loss during the summers and that has been shown to be steeper for low-income students than for others.



Longitudinal studies indicate that **the effects of summer learning programs endure for at least two years after participation.**<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup> New York Times, Feb 9, 2012, Education Gap Grows Between Rich and Poor, Studies Say. Sean F. Reardon, Stanford University, Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality and the Uncertain Life Chances of Low-Income Children. <sup>2</sup> Peter Edelman, Professor of Law, Georgetown Law Center, Huffington Post, *Reinvigorating the American Dream: A Broader Bold Approach to Tackling the Achievement Gap*. <sup>4,5</sup> Gains and Gaps: Changing Inequality in U.S. College Entry and Completion, Martha J. Bailey, Susan M. Dynarski. <sup>6</sup> *Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Children's Learning*, RAND Corporation 2011. <sup>7</sup> *Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap*, Karl L. Alexander, Doris R. Entwisle, and Linda Steffel Olson, American Sociological Review 2007. Additional Sources: The Achievement Gap, Education Week, Aug 3, 2004. Annie E. Casey Foundation 2011.