

TWO INDEPENDENT STUDIES SHOW RISE SUMMER CURRICULUM EFFECTIVENESS



SUMMER BOOST 2023 Evaluation Final Report

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Overview

The 2023 Summer Boost initiative, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and partners across eight major U.S. cities, helped schools offer meaningful summer learning to Grades 1-9 students.

Results

Results showed clear academic gains: Summer Boost participants gained 4-5 additional weeks of math learning and 3-4 weeks in English Language Arts compared to their peers. These gains represent roughly 31% recovery in math and 22% in ELA of the learning interrupted by COVID-19.

Students across all groups benefited from the program, including English Language Learners, students of color, and students from low-income families. This demonstrates that RISE Summer Learning Program helps students make meaningful academic progress while addressing pandemic-related learning gaps.

Methodology

The program used two methods to measure student progress:

1. A Difference in Differences (DiD) analysis comparing i-Ready and MAP Growth scores between participating and non-participating students
2. Pre- and post-assessments created by Lavinia Group and reviewed by outside evaluators

Program Design Features:

- Schools could select either the RISE Summer Learning Program, which includes a dedicated summer curriculum and professional development or design their own program.
- More than half of the participating students received RISE curriculum for their learning.
- Schools had latitude in student recruitment, with a focus on reaching students who would benefit most. Programs could blend academic instruction with enrichment activities.
- RISE Summer Learning Program assessments centered on essential summer learning standards while aligning with state academic requirements. As a core component of Summer Boost, every participating student completed these evaluations, ensuring consistent measurement of progress across all programs. This uniform assessment approach allowed for reliable student advancement and program effectiveness tracking.

Summer Learning Recovery Grant Program Report

[Read the Full Report](#)

Overview

Through a partnership with Indy Summer Learning Labs, RISE Summer Learning Program provided curriculum and assessment support to some participating schools during the summer of 2021. The Indiana Department of Education independently analyzed the program's effectiveness as part of a broader examination of pandemic recovery initiatives funded through the state's Student Learning Recovery Grant program (HEA 1008). The study was part of Indiana's \$150 million investment in learning recovery through fiscal year 2023.

Results

ELA

- Participants gained 4.5 SGPs
- Non-participants declined by 2 SGPs
- A 6.5 SGP advantage for participants.

Math

- Participants gained 4.6 SGPs
- Non-participants declined by 3.8 SGPs
- An 8.5 SGP advantage for participants

The research confirms what we've seen in RISE classrooms: when students engage with focused instruction in reading and math, guided by well-supported teachers, they make meaningful academic progress over the summer. The gains students achieved in both subjects show that our approach works - pinpointing the skills students need most, tracking their progress carefully, and ensuring teachers have the training to help every student shine.

Methodology

The study used ILEARN state assessment data to measure student growth, comparing Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) across three timeframes:

- Baseline 2022 performance
- Changes between 2021 and 2022
- Changes between 2019 and 2022. Researchers compared outcomes between students who participated in RISE programming through Indy Summer Learning Labs and those who did not.

The study found statistically significant differences between participants and non-participants, with participating students (some using RISE curriculum) showing growth that exceeded pre-pandemic learning rates. These results emerged when many students nationwide were experiencing learning delays due to pandemic disruptions.

This independent study from Indiana's Department of Education backs up what drives our work with RISE: creating summer learning experiences where students build skills and confidence. We're encouraged to see that students who participated in our program didn't just maintain their learning - they moved ahead, setting themselves up for success in the new school year.