

Beat the **Summer** Slide!



Children lose, on average, one month's worth of skills during summer vacation because, without practice, children forget facts and important "how to" skills. This loss is called "the summer slide".

**Do public library
summer reading
programs impact
student achievement?**

Yes.

Students who completed third grade and who participated in a public library reading program during the summer in this study scored higher on reading achievement tests given at the start of fourth grade.

Public Library Summer Reading Programs Close the Reading Gap - Dominican University 2010.

During the school year, all children – regardless of the socio-economic circumstances of their families – make gains at about the same rate. The achievement gap is not rooted in the classroom but in the learning that children do outside the classroom including time after school, weekends, holidays and summer break.

During the summer, children from disadvantaged homes lose skills at a greater rate and these losses are especially larger during the breaks between the first three or four years of school.

If the average cost of educating one child for one year in Pennsylvania is \$10,850, the "summer slide" loss of one month costs school districts \$1,205 per student per year. Multiply that by Pennsylvania's 1,871,060 K-12 students and it adds up to an enormous loss in time and investment.

The single summer activity that is strongly and consistently related to summer learning is reading. Children reading as few as six to eight self-selected books over the summer return to school ready to learn new material, not needing "re-teaching" of the prior year's lessons.

For more information on the summer slide and to locate a library near you go to www.8great.org.



BUILD YOUR EIGHT BOOK BRIDGE!

As a school board member you represent the public's interest in public education.

Please promote the 2011 Summer Reading program, “**One World, Many Stories**” to your students. Ask teachers to put the attached poster in the classroom. Make PA announcements. Put it on the school website and in your newsletters. Invite your public librarian to a school board meeting to talk about the program and the benefits. Pass a board resolution supporting library summer reading programs. Next fall you'll see results in better test scores and better prepared students.

One World, Many Stories

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