

Dear Friend:

Boston After School & Beyond is excited to bring you two new resources on the importance of summer learning. Research, policy and practice should inform one another. In that spirit, we are pleased to present a brand new video featuring the summer experiences of Boston teachers and students and to refer you to a new, authoritative report on the issue of summer learning, issued by RAND Corporation.

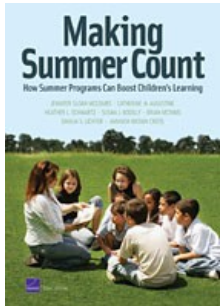
See summer learning in action...

This video features the perspectives of school leaders, teachers, and students from the Marshall Elementary School in Dorchester and Orchard Gardens K-8 School in Roxbury, which used Thompson Island this summer as an extension of their classrooms. The schools were part of a larger, citywide effort called the Boston Summer Learning Project, which included 1,433 students, 31 schools, and 15 community partners this summer. Launched by the Boston Opportunity Agenda in 2010, this initiative is now part of a national demonstration project sponsored by the Wallace Foundation.

[Watch the video](#) on Boston Beyond's website.



Hear what the experts say...



In a new report, [Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Children's Learning](#), RAND synthesizes the evidence on summer learning. The report explains that summer learning loss is cumulative and contributes substantially to the achievement gap. Strikingly, the report states, "It may be that efforts to close the achievement gap during the school year alone will be unsuccessful."

These distressing findings are balanced with findings on the characteristics of programs that help students make achievement gains over the summer. The report also issues recommendations for policy-makers, school districts, and funders. These include aligning school year and summer strategies, forming community partnerships, and investing in high quality staff and early planning.

Boston After School & Beyond is proud to partner with the [Boston Public Schools](#), the [Boston Opportunity Agenda](#), and the [Wallace Foundation](#) to take on summer learning loss, to explore new avenues for closing the achievement and opportunity gaps, and to contribute to the next chapter on summer learning.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith
Executive Director

