

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Families Face Summer Program Shortfall, Despite Evidence of Impact and Support**  
*New data shows gaps and public support, while new report showcases successes*

**June 11**—More than 500,000 New York students won't get to go to summer camp or other summer program this year, even though they want to attend one, because there are not enough programs available. This shortfall exists despite growing evidence of the impact summer opportunities have on students' learning and development.

In anticipation of [National Summer Learning Day](#), which will take place on June 19<sup>th</sup>, new data from the [America After 3 PM](#) study was released today by the national Afterschool Alliance. The new analysis of the 2014 survey found that 54% of New York parents want summer programs for their students, but only 38% were able to send one or more of their children in 2013.

Simultaneously, the New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) [released a report on summer learning programs in New York](#), with a particular focus on programs serving low-income students. The report highlights the diversity of New York's high-quality programs, from overnight camps to day camps to enriched summer school to internships. Summer learning programs are crucial for students of all ages and from all parts of the state—rural, suburban, and urban. Whether it's weekly chess tournaments, sports, hands-on nanotechnology, gardening and pottery, outdoor exploration, or decision-making skills development, summer learning programs in New York offer children a chance to think differently, try something new, and keep active while school is out of session.

Research suggests that increasing funding for summer learning is good public policy. Students on average lose more than two months worth of math skills during the summer. Low-income students on average also lose literacy skills, while more well-off students gain them, increasing the achievement gap. High-quality summer learning programs can stop the "summer slide;" a recent rigorous study by the RAND Corporation found that participating students in five districts, including Rochester, gained 17-21% of a school year's learning in math.

The *America After 3 PM* study also found that 87% of New York parents support public funding for summer programs.

“Summer is the time for fun,” said Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Executive Director of NYSAN, “and that should also mean exciting, hands-on learning that stretches students’ minds and takes them places they have never gone before. 500,000 kids will instead sit on the couch watching TV this summer—or hang out on the street at risk of getting into trouble—because we haven’t invested in enough great summer programs for New York’s children.”

### ***About NYSAN***

*The mission of the New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) is to strengthen the capacity and commitment of communities, programs, and professionals to increase access to high-quality programs and services beyond the traditional classroom.*

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