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## **Families Face Summer Learning Program Shortfalls, as Students Lose as Much as 2 Months of Learning Over Summer Vacation at a Cost of More than \$2.3 Billion in New York State**

National Summer Learning Day – July 12 – Focuses on Reducing the “Summer Slide”

More than 500,000 New York students are missing out on summer learning opportunities because of a lack of available programs. Summer programs help to prevent the “summer slide” – the loss of academic skills and knowledge over summer vacation – which disproportionately impacts low-income students who often have less access to quality summer programs. By fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave low-income students more than 2.5 years behind their peers.

National Summer Learning Day, on July 12, focusses attention on the opportunities summer learning programs can provide to all students. While New York has a wide variety of high-quality programs – including day camps, overnight camps, enriched summer school and internships – many parents cannot access these programs. As many as 54% of New York parents want summer programs for their children, but only 38% were able to access them.

“Quality summer learning programs provide safe places for students to play, learn, and develop new skills,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “Many of these programs also provide opportunities to explore STEM activities and offer healthy food options. The problem is, there simply are not enough programs to meet current needs. Low-income children, in particular, are being left behind. All children deserve the opportunities that summer learning programs afford.”

Studies show that students who have access to summer learning programs come back to school in the fall ready to move forward. But students who do not have access to summer programs – especially low-income students – lose as much as 2 months of learning in reading and 2.6 months in math. That means that teachers have to spend more than 2 months reteaching these subjects at the beginning of each school year. In a 10-month school year, the loss of 2 months of learning costs almost \$4,000 per child (\$3,910) – amounting to a total **loss of about \$2.3 billion** each year in New York State.

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### **About The New York State Network for Youth Success**

The New York State Network for Youth Success is dedicated to building a youth-serving system that increases the quality and availability of afterschool and expanded learning programs. The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

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#### **Empower Youth Success**

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