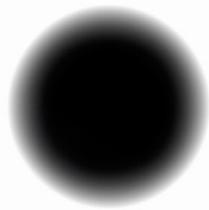


# EVERY KID. EVERY SUMMER.

*A NATIONAL VISION FOR HARNESSING THE POWER  
OF SUMMER LEARNING TO HELP EVERY CHILD THRIVE*



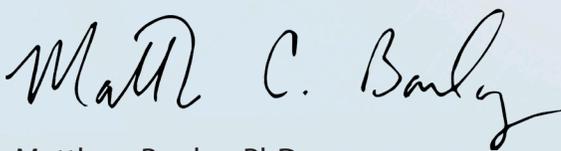
# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

*The summer learning movement is powerful, transformational—and a joyful surprise.*

By the time today's kindergarteners graduate high school, NSLA's leadership will have sparked the creation of summer learning opportunities for millions of kids and families and ensure summer learning is anchored in policies and programs around the country.

Safe spaces to learn, healthy food, rich community resources, and access to boundless opportunities. At the National Summer Learning Association, we envision a world where all children, regardless of family income, are nurtured, supported, and encouraged to be their best.

Our expectations are high and our focus is steady. We are leading the charge and changing the conversation about summer learning, and what it means for young people. *When we harness the power of summer, all children thrive!*



Matthew Boulay, PhD  
Founder and CEO

National Summer Learning Association



# OUR VISION

*Every child grows during the summer.*

## OUR APPROACH

Decades of research clearly demonstrate that summer is the most unequal time in America and that summer learning loss constitutes a significant, if largely unrecognized, threat to academic achievement. It is primarily during the summer months that millions of children slide backward academically, and it is during the summer months that the achievement gap between rich and poor increases most dramatically.

Communities, however, that invest deeply in keeping all young people learning, safe, and healthy during the critical summer months reap measurable rewards in stronger schools, safer neighborhoods, and a better prepared workforce.

**NSLA will forge a path...**



**...where potential impact is greatest**

**Systems and networks:** Shifting our focus from individual programs to the networks and systems that support them will allow us to create summer opportunities for millions of kids.



**...where the time is right for change**

**State and local areas:** Currently, the most promising opportunities are at the state and local level, where there is political will to try new policies that can become national models.



**...where natural allies exist**

**Aligned groups:** Cultivating and converting natural allies, who share our goals of opportunity, equity, and achievement to advocates, will allow us to build a broad, action-oriented movement with the influence to make real change.

# OVERALL GOAL

Over the next 12 years, NSLA will ensure that kids with the greatest need for summer learning engage in high-quality formal and informal activities over the summer.

## OUR STRATEGY

*Building systems at the local, state, and national level*

As the national leader on summer learning and its role in education reform, NSLA tracks and responds to policy issues that affect summer learning at the federal, state, and local levels. Working hand in hand with coalition partners, policymakers, and local advocates, NSLA will provide expertise, tools, and resources to leverage state plans for implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### LOCAL LEVEL



#### **Focus Effort**

**Improve summer opportunities for millions of kids and build a coalition to drive state strategy**

Engage with school districts and communities to invest in systemic changes that foster summer opportunities

Mobilize local voices to advocate for change at the state and national level

### STATE LEVEL



#### **Increase Effort**

**Invest where there is potential for rapid yet lasting change and create models for national action**

Develop and advocate for supportive policies

Lift up tools and success stories to fuel national action

Better leverage existing opportunities

### NATIONAL LEVEL



#### **Sustain But Reinvent Efforts**

**Defend existing funding and leverage existing programs for better information and new opportunities**

Build coalition of partners who leverage their networks to build visibility and take action.

Communicate value of summer through marketing, events, cultivating and disseminating research

Work with policymakers and agency staff to implement cost-effective solutions for federal investment in summer opportunities

# ABOUT THE NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is a national, non-profit organization focused on the powerful impact of one achievable goal: investing in summer learning to help close the achievement gap. NSLA uses the power of research, advocacy, training, and policy to transform America's neighborhoods and communities, one child at a time.

Our work is based on the simple idea that summer—a time that is easily overlooked yet critical to educational development—is bursting with possibility, and instrumental in closing the achievement gap between privileged children and our most vulnerable children.

For over 25 years, NSLA has supported organizations offering high-quality programs to help kids learn and grow over the summer. Despite much success, summer is not yet widely prioritized or seen as essential for kids.

In the coming years, we will focus on ensuring that every summer, every child gets the experiences they need to reach their full potential, whether that is learning to build a rocket, exploring a local museum, or catching up on reading skills.

By the time today's kindergartners graduate high school, we will have sparked the creation of summer learning opportunities for millions of kids and families and ensured the ongoing availability of summer learning by embedding it in policy and community practice. As we approach our next 25 years, we continue to build a foundation for even greater possibilities.



# OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

By casting a spotlight on summer learning loss, and galvanizing parents, educators, legislators, and community organizations to embrace the power of summer learning, NSLA creates opportunities for greater achievement and potential for all children through the following signature programs:



**NATIONAL  
SUMMER  
LEARNING WEEK**

*National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to advocacy and awareness aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year.*

*The New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning and NSLA Founder's Awards honor programs that provide high-quality summer learning opportunities to children and youth in traditional and non-traditional settings.*



**SUMMER  
CHANGES  
EVERYTHING™**  
nsia 25

*Summer Changes Everything™ is a national convening bringing together the nation's top thinkers to share and discuss the newest research, partnerships, policies, and programs that take place in the out-of-school time spectrum.*