This first-ever assessment of the effectiveness of large-scale, voluntary, district-run, summer learning programs serving low-income elementary students began with 5,637 children. With a limited number of slots, 3,192 were invited to participate in consecutive summer learning programs—one before 4th grade (2013) and one before 5th grade.

The remaining 2,445 children served as a control group.

Kids with high attendance performed better in math and reading after two summers compared with students in the control group, who were not invited to participate in the programs.

These findings are correlational but very likely due to the summer learning programs. The differences in the performance between the “high attenders” and the control group are the equivalent of about 20%–25% of a year’s learning in language arts and math at this age. These benefits persisted throughout the 5th-grade school year.

ATTENDANCE, BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Attenders</td>
<td>20 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Attenders</td>
<td>1–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Shows</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

63% of all kids who attended in 2013 for at least one day were high attenders.

These findings are correlational but very likely due to the summer learning programs. The differences in the performance between the “high attenders” and the control group are the equivalent of about 20%–25% of a year’s learning in language arts and math at this age. These benefits persisted throughout the 5th-grade school year.
The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis.

This electronic document was made available from www.rand.org as a public service of the RAND Corporation.

Support RAND
- [Browse Reports & Bookstore](#)
- [Make a charitable contribution](#)

For More Information
- Visit RAND at [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org)
- Explore the [RAND Corporation](#)
- View [document details](#)

Infographic
RAND infographics are design-focused, visual representations of data and information based on a published, peer-reviewed product or a body of published work.

Limited Electronic Distribution Rights
This document and trademark(s) contained herein are protected by law as indicated in a notice appearing later in this work. This electronic representation of RAND intellectual property is provided for non-commercial use only. Unauthorized posting of RAND electronic documents to a non-RAND website is prohibited. RAND electronic documents are protected under copyright law. Permission is required from RAND to reproduce, or reuse in another form, any of our research documents for commercial use. For information on reprint and linking permissions, please see [RAND Permissions](#).