



For Immediate Release  
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## **First Lady Michelle Obama Joins 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Summer Learning Day Celebration with Hundreds of Youth and Education Leaders in D.C.**

*More Than 600 Events Held Across U.S. to Highlight Importance of High-Quality Summer Learning*

Baltimore -- As summer officially begins, First Lady Michelle Obama joined hundreds of communities across the nation to call attention to the importance of summer learning opportunities and celebrate the impact of high-quality programs in curbing the harmful effects of summer learning loss. Summer Learning Day-today, June 20-features hundreds of events involving national and local leaders, school districts, summer learning programs and advocates. Mrs. Obama [spoke this morning](#) to more than 200 youth and education leaders at a special Summer Learning Day celebration at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington.

Summer Learning Day is spearheaded by the [National Summer Learning Association](#) (NSLA), which is tracking events held throughout the summer on an interactive map at [summerlearningdaymap.org](http://summerlearningdaymap.org).

"Every child deserves a memorable summer with opportunities to build upon their hard-earned school year achievements," said Sarah Pitcock, CEO of the National Summer Learning Association. "We are proud to join families, community leaders, educators, elected officials, and other advocates rallying together for high-quality summer learning."

Efforts to keep youth engaged and learning throughout the summer are based on research that shows without high-quality summer learning opportunities, most students fall more than two months behind in math over the summer, and low-income children also fall behind two to three months in reading. Yet only one-third of low-income youth participate in a summer learning program. A recent [survey](#) of 500 teachers conducted by NSLA also found that two-thirds of those surveyed said they spend at least three to four weeks re-teaching lost skills at the beginning of a school year. [Research from the RAND Corporation](#) has found that high-quality summer learning programs can prevent these

educational losses and boost student achievement.

Dozens of Summer Learning Day events feature communities and local leaders that are part of the [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) and recognize summer learning as a key ingredient in the nationwide effort to ensure more children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade. More than 100 communities in the Campaign's network are working to improve early literacy by addressing summer learning loss, chronic absence, and the lack of school readiness among low-income children.

Other Summer Learning Day events this year include:

- Tallahassee's PBS affiliate, WFSU will be hosting six *Super Why!* camps starting in June, as well as a SciGirls camp in July. The Super Why! camps promote early literacy learning with preschoolers, while the SciGirls camp supports STEM learning with young girls. WFSU will also host an event with the Jefferson County Watermelon Festival, engaging parents on ways to prevent summer learning loss.
- Fresno's minor league baseball team, the Grizzlies, will host 1,000 children from local summer learning programs to attend a game with their family June 29 and receive a free literacy kit including a reading journal and parent resources.
- Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson will deliver remarks to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' annual meeting June 20 recognizing the promise of high-quality summer learning in closing the achievement gap and efforts by mayors across the country to expand opportunities.

NSLA offers [tips and resources for families](#) on how to make the most of the summer. For more information about Summer Learning Day, visit [www.summerlearning.org/sld](http://www.summerlearning.org/sld).

For a complete transcript of the First Lady's remarks [click here](#). To view video of the event [click here](#).

*The National Summer Learning Association works to connect and equip schools, program providers, communities, and families to deliver high-quality summer learning opportunities to the nation's youth to help close the achievement gap and support healthy development. NSLA provides resources and expertise to help increase youth access and participation in high-quality summer learning programs, and to encourage the use of summer learning as a strategy for education reform. For more information, visit [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org).*

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