

The National **Summer School** **Initiative**

Summer 2024 Impact Report

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By the numbers

The National Summer School Initiative offers an entirely new way to build teacher capacity and boost academic gains. This summer, thousands of like-minded educators joined forces with NSSI to deliver extraordinary learning experiences across the nation. From its inaugural summer in 2020 with 12,000 students, NSSI's impact has vastly expanded—now preparing 82,000 students to thrive in the 2024-25 school year.

Guided by NSSI's expert mentors, 4,250 teachers and 715 school leaders sharpened their instructional skills and helped their students achieve meaningful academic gains.

27

partners

715

leaders

4,250

teachers

82,000

students



“
**Summer is
the most
underused—
and unequal—
time of the year
educationally.**

—THOMAS KANE
EDUCATION ECONOMIST, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

September 5, 2024

02

The education economist Thomas Kane has said that “summer is the most underused—and unequal—time of year educationally.”

He’s right: The effects of summer learning loss are in fact so grave that for a large swath of students it nearly erases the gains they made during the school year and blocks their path forward. Even averting summer slide can have dramatic effect on a child’s educational trajectory.

But if we help students gain important ground during the summer—if we make the summer some of the best instructional weeks of the year—children can thrive in the next grade and stay firmly on the path to college and career.

All of us at the National Summer School Initiative were deeply honored to be invited to partner with a diverse set of districts and CMOs from across the country. We were especially delighted that nearly all of last year’s partners elected to work with us again. With 27 partners across 13 states, we reached **82,000** students, **almost doubling our numbers** from summer 2023.

But our work with teachers from partner districts and CMOs—4,250 strong—and leaders was especially gratifying. Across all of our partnerships, teachers experienced the power of discourse-based instruction to accelerate student learning.

Every year, we aim to get better. We are excited to prepare in the coming months for an even more impactful Summer 2025!

Steven F. Wilson
Cofounder and CEO

Increase academic value from summer months

The problem

Inequitable access to summer learning exacerbates the achievement gap. Remedial summer programs are often uninspired. Enrichment-only does nothing to build academic skills.

Our solution

Partners choose NSSI to ‘up their summer game’—ensuring it becomes highly leveraged academic time that produces student gains.



NSSI’s program supports the teacher and addresses the needs of every learner.

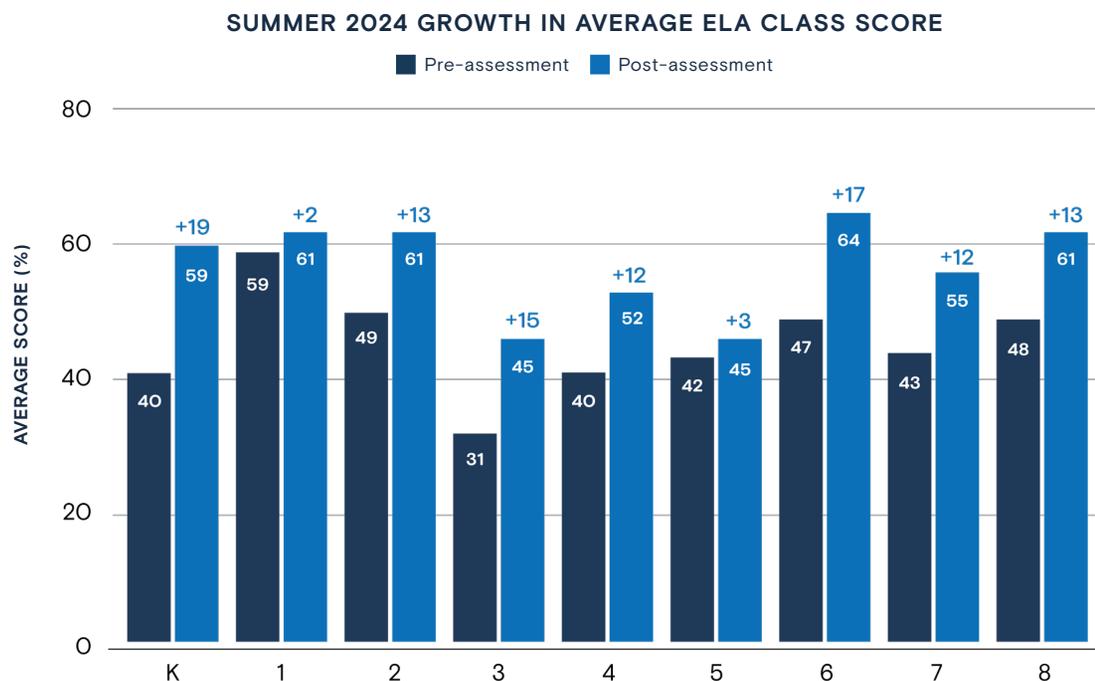
—DIANA GRANT
SIXTH-GRADE TEACHER, NYCPS DISTRICT 17

ELA gains

By putting rich discourse at the center, NSSI's ELA curriculum engages students in the deep, rigorous critical thinking it takes to unlock meaning across genres.

Assessments administered at the start and end of the program showed striking gains in student achievement.

On a 100-point scale, the average class score in K-8 ELA increased by **12 percentage points** from pre- to post-assessment. All grades showed improvement, with average gains ranging from two points to 19 points.



Two-thirds of parents observed growth in their child's reading skills as a result of summer school. A parent from Élan Academy Charter School shared, "**My child is confident** and comes home to work on assignments independently." A parent from NYCPS District 27 wrote, "**My kids have shown significant growth in their academic abilities.**"

Teachers consistently reported high student engagement with NSSI's novels. Kelly Kiernick, a third-grade ELA teacher from First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter, wrote, "I have some students who are usually afraid to participate and to see them **not only participate, but engage in higher level thinking this summer is wonderful!**" Racquel Simpson, a sixth-grade ELA teacher from NYCPS District 17, wrote, "The material was so engaging—my students **wanted to read more than the required pages** each day."

Book lovers are born.

“
This program
brought back my
daughter’s passion
for reading.

—FIRST-GRADE PARENT
SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



of school leaders stated that, based on their observations, student engagement with NSSI’s curriculum was high or very high.

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I loved hearing my students talk about the novel we read during breakfast and lunch! My students were always engaged with the novel.

—MELISSA MYERS
FOURTH-GRADE ELA TEACHER, SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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After one Novel Studies lesson, a student came up and told me he loved reading the story so much that he was going to buy several copies of the book to give to his friends as gifts!

—JUDITH VIEIRA
THIRD-GRADE ELA TEACHER, NYCPS DISTRICT 18

“

My favorite moment from the summer was when I asked a comprehension question and watched every single student raise their hand to answer.

—WAYNE CARRIERE JUNIOR
FIFTH-GRADE ELA TEACHER, CRESECENT CITY SCHOOLS

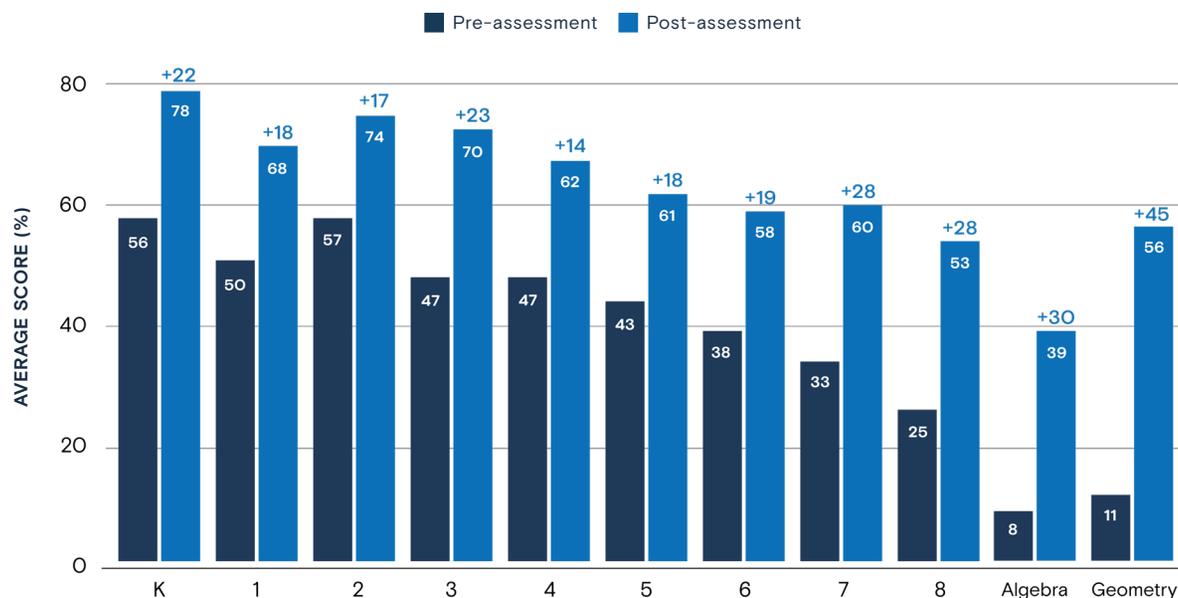
Math gains

NSSI's math program fosters conceptual understanding and critical thinking to drive deep learning.

Across grades, math students made impressive gains from pre- to post-assessments.

On a 100-point scale, the average class score in K-8 and high school math increased by **24 percentage points** from pre- to post-assessment. **All** grades showed improvement, with average gains ranging from 14 points to 45 points.

SUMMER 2024 GROWTH IN MATH AVERAGE CLASS SCORE



Teachers consistently noted how NSSI's curriculum got their students excited about math. Jeff Westhelle, a fifth-grade math teacher from Seminole County, wrote, "Students said, 'Math is fun!'" Chelsey Katona, a seventh-grade math teacher from Gem Prep, shared "My students thoroughly enjoyed the real world problems and how they could relate to them. They often said 'Oh, I've seen that before!' or 'It makes sense why we need to learn math!' The curriculum made math feel so much more applicable."

Patricia Loya, a fourth-grade teacher from Voices College-Bound Language Academy, shared, "One of my students who usually shuts down around math is now so excited to ask for additional division questions—and she wants to do them at the white board in front of everyone! She's giddy with happiness."

“Now I can do math!”

Teachers consistently observed growth in their students’ academic confidence. Jessica Michelman, a fifth-grade math teacher from NYCPS District 30, wrote, “I had one student stop me and say ‘Now I can do math! I didn’t know fractions and now I do—I can even divide!’”



of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I am satisfied with my child’s experience with the math and/or ELA summer school classes offered in partnership with NSSI.”

Parents reported their children more invested in learning than before the program’s start. A tenth-grade parent from Gem Prep shared, “NSSI’s curriculum plus an extremely supportive teacher made all of the difference. My daughter is confident, eager to go to class and said she is able to retain the information so much better.”

Christina Allen-Dupont, a third-grade teacher from Crescent City Schools, wrote “It was very nice to have conversations with parents about how successful their students were with the summer school curriculum. There were several parents who were not used to receiving positive feedback on how well their student is doing in math, and they were over the moon.



My teacher made me excited to learn math because she actually gave me the chance to solve problems myself instead of giving me the answers automatically. I’ve learned a lot from math this summer.”

—SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENT
SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Leverage summer to strengthen instructional practice.

The problem

Moving from didactic to cognitively guided instruction is challenging. PD hours during the academic year are often minimal, not differentiated, and ineffectual.

Our solution

Partners choose NSSI to upskill teachers in inquiry-based, discourse rich pedagogy as a means to improve Tier 1 instruction throughout the year.

Transformative teacher training is at the heart of NSSI's model. Guided by our extraordinary Mentor Teachers, teachers hone their craft by watching their Mentors' moves and making them their own.



Designed to equip and inspire.



I love the way the program is designed. I enjoyed learning and hearing from other teachers weekly—their input inspired me and helped me to become a better teacher.



—SHARON ROBERTSON
THIRD-GRADE ELA
TEACHER, ÉLAN
ACADEMY CHARTER
SCHOOL

NSSI's learning cohorts are grouped by grade and content area, so teachers feel **equipped and inspired to lead strong lessons**. Teachers read the same novels and deconstruct the same mathematical tasks as their students. PD becomes instantly relevant and deeply engaging.



of teachers were satisfied or very satisfied with Teacher Institute.



of teachers agreed or strongly agreed their professional development sessions helped them feel more prepared to teach summer school.



of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that their professional development sessions' presenters were engaging and knowledgeable.



of teachers agreed or strongly agreed the professional development sessions during Institute were a valuable use of their time.

Brandi Camacho, a first-grade teacher from Galapagos Rockford Charter School wrote, “I **feel very prepared**, especially practicing the areas that may have been previously challenging in the classroom.”

Make it easy to design and manage an academic summer experience.

The problem

Districts often require additional capacity to author original summer lessons, train their teachers, and provide implementation support.

Our solution

Partners choose NSSI to eliminate the complexity and capacity challenges of scaling high quality summer academic programming.

For many partners, NSSI serves as an extension of their team. With high quality curriculum, best-in-class professional learning, and meticulous operational support, NSSI helps its partners to plan, launch, manage, and evaluate a rigorous summer academic program at scale.



Each year, this gets better and better. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into helping us launch and run successful summer programs with great opportunities for teacher growth and great student outcomes.



—LAURIE WOLFE
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER,
GEM PREP

“The support is phenomenal.”

Program-wide, teachers and leaders appreciated NSSI’s ease-of-use. Ashinle Celestine, a seventh-grade ELA teacher from Crescent City Schools, said, “[Best-designed summer program I have taught thus far.](#)” Lori Shicatano, a school leader from First Philadelphia Preparatory School, wrote, “[NSSI was always available when questions arose.](#) The team happily answered any question I had.” Michelle Charles, a seventh-grade teacher from NYCPS District 20, shared, “The [lessons are rigorous and the support is phenomenal.](#)”

4.5/5

“I am happy I taught summer school in partnership with NSSI”

Stephanie Bowers, a school leader from Philip’s Academy Charter School of Paterson, wrote, “[I love how accessible the curriculum is for teachers and how much support there is for teachers and leaders.](#) My favorite part of NSSI is the choice of literature and how much the students love what they are reading!” Graham Banfield, an eighth-grade ELA teacher from NYCPS District 32, wrote, “Excellent texts paired with effective curricular materials. All meat, no fat. [Wish it was like this all the time!](#)”



The curriculum is easy to follow and loaded with resources to implement it effectively. Most importantly, the program is designed to engage students, which makes my life as a teacher much easier.



—JUAN BALANTA
SIXTH-GRADE ELA TEACHER,
NYCPS DISTRICT 27



With NSSI, everything was made easy. There were clear procedures for effective teaching and the office hours were great to help clarify any questions we had.



—NICOLETTE-FORD MASON
THIRD-GRADE ELA TEACHER,
NYCPS DISTRICT 24

Leverage summer to build a bench of instructional leaders.

The problem

Not enough PD during the year to acclimate new instructional leaders to their roles; new leaders need at-bats before getting into classrooms next fall.

Our solution

Partners choose NSSI to help them develop instructional leaders who can drive high quality teaching year round.



Leader Institute was one of the best experiences I've had as an educator.

—JASMINE LORENZANA
SECOND-GRADE ELA TEACHER, NYCPS DISTRICT 27



Very impressed with NSSI's professional development. More should follow this model.



—MEGAN SMITH
FIRST-GRADE ELA TEACHER,
NYCPS DISTRICT 26

Instructional benefits that extend into fall.



I enjoyed the hands on experience—hearing other leaders talk about ways to provide meaningful feedback was so helpful as a first time leader.



—ISABEL INIGUEZ
LEADER, FORTUNE
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

With NSSI, school leaders are trained to observe and coach teachers to sharpen their practice. Many are new to coaching or will soon step into leadership roles. For them, summer serves as a practicum, giving them the space to experiment as emerging instructional leaders.

Karly Taranto, a fourth-grade ELA teacher from Crescent City Schools, wrote, “NSSI helped me develop skills that I did not have yet with scaffolding. It allowed me to go deeper, but with less pressure than the regular school year. [I plan to implement skills I learned this summer in my classroom in the fall.](#)”



93% of school leaders were satisfied or very satisfied with Leader Institute.



96% of school leaders agreed or strongly agreed that their professional development sessions' presenters were engaging and knowledgeable.



93% of school leaders agreed or strongly agreed that Leader Institute was a valuable use of their time



92% of school leaders agreed or strongly agreed that the curriculum and lesson materials provided by NSSI for teachers are strong.

Thank you

In partnership, we're reimagining teaching and learning.

“
**One of the best PDs
in my 26 years.**

—CHERIE UMSTEAD
NYCPS LEADER, DISTRICT 30

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The support and guidance from NSSI is way above par. Having taught Summer School for the past two years, I have found this program to be the most organized and child centered.

—MILLICENT MCDONOUGH
FIFTH-GRADE ELA TEACHER, NYCPS DISTRICT 11



I loved seeing my students so eager to learn and understand the content. I really enjoyed teaching this summer with NSSI.

—ERIKA MUNOZ-KAROUL
SIXTH-GRADE MATH TEACHER, SEMINOLE COUNTY



NSSI's curriculum is perhaps the best curriculum I have had the privilege to teach. You can tell it was designed by educators who care and who understand how to engage students with thought-provoking texts. The passion and commitment to teaching is evident in the lesson plans. I simply followed the lead.

—JUAN BALANTA
SIXTH-GRADE ELA TEACHER, NYCPS DISTRICT 27

Summer reinvented

Join us.

Contact us today to learn how you can get more from your summer investments.



To continue the conversation, please contact:

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**THE NATIONAL SUMMER
SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

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