



THE NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Impact Report 2025

Letter from our CEO

At the National Summer School Initiative, we believe every student deserves access to rigorous, engaging summer learning. This was my first summer experiencing our program in action, and what I witnessed convinced me we're on the right track.

In Newton County, Georgia, rising fifth graders talked my ear off at lunch about Lanesha, the protagonist of *The Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Meanwhile, in Lancaster, California, students sat on their desks as their teacher read the hurricane scene, simulating Katrina's rising floodwaters. Students thousands of miles apart were having meaningful conversations about the same book, and their teachers had likely planned those lessons together with NSSI's expert Mentor Teachers.

This is what high-quality curriculum and collaborative professional learning can accomplish, which the data in this report supports.

This year we launched a brand-new K-2 ELA curriculum. This curriculum balances foundational reading skills with building knowledge, with kindergartners investigating dinosaur extinction and first graders studying the wonder of aviation. Our partners welcomed these updates, clearly seeing the alignment to the Science of Reading.

Looking ahead, we're expanding novel selections, refining our math curriculum to strengthen foundational skills, and developing differentiated professional learning tracks for returning teachers. We're also extending our impact beyond summer, launching year-round professional learning cohorts.



The summer months can transform a child's academic journey. Thank you for being part of this mission.

Nancy Livingston, CEO

By the numbers

271
Schools

72,899
Students

2,968
Teachers

27
Partners

14
States

563
Leaders

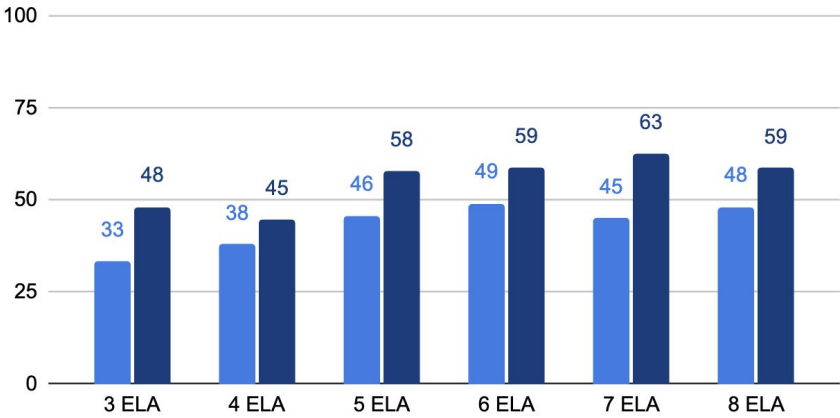
Results

On a 100-point scale, the average class score in ELA increased by 12 percentage points from pre- to post-assessment.

For Math, the average class score increased by 16 percentage points.

● Pre-assessment ● Post-assessment

ELA gains



Note: K–2 ELA data are not collected by NSSI due to assessment time constraints; districts are encouraged to use BOY/EOY screener data to avoid overtesting.

ELA

27,101

of Students

+12% pts

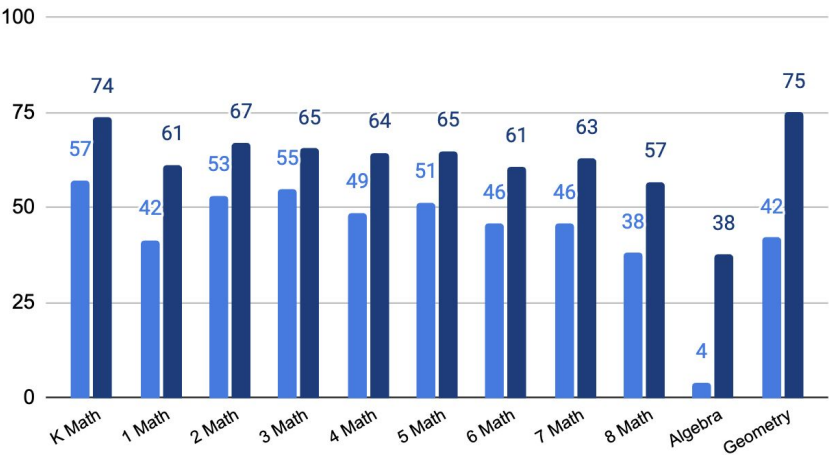
Math

39,920

of Students

+16% pts

Math gains



Stakeholder satisfaction:

Teachers

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.

NSSI's learning cohorts are grouped by grade and content area, so teachers feel equipped and inspired to lead strong Tier 1 instruction throughout the academic year.

Survey prompt:

The curriculum and lesson materials provided by NSSI are strong.

Teacher response:

4.6/5

“

I would recommend this program to other educators; the breakdowns that explain how to deliver the lesson and supports for differentiating the lesson are great. I also love the cheat sheet supports for teachers.

Neffatia S.
1st Grade Teacher

“

I appreciated not having to create everything from scratch, yet still being able to adapt lessons. The Mentor Teachers modeled lessons, offered feedback, and made professional development feel immediately useful.

Jaleesa M.
3rd Grade Teacher

“

The scripted curriculum REALLY set us up for success. It was clearly well-written and refined over time. It's one of the best curriculums I've worked with!

Michelle L.
4th Grade Teacher

Teacher Institute satisfaction

Survey prompt	% Satisfied or very satisfied*
I am satisfied or very satisfied with the training sessions.	96%
The content and activities in today's sessions were relevant and worth my time.	95%
Today's sessions provided strategies or practices that will improve my teaching.	97%
The presenters (including my Mentor Teacher) were engaging, clear, and effective.	98%
I gained valuable insights today from my Mentor Teacher and peers in the session.	97%

* % of respondents choosing 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale.

Stakeholder satisfaction:

Leaders

NSSI site 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.

Survey prompt:

I am happy that I was a leader during summer school through NSSI.

Leader response:

4.5/5

“

I keep coming back! NSSI has struck the balance between rigor and joy in their curriculum and pacing. I have seen significant growth in my own scholars...giving them the boost they need to be successful in the following school year.

Stephanie S.
School Leader

“

NSSI curriculum just makes sense. It's easy to teach, and their PDs are expertly led. They also improve and refine the curriculum every year.

Jake E.
School Leader

“

This is the best PD I have had in the 14 years I have been teaching. NSSI is giving teachers a great way forward to streamline instruction and guide them to a successful lesson/classroom.

Catherine L.
School Leader

“

NSSI provided invaluable supports for me as a leader not only during the summer, but also for years to come.

Linda S.
School Leader

What went well

“

The program allows students to grow. I saw growth in students that struggled during the school year. I was supported the entire summer, any questions were answered and I received teaching tools to assist during the school year.

William H.
3rd Grade Math Teacher

2-for-1 results, delivered

This year marks NSSI's fifth consecutive summer of delivering double-digit growth for students in ELA and Math. It's also another year when our district leaders praised the program's professional development for their staff, providing expert modeling for their newer teachers.

Teachers gave our Teacher Institute straight A's

Survey of our Teacher Institute resulted in an overall satisfaction rate of 96%, with our Mentor Teachers earning a 98% approval rating.

Teachers saved time

New differentiation guides, portfolio guidance for mandated students, clear pacing for shorter blocks, and a fully multiple-choice math assessment helped teachers adapt and save time.

Site visits provided valuable insights

Our leadership and operations teams visited sites in NYC, DC, California, and Georgia. These visits gave us valuable insight into strengths and areas for greater clarity in training and curriculum.

Leaders consistently praised our operational support

Leaders continued to call our team “one step ahead,” responsive, and solution-oriented. Our clear checklists, regular communication, and on-demand supports were specific highlights.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to earn CTLE credits

For the first time, NSSI offered CTLE credits for teachers and leaders.

Key learnings

“

I would have liked to see a possible sample of how to incorporate differentiation and/or scaffolds.

Cherie U.
Math Teacher

You respond. We listen.

We read every comment left in our teacher, leader, and family surveys to make sure we're responding to the needs on the ground. Whether that feedback is positive, constructive, or tough to hear, we're reflecting on it all as we build out our 2026 programs.

Make data collection on pre-post assessments simpler for teachers.

We are committed to moving to a digital assessment platform for teachers next summer. This will make data collection significantly simpler and save teachers time. This summer we piloted a tech platform with one of our largest partners to test the operational support needed for a smooth rollout across more districts for summer of 2026.

Support fluency development in the math foundational skills block.

Building student fluency with foundational math facts is crucial for freeing up working memory to access grade-level content. There are opportunities, especially in our 3rd-5th grade program, to strengthen automaticity in an asset-based learning environment.

Continue to enhance MLL support to access grade-level content.

While teachers recognized improvements we've made over time to the curriculum, there is still an opportunity to more intentionally build language objectives and language instruction into ELA and Math lessons.

Connect classroom learning to afternoon programming and field trips.

We revised our K-2 ELA curriculum to include a 45-minute knowledge building class. There are easy ways to make these units even more relevant to students and the city in which they live. We are working to provide more guidance on how to extend the learning beyond the block.

Thank you!

For many districts, NSSI is an extension of their team—providing high-quality curriculum, best-in-class professional learning, and meticulous operational support to ensure rigorous summer programs not only run smoothly, but also deliver measurable academic gains.

Since 2020, NSSI has partnered with districts to transform summer into a strategic engine for year-round success—strengthening teacher practice, accelerating student growth, and extending the momentum of learning far beyond the final summer bell.

We remain committed to listening and learning—gathering feedback from teachers, leaders, and students—so that each summer we return with a sharper, more responsive model that builds on what works and addresses what can be better. Together, we have shown that summer can be a catalyst for lasting change—advancing equity, accelerating learning, and elevating great teaching across the country.

As we look ahead, we are committed to building on our shared successes and aligning our model with the priorities and core initiatives of your district. We can't wait to see what we will achieve together next summer.



Planning Ahead

It's never too early—summer planning kicks off in September!

Let's connect now to get a jump on your 2026 plan. We can talk through your academic year goals, teacher support, family outreach, or any other priorities to lighten your planning load.

[Book your free consultation](#)