



Evidence-based tools and guidance
for delivering effective programs

PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
ACADEMICS & ENRICHMENT
STAFFING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SITE CLIMATE
STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ATTENDANCE

summerlearningtoolkit.org



TIP SHEET: **PROMOTING PARTICIPATION AND EXPERIENCE**

For more information on the importance of student participation and positive experiences, review [Promoting Participation and Experience Guidance](#).

This tip sheet summarizes and builds upon findings from RAND's Getting to Work on Summer Learning 2nd Edition and the Summer Planning Recruitment Guide developed by Crosby Marketing.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

RAND's research found that strong program attendance (at least 20 days per summer) produced ongoing benefits for students. After the first summer, high attenders benefited in mathematics in the fall and on spring assessments. After the second summer, students with high attendance benefited in math and English Language Arts (ELA) and those benefits persisted throughout the school year.¹ RAND recommends that programs last at least five weeks, preferably six or more, and provide at least 90 minutes per day per academic subject such as math or ELA to achieve positive outcomes in these subjects.

Districts face a number of challenges that they should keep in mind when recruiting youth and promoting regular attendance:

- o Many parents are not used to thinking of summer as a time for learning and may have negative perceptions of traditional summer school;

¹ Learning from Summer page 75