dreambox LEARNING

MATH READING

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

The value of extending learning beyond the school day

Many research studies have indicated that extending math and reading instruction beyond classroom time can improve achievement, particularly across low-income and minority student populations. This supplemental out-of-school time (OST) can help students meet standards, develop proficiency and engage in the kind of deep learning and comprehension they might not have time for during regular classroom hours.

Which OST programs can your district strategically provide to foster learning and meet academic goals? DreamBox Learning's educational experts recommend a blended approach to the following OST programs:

Programs before and after school

Research indicates:

Quality after-school programs[i] provide additional time for engaging learning opportunities that can help broaden students' skills and interests. As a result, many learners have experienced improvement across attendance, academic achievement and on-time graduation rates.

After-school programs also correlate with increased engagement and contribute positively to social-emotional areas[ii] including safety and self-efficacy.

DreamBox Learning® support:

Data-driven personalization: Many students engage in before- and after-school programs with educators unfamiliar with their unique academic skills, knowledge or support needs. Educators can use data and recommendations from the platform to efficiently differentiate instruction for each student.

Adaptive learning: DreamBox math and reading programs leverage integrated technologies into before- and after-school programs to offer increased time for individualized support, provide engaging content and cultivate advanced thinking skills.

Summer school

Research Indicates:

Unfinished learning, or learning loss, refers to gaps or reversals in academic progress due to extended interruptions in students' education. Learning loss is especially prevalent during summer, and data[iii] indicates that the average student loses between 25 – 34% of math gains from the prior school year and between 17 – 28% of school-year ELA gains.

One multiyear study[iv] found that by using best practices and standards-aligned curriculum, summer school programs can improve fall assessment scores. In fact, the same study found that incoming 4th graders demonstrated approximately a 20% average increase in math proficiency during a six-week summer program.

DreamBox Learning support:

Strategic summer school programs can help students maintain or increase academic skills[v] before the new school year. DreamBox Learning fulfills many of the necessary tenants of a successful summer school program.

Accessibility: Many students face economic barriers to summer school programs. DreamBox programs are easily accessible. Students can engage with DreamBox 24/7 in a summer school environment or at home during the summer months.

Engagement for all learning levels: Schools often use summer programs to provide credit recovery, especially in higher grades. DreamBox can function as an intervention and enrichment tool for both math and reading. The engaging content offers a unique experience that differs from regular instruction during the school year. It helps learners develop conceptual understanding, fluency and problem-solving skills.

Effective, proactive learning: DreamBox provides necessary practice to prevent summer slide and prepare students for the upcoming school year. Educators can easily align DreamBox to existing curriculum and learning goals. They can leverage captured data to determine student knowledge and skills rather than spend valuable instructional time assessing student levels.

School-community partnerships

Research indicates:

Partnering with community-based organizations can effectively provide students with resources and opportunities that support academic achievement and educational attainment. Research[vi] suggests that the core elements of an effective, community-based organization align with the core elements of effective learning environments. Both mediums adopt learner-, knowledge- and assessment-centric approaches to drive student participation and success.

DreamBox Learning support:

Learner-centric activities: Students using DreamBox in community organizations build strength in math and reading within a positive context. Learners use their current skills to build new knowledge and engage in think-and-do learning rather than sit-and-get learning. This approach promotes fun, active learning using virtual manipulative tools and interest-specific content that develops conceptual understanding and fluency. The digital learning environment provides personalized activities tailored to meet individual student needs, so content is accessible and challenging for all learning levels.

Knowledge-centric experiences: DreamBox encourages students to own their learning journey. The math and reading programs respond to each student's strategies and decisions in real time to promote active learning and cultivate independent critical thinking. DreamBox leverages standards-aligned content and tailors it to each student. Learners become engaged, confident and motivated to learn.

Assessment-centric journey: DreamBox uses ongoing formative assessment to inform every step of the learning path. By capturing thousands of data points during each lesson, the adaptive program learns about the student's strategy for approaching math problems and adjusts lessons and content to help develop conceptual understanding. This continuous assessment and feedback ensures mastery of each concept before introducing the next. It engages students in a zone of proximal development as they gain the foundational skills and conceptual understanding to thrive in math.

At-home practice

Research indicates:

Several factors[vii] can contribute to a student's success. Family engagement is among one of the most critical indicators of academic growth. The National Education Association has reported that high levels of family engagement correlate with student achievement, attendance and social-emotional wellness. These positive outcomes are relevant across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

DreamBox Learning support:

Using DreamBox at home is easy for students. The platform is available 24/7 from any Internet-connected device, so learning guardians can encourage OST engagement and follow their child's progress.

Personalized learning for all students: DreamBox provides an advanced level of individualized math and reading learning for all students. The innovative technology captures data across a student's behavior and analyzes areas like strategy, time spent on a question, and the answer selected. Then, it dynamically adapts the learning path to ensure every student encounters the right content at the right time. This personalization helps students stay within their zone of proximal development. Learners remain challenged through the journey, but they are never frustrated by content outside of their knowledge or bored by concepts they've mastered.

Confidence-building experiences: Motivation is critical to learning outcomes. DreamBox's engaging environment encourages students and allows them to enthusiastically embrace new concepts.

DreamBox Impact

DreamBox Learning's rigorous curriculumis aligned with state standards and helps students meet and exceed proficiency goals. As a result, students have the skills and practice they need to succeed. Integrated assessment and instruction, as well as detailed reporting, gives teachers, administrators and parents valuable data on comprehension, progress and DreamBox effectiveness.

References:

[i]Baker, Eva L. "The Importance of Afterschool Programs in Education Reform Worldwide: Making It Essential in America", Expanding Learning & Afterschool Project, 2011. https://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds/article/importance-afterschool-programs-education-reform-worldwide-making-it

[ii]McCombs, Jennifer Sloan, Anamarie A. Whitaker, and Paul Youngmin Yoo, "The Value of Out-of-School Time Programs". Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2017. https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE267.html.

[iii]Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2020). "School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities". (EdWorkingPaper: 19-82). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: https://doi.org/10.26300/2mam-bp02

[iv]McCombs, Jennifer Sloan, John F. Pane, Catherine H. Augustine, Heather L. Schwartz, Paco Martorell, and Laura Zakaras, "Ready for Fall? Near-Term Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Students' Learning Opportunities and Outcomes". Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2014. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR815.html. Also available in print form.

[v]Blazer, Christine Summer Learning Loss: "Why Its Effect Is Strongest among Low-Income Students and How It Can Be Combated". Information Capsule. Volume 1011 (2011). https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED536514.pdf

[vi]Mclaughlin, Milbrey. "Community Counts: How Youth Organizations Matter for Youth Development." (2000) https://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj11216/f/Community%20Counts.pdf

[vii]Epstein, Joyce L., Lloyd, Chrishana M., Maier, Michelle, Van Voorhis, Frances L. "The Impact of Family Involvement on the Education of Children Ages 3 to 8: A Focus on Literacy and Math Achievement Outcomes and Social-Emotional Skills" MDRC (2013). https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/The_Impact_of_Family_Involvement_FR.pdf

To learn more about how DreamBox programs can help your district achieve learning goals and request a consultation with our team, visit dreambox.com/accelerate-learning.

dreambox LEARNING

To request a consultation with our team, visit dreambox.com