



SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
of Alabama



Community-Based Summer Learning: A Powerful Recovery Strategy

SSA Summer Conference
June 20-23, 2021 | Orange Beach, AL



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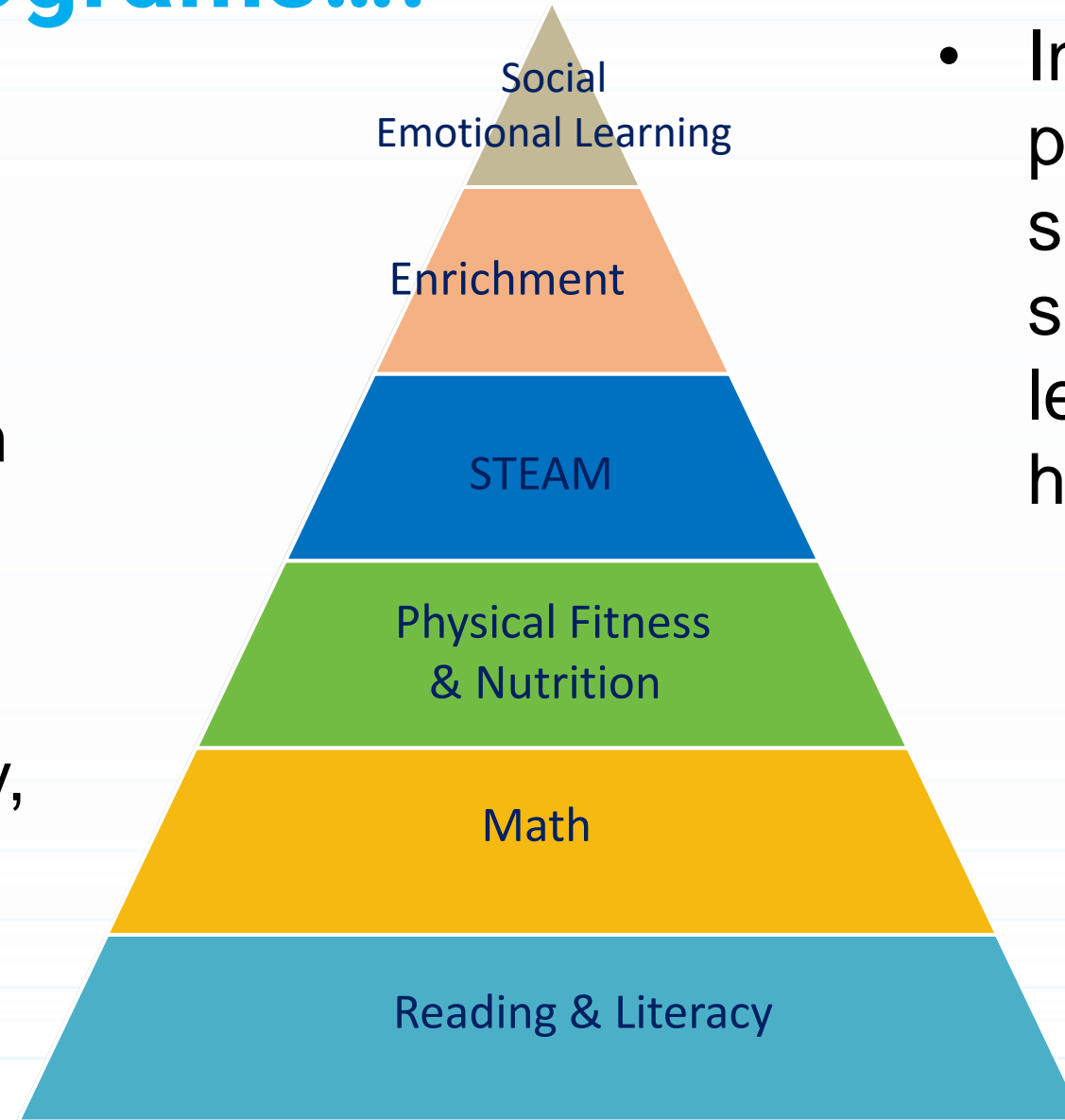


Agenda

- Refresh: Community-Based Summer Learning
- The Power of Community
- An Idea Whose Time Has Come
- A Few Suggestions

Community-Based Summer Learning Programs...

- Nurture the whole child with a foundation of rigorous instruction in reading, literacy, and math.



- Incorporate best practices from summer camps and schools. Students learn even as they have fun.

Community-Based Summer Learning Programs.....

- Bring together the organizations in the community who care about its children (churches, schools, youth organizations, non-profits, government agencies, civic organizations, and so on)
 - Each bringing its unique capabilities and resources
 - All collaborating to build programs better than any of them could build alone
- Result



Community-Based Summer Learning Programs.....

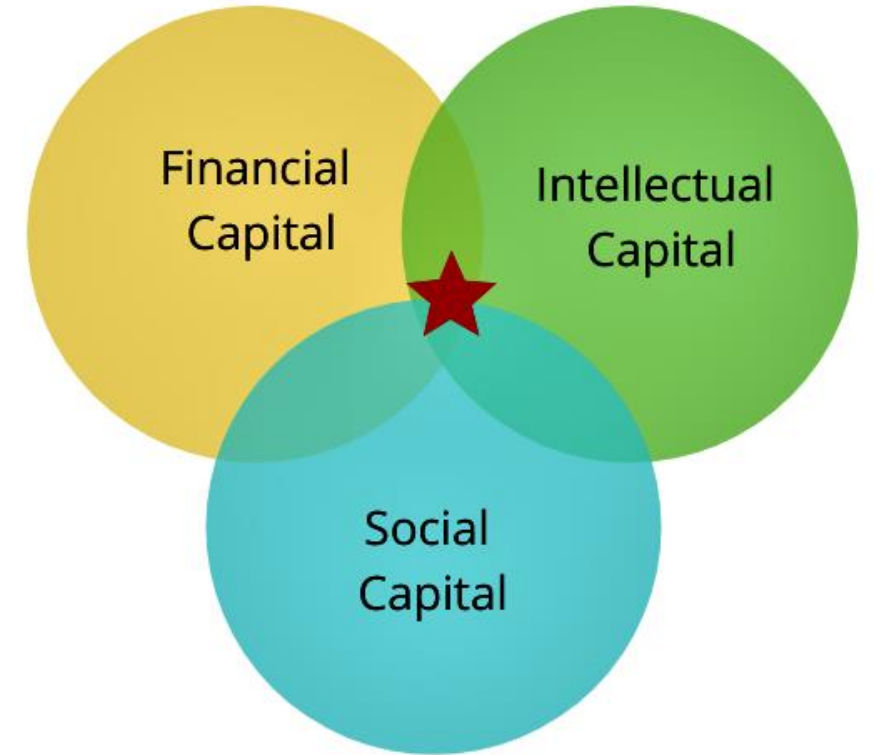
<u>Weekly Schedule For a Typical SAIL Program</u>					
Each week will repeat the same basic format					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 - 8:15	Students Arrive				
8:15- 9:00	Breakfast & Community-building Time				Field Trips: Service Day, McWane Center, Zoo, Railroad Park, Museum of Art, Civil Rights Institute, College Campus Visit
9:00 - 12:00	Reading & Literacy Instruction Math Instruction				
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch & Community-building Time				
1:00 - 4:00	Enrichment, Sports and Physical Activity, Character-Building Lessons, Gardening & Nutrition, Reading, Storytelling, Music, Arts & Crafts, Playground Time -Fun Activities Reinforcing the Morning Academic Work-				
4:00 - 4:30	Students Depart				

The Power of Community

Three types of capital to invest in our children

- Financial Capital (Funding)
- Intellectual Capital (Knowledge, Best Practices)
- Social (Human) Capital (Relationships, Commitment, Leadership)

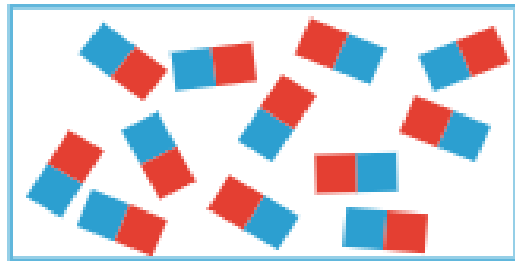
All three are required for success!



The Power of Community

Our investments are not sufficient for success unless the community's goals are aligned

Aligned goals  Electromagnetic force



Loose and random



Effect of magnetization

The Power of Community

When:

- your community has invested all three forms of capital,
and
- your goals are aligned,
then



**"There is no
power for change
greater than a
community
discovering what
it cares about."**

MARGARET J. WHEATLEY

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The Alabama Literacy Act provides that summer reading camps

“may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school district or in partnership with community-based summer programs, designated as effective.....”

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The Alabama Campaign for Grade-Level Reading recommended:

“Leverage community-based before- and after-school and summer-learning programs to offer additional learning opportunities for struggling readers.”

June 22, 2021



ALABAMA CAMPAIGN
for Grade-Level Reading

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNOR KAY IVEY



An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Alabama Committee on Grade-Level Reading (established under the Literacy Act)

“Community partners, in tandem with schools and families, can maximize resources to promote health, well-being, and learning for all students.”

June 22, 2021



**Alabama's Action Plan for Literacy:
Birth Through Grade 12**

June 2020 Revisions by
Alabama Committee on Grade-Level Reading

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Gov. Ivey (in her 2021 State-of-the-State Address)

“Catching our students up won’t happen overnight or during the traditional school hours.

As such, I am urging all our schools to partner with community organizations in your local area; this will be more important than ever before to be innovative and create new opportunities for summer and after school programs.....”

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The A+ Education Partnership

“The research is clear. Children that regularly attend high-quality out-of-school-time programs have improved academic and career outcomes, school attendance, and mental health.”

June 22, 2021

A+ Education Partnership: Smart Investments Needed to Combat Learning Loss

MARCH 10, 2021



SHARE THIS POST?

By MATT SMITH, A+ Education Partnership

An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The Alabama Business Education Alliance

“All students should be provided the instruction they need during school, after school, and over the summer, working with community partners.”

June 22, 2021

Concepts to Enable Alabama Students to Achieve Their Fullest Potential



An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The press is taking our message to the public:

- The Alabama Education Lab on AL.COM
- The Montgomery Advertiser

June 22, 2021

Don't call it summer school: Battling the COVID slide in math, science, reading with summer programs

Updated Mar 10, 2021; Posted Mar 10, 2021



Advertisement



A student works on an electric keyboard during a summer learning program at Tuscaloosa City Schools in 2019. Programs went virtual in 2020, but hope to resume in-person enrichment and academic options this year. Courtesy of Tuscaloosa City Schools.



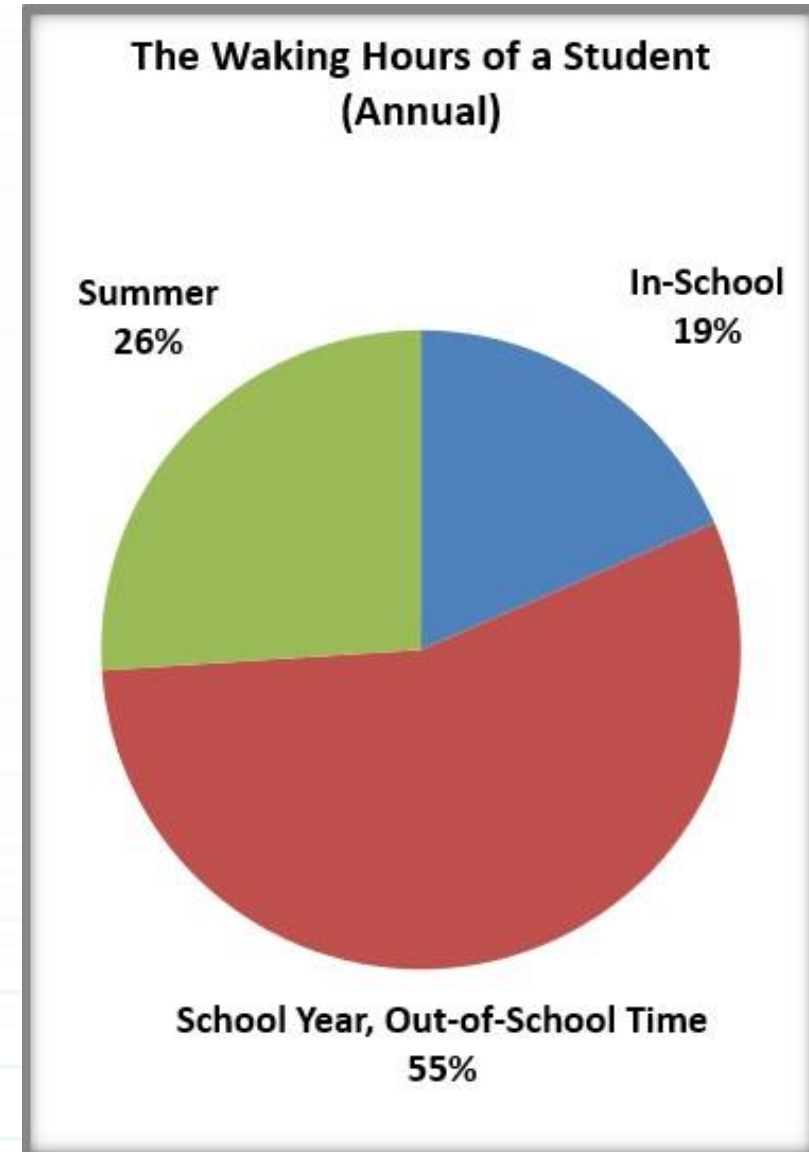
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By [Trisha Powell Crain | tcrain@al.com](mailto:tcrain@al.com)

An Idea Whose Time Has Come --Why Now?

We say, “Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day”

- Perhaps it took a pandemic to force us to grasp what that truly entails.
- We will not achieve learning recovery:
 - Using only 1,080 in-school hours each year
 - Using only the resources of the public education system.



A Few Suggestions, but first...

SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning)

- A community-based approach to summer learning that nurtures the whole child
- Since our beginning in 2013, we have enrolled over 15,000 students
- Academic gains average 1.7 months in reading and 2.6 months in math

In short, “*we know a thing or two because we’ve seen a thing or two*” and we freely share what we know

Suggestion 1

Begin with a three-year strategy

- Why three years?
 - ESSR III funding is spread over 2021-23
 - The initial learning curve for summer programs is about three years
 - It takes time to align a community (i.e., build effective working relationships and trust)
- Think about the three years as a time to build a self-sustaining, community-based initiative with several proven programs
- This is the best chance we'll ever have to do this; let's take advantage of the opportunity

Suggestion 2

Organize your community thoughtfully

- Community boundaries \neq school district boundaries
 - Community boundaries are not well defined; chose creatively
 - Think about a county (or two or three)
 - Students are not bound by school zones for summer learning
- Your leader is crucial; choose wisely
 - Your leader has a passion for children, persistence, and people skills
 - Your leader is probably with a community or civic organization and has experience with community-wide projects
 - Your leader must be able to devote time/effort, especially early on

Suggestion 3

Build on what is already in place

- Engage with your CPC (Children's Policy Council)
- Reach out to summer programs in your community (and elsewhere)
- Assess program strengths/gaps
 - Many summer programs have academic components, but not all are rigorous
 - SAIL resources and ALACN resources can help
- Collaborate to capitalize on strengths, close gaps and replicate success

Suggestion 4

Plan together; plan early; repeat annually

This is important! Failure to plan together caused several SAIL programs to cancel this year and created staffing challenges.

- We lack resources to serve all students who need summer learning, so we must collaborate for maximum impact
- The annual planning cycle for summer should:
 - Start in the fall
 - Finalize key decisions in January/February, so that
 - Community partners can complete their preparations March-May

Suggestion 5

Share and share alike

School systems have assets that community partners often lack:

Public funding, classroom space, computers, curriculum, assessment tools, teachers, admin support, transportation

Community partners have assets that schools often lack:

Non-traditional funding and teachers, recreational facilities, members, social network

Together, we have the resources for success!

A Few Resources

- See your handout for links to a rich set of on-line resources to help communities and summer programs
- These resources may be accessed directly on the SAIL website: <https://sailalabama.org/>



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