

A photograph of three children, two girls and one boy, sitting around a wooden table and looking at a book together. The girl on the left is Black with her hair in a bun, wearing a white t-shirt. The girl in the middle is white with brown hair, wearing a blue shirt. The boy on the right is Black, wearing a maroon jacket. They are all smiling and looking at the book. The background is a blurred library or classroom setting. The image is framed by a white circular line and set against a background of orange and red curved shapes.

GET DELAWARE READING

2024 SUMMER
IMPACT REPORT

Stopping the Summer Slide Together:
Promising Solutions, Ready to Scale

Delaware faces a literacy crisis.

With only **26% of fourth graders reading at or above proficiency**, Delaware students score significantly lower than the national public-school average.*

Summer learning loss deepens this gap. Each summer, low-income students lose more than two months of reading skills, falling further behind their peers. By fifth grade, this gap can grow to two or three years, making it increasingly difficult for students to catch up. The pandemic further widened these disparities, with many Delaware students still half a year behind in reading.


This gap is not inevitable. It's a call to action.

The solution? At the heart of **Get Delaware Reading – Summer** is a model that turns summer into a season of learning, growth, and opportunity. Through high-dosage literacy tutoring, students receive structured, research-backed instruction using BookNook, an adaptive platform that personalizes lessons to meet individual needs. But technology alone isn't enough. Our literacy interns serve as reading guides, providing one-on-one and small-group support that builds student confidence and makes reading engaging and relevant. Learning happens best in trusted, familiar places, which is why we as community-based organizations (CBOs) integrate literacy into high-quality summer camp experiences—ensuring that reading isn't just another assignment, but part of a fun and immersive environment.

*National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2024

**LET'S MAKE SUMMER COUNT
AND UNLOCK EVERY CHILD'S
POTENTIAL AS A READER.**





**Students who aren't proficient
in reading by third grade are 4x
more likely to drop out of high
school than their peers who are
proficient readers.**

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Why This Matters: The Power of Summer

Summer should be a time of growth, not lost potential. Without access to enriching experiences, too many children fall behind—losing critical reading skills, widening achievement gaps, and missing opportunities to explore their interests. High-quality summer programs do more than stop learning loss; they nurture a love of reading, accelerate literacy, build confidence, and expose children to new possibilities, including future careers.

By making summer a season of learning, we can inspire a lifelong love of reading and change the trajectory for Delaware's kids.

When literacy support is woven into trusted community-based programs, learning becomes natural, accessible, and impactful. The partnerships with CBOs transform summer into a season of opportunity—ensuring every child gets the reading support they need to thrive.



Scaling What Works: Uniting for Student Success

Get Delaware Reading – Summer follows a collective impact model. In 2024, the partnership included a statewide network of 19 community-based organizations CBOs delivering targeted literacy interventions to nearly 1,900 students in grades K-8 across 52 sites.

But for too many families, cost is a barrier—limiting student access to the same enriching summer experiences their peers enjoy. With dedicated funding, we can ensure that more students participate in high-quality summer camps that integrate high-dosage literacy tutoring, extending learning time in culturally relevant, relationship-driven, and engaging ways. As a collaboration of community-based organizations, we invest in summer to:

- **Leverage out-of-school time**—Work with summer camps and community groups to maximize literacy impact.
- **Use shared measurement tools**—Implement BookNook to ensure structured, data-driven instruction.
- **Foster collaboration**—Align mutually reinforcing activities between CBOs, families, interns, and resource providers.
- **Provide backbone support**—United Way of Delaware drives funding, execution, and accountability.

This collective impact approach:

- **Meets students where they are**—embedding literacy tutoring within summer camps that engage students in meaningful learning experiences.
- **Empowers families and communities**—leveraging the trust and accessibility of local organizations to extend learning beyond the classroom.
- **Builds confident, engaged readers**—creating a fun, low-pressure environment where students strengthen skills and develop a love for reading.
- **Aligns with schools for lasting impact**—ensuring summer learning reinforces academic benchmarks and helps students return stronger each year.

This model connects schools and school districts with CBOs and strengthens relationships with parents and students. With stronger partnerships, expanded reach, and increased investment, we can unlock a future where literacy is a foundation, not a barrier.

Minimizing Learning Loss Together

For years, we've worked statewide to close literacy gaps and prevent summer learning loss. Together, we're proving what works.

2019 | COVID-19
2020 | closed
schools

UWDE and DRIC established
Learning Pods across DE

2020 | Learning
2021 | Pod
Expansion

Full Day Virtual Instruction
Social-Emotional Learning
27 Sites
700 Students

2021 | Further
2022 | Expansion

Shift to Out of School Time
Add Tutoring
Trauma-Informed Approach
Summer Focus
30 Sites
1,300 Students

2022 | Literary Focus:
2023 | Stop Summer
Slide

Out of School Time Partners
Adoption of BookNook:
High-Dosage Literacy
Summer 2022:
500 Full-Time Campers
Summer 2023:
1,000 Full-Time Campers

2023 | Add
2024 | High-Quality
Experiences

Further Honed BookNook
Usage, Training and Support
Add Service Learning & Other
High-Quality Experiences
Summer 2024:
1,500 Full-Time Campers
1,800 Summer BookNook Users

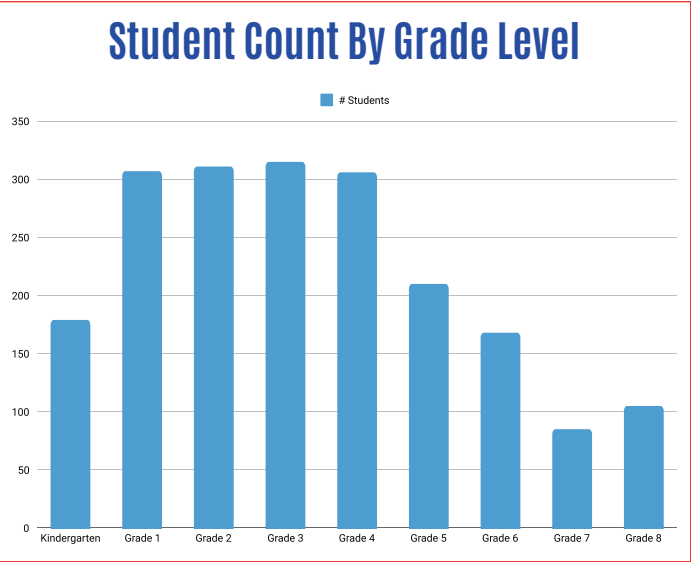
A Promising Practice: Strengthening Literacy, Shaping Futures

The student impact of **Get Delaware Reading – Summer** is two-fold: strengthening literacy at every stage and shaping future educators. Our literacy interns do more than tutor—they inspire, guide, and transform student learning experiences. Through engaging, high-dosage tutoring, they build students’ confidence, deepen comprehension, and foster a love of reading. Students receive personalized support—whether they are mastering foundational skills, strengthening fluency, or tackling more complex texts. At the same time, literacy interns gain real-world teaching experience, inspiring many to pursue careers in education and community leadership.

We Served 1,900 Students Across All Three Counties, in 16 Geographic School Districts, engaging students in grades K-8.

Students By District *Top 10 school districts or independent charter LEAs based on number of students served.

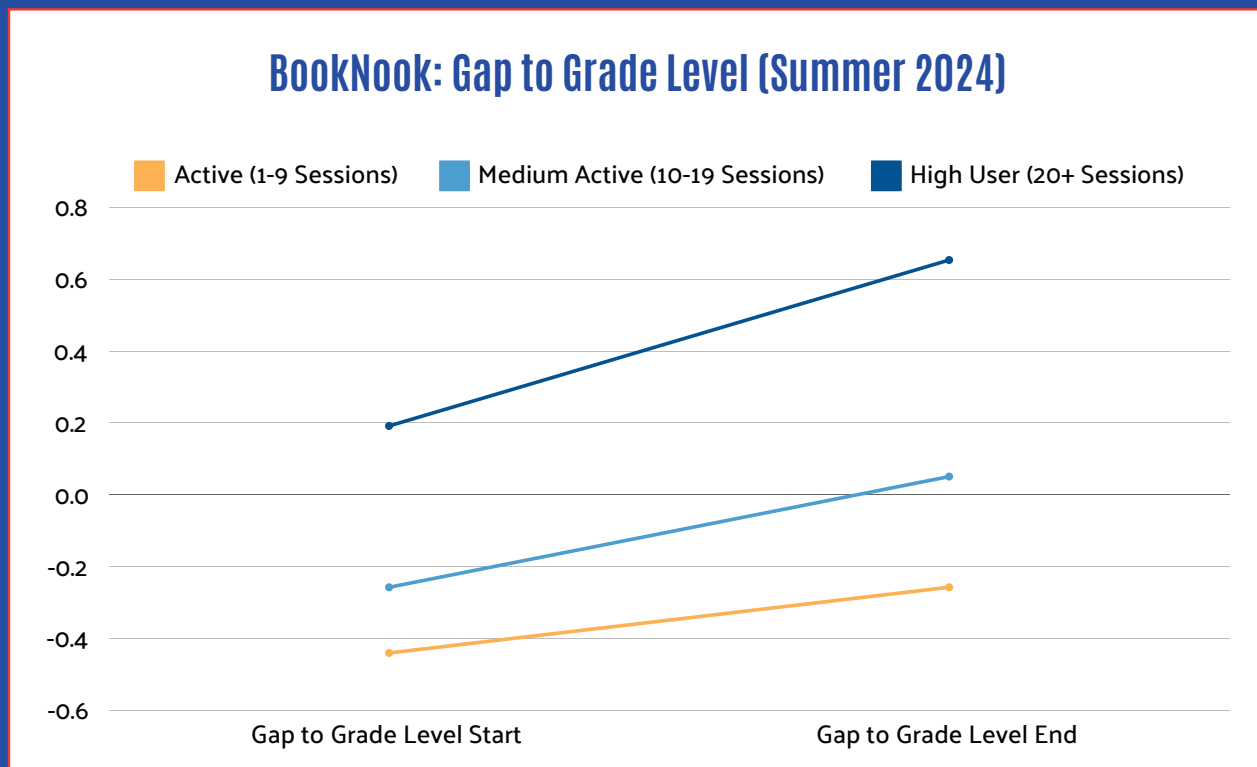
- Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School*
Appoquinimink School District
Brandywine School District*
Caesar Rodney School District*
Campus Community School
Cape Henlopen School District
Capital School District*
Charter School of New Castle
Christina School District*
Colonial School District*
Delmar School District
East Side Charter School
Edison (Thomas A.) Charter School
First State Montessori Academy
Gateway Charter School*
- Great Oaks Charter School
Indian River School District*
Kuumba Academy Charter School
Lake Forest School District
Las Américas ASPIRA Academy
Laurel School District
Milford School District
Newark Charter School
Odyssey Charter School
Red Clay School District*
Seaford School District
Smyrna School District*
Sussex Academy
Sussex Montessori School
Woodbridge School District



MORE GUIDED SESSIONS LEAD TO GREATER GAINS!

Our **Gap to Grade Level** results show that when students are given more opportunities to participate in guided sessions, they are more likely to reach or even exceed grade level proficiency.

- 85% of students passed at least one literacy standard
- 28% of students advanced at least one reading level



We must leverage summer to close the literacy gap and build stronger readers because there's too much at risk for their success if we don't.



We are a united coalition of partners dedicated to making summer count for children, parents, and school districts. By closing literacy gaps and nurturing a love for reading and learning, we are not just providing a benefit—we are meeting a critical need. This collaboration isn't optional; it's essential for the academic and personal growth of our youth.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS DOING THE WORK TO DRIVE IMPACT



OTHER PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR INVESTORS

AAA Club Alliance	Delaware Department of Education	Longwood Foundation
Arthur Hall Insurance	Delaware River Bay Authority	M & T Bank
Capital School District	Delmarva Power	Nuclear Electric
Chemours	Delta Dental	New Castle County
Chesapeake Utilities	DuPont	Philadelphia Insurance
Christina School District	Edgewell	PNC Bank
Comenity Bank	FMC	Solenis
Corteva Agriscience		WSFS Bank

Join the Movement

Contact Michelle Taylor at mtaylor@uwde.org

Visit: uwde.org/GDRSummer

