

SPOTLIGHT

Summer Staff Love Summer Blast

Since 2012, Summer Blast has grown from an internal Boys and Girls Clubs training to now serving about 170 front-line program staff from dozens of organizations in Pierce, Kitsap, and King counties.

As it has grown, the training has diversified: Last year’s participants praised in-depth sessions on cultural competence and restorative justice, as well as opportunities to learn fun new games to engage youth. The committee planning this June’s event also includes representatives from Metro Parks, Broadway Center, YMCA, School’s Out Washington, and Graduate Tacoma.

“After Summer Blast, staff members go into their summer programs with a lot more confidence,” explains Boys and Girls Club Director of Program Services Kory Eggenberger. “Choosing from a wide array of trainings, staff are able to pick what skills they can put in play right away.

The benefit for kids is that all the adults they encounter are speaking the same language. “Since we’re all serving the same kids, they see that consistency and respond to it,” says Eggenberger. “And they’re just having more fun because the staff is better prepared!”



COMMUNITY INDICATORS

OUT OF SCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING

KEY FINDINGS

Building Data to Inform Practice

Though we are still making improvements to collection and reporting capacity, an increasing number of our out-of-school and summer learning partners are collecting student-level data. That allows us to deepen our understanding of program participation, but there is more work to do. The data on this page reflects only a portion of Tacoma program providers – those who are collecting and sharing their data with us. This is the first year we have been able to use student-level data to disaggregate according to measures other than race and poverty; we can now begin looking at characteristics of summer learning such as duration, quality, and relation to in-school academic performance.

The student-level data not only allows us to identify the students we are reaching with summer opportunities, but more importantly, the students we are not reaching. The data has provided a clear roadmap to the needs of South End and Eastside students who have fewer accessible opportunities and are less likely to be enrolled in any summer programs at all. The result: Partners have targeted and refined their efforts in those geographical areas and have collaborated to provide a guide to all summer programming at SummerLearningTacoma-Pierce.org. Plans are afoot to expand the website to include out-of-school programming throughout the year.

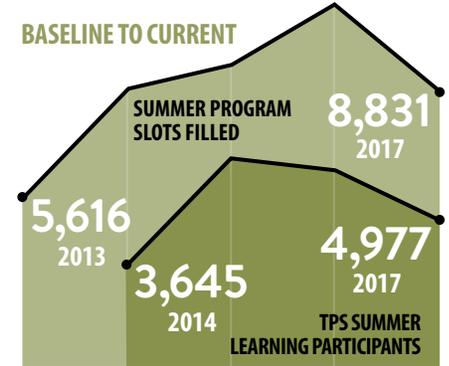
Data-Driven Takeaways

- More than 300 programs from upwards of 32 out-of-school and summer learning providers can be found at SummerLearningTacoma-Pierce.org.
- Students of Color had, on average, 2.5 more days, and low-income students received an additional 10 days more of summer programming compared to their White and higher-income peers.
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of students served last summer were K-5th grade, with middle and high school students representing just 30% – potentially a needed area of expansion.
- Students living in poverty represent 56% of TPS student program participants.
- On average, TPS program participants were enrolled in 1.5 summer programs for a collective average of 16 days of their summer.

Data Source: Tacoma Summer Learning Providers via TPS

DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the number of students participating in out-of-school and summer learning opportunities. Increase the quality of community programs and strengthen academic content.

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY SUMMER LEARNING SITES 2017

2018 Household Income (median)

- 0 to 39,000
- 39,000 to 50,300
- 50,300 to 64,500
- 64,500 to 86,200
- 86,200 to 501,000

of Programs

- 1
- 20
- 40
- 50
- 60



PROGRAMS BEYOND TACOMA

This map shows the spread of partner summer programs listed on SummerLearningTacoma-Pierce.org throughout Pierce County.