

Submitter: Gary Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2007

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding for summer learning programs across our state. Every year, countless students experience the “summer slide,” a phenomenon where they lose valuable academic skills and knowledge over the summer months. This setback disproportionately affects low-income students, who often lack access to enriching activities and resources during the summer break. By investing in summer learning programs, we can help mitigate this learning loss and provide all students, regardless of their background, with the opportunity to continue their academic growth even when school is not in session.

Additionally, summer learning programs are not vital for providing critical social-emotional support to students. For many, these programs serve as safe, structured environments where they can receive mentorship, engage with peers, and develop important life skills. They offer an opportunity for students to discover new interests and talents, whether through STEM activities, arts education, or outdoor recreation, all of which contribute to a well-rounded education. These experiences foster a sense of community and belonging, which is essential for the emotional well-being of our youth, especially in times of uncertainty and stress.

Investing in summer learning programs is an investment in the future of Oregon’s students and in the strength of our state as a whole. The evidence is clear: students who engage in summer learning programs are more likely to return to school in the fall with higher academic achievement, greater confidence, and an enhanced ability to succeed. By providing targeted funding for these programs, we can bridge the achievement gap, help all students reach their full potential, and ensure that Oregon’s children are equipped to face the challenges of the future. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

I hope you will join me in supporting summer learning efforts in Oregon!