



2025
**IMPACT
REPORT**



A P R O V E N P L A N F O R D E L A W A R E ' S K I D S

The Literacy Challenge in Delaware

The numbers tell a hard truth.

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is one of the strongest predictors of a child's future. Alarming, only 26% of Delaware students entering fourth grade are reading at or above grade level. Students who are not proficient by this point are four times more likely to drop out of school and 13 times more likely if they are living in poverty. Summer plays a critical role in these numbers. Without access to summer learning, students lose an average of two months of school-year reading gains, a phenomenon known as the "summer slide." These losses disproportionately affect low-income students and, by ninth grade, can account for up to two-thirds of the achievement gap between them and their peers.

75% of children who are behind in reading by third grade will never catch up.



Community-Based Organizations Answered the Call Across County and District Lines.

Community-based organizations statewide answered the call and came together to create *Get Delaware Reading: Summer* (GDR Summer), a collective impact approach that leverages summer as a critical part of the education continuum rather than a break from it. Together, partners aligned around a single, evidence-based model to ensure that students receive the same high-quality literacy support regardless of zip code, district, or county.

In Summer 2025, GDR Summer reached more than 2,500 students from 16 school districts and 20 charter schools at 50 sites across all three counties, delivering consistent, high-dosage tutoring proven to prevent learning loss and accelerate growth. Seventeen partners implemented this shared strategy in trusted camps and school settings, reducing barriers such as transportation and cost. **Independent evaluation has shown that GDR Summer has stopped the summer slide every year since its launch, demonstrating a true system-level shift in how Delaware supports literacy beyond the school year.**

Get Delaware Reading: Summer shows what is possible when community organizations, schools, and public partners align around a shared strategy and a shared commitment to our kids. The data confirm that by continuing to work together when school is out, we can respond to Delaware’s literacy crisis with solutions that create lasting, system-level impact.

John Wellons, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware

ONE STATEWIDE “COLLECTIVE IMPACT” MODEL



COMMON AGENDA

Stop Summer Learning Loss



SHARED MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

High-Dosage Literacy Tutoring
Consistent Model, Measures, and Metrics Statewide



MUTUALLY REINFORCING ACTIVITIES

Applied Practice and Learning
Summer Literacy Interns
High-Quality Experiences



CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION

Regular Collective Impact Meetings
Site Visits
Shared Learnings

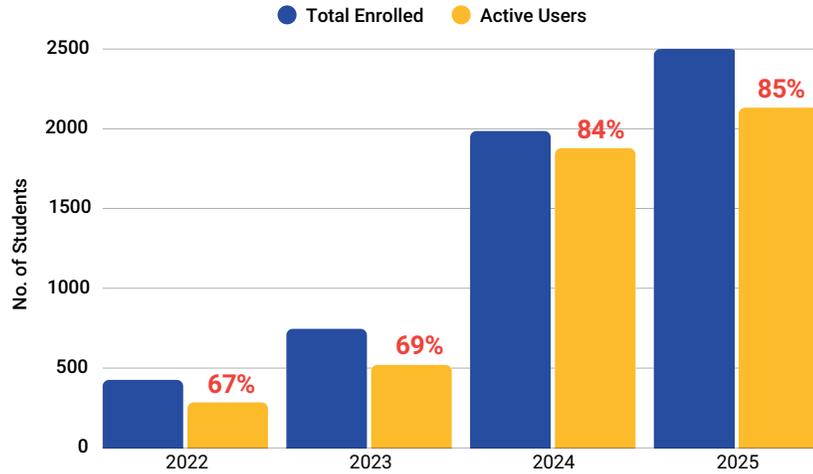


BACKBONE

Outcomes & Impact
Reporting & Compliance
Mobilize Fundraising



LEVERAGING SUMMER TO CLOSE THE GAP

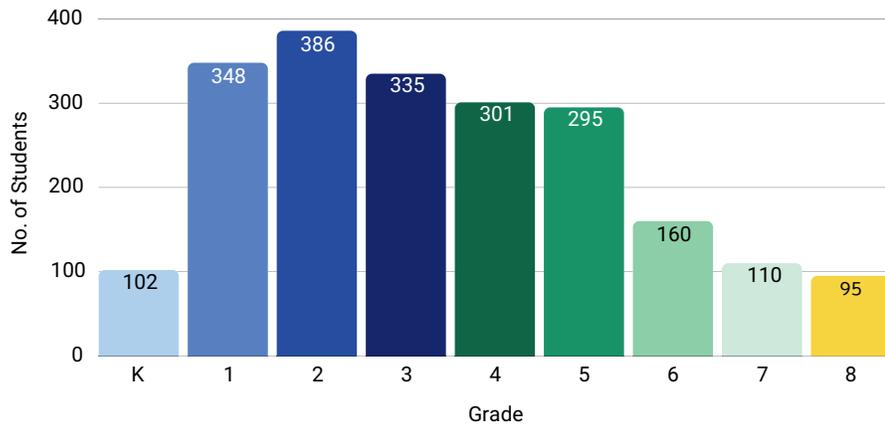


Strong participation and consistent engagement across summers create the conditions for growth. In 2025, students demonstrated nearly a full grade-level gain in average reading progress, more than 4x the improvements last year.

*Active Users = students completing the minimum threshold of tutoring sessions for outcomes analysis

2025 PARTICIPATION

Statewide No. of Students by Grade Level



Turning Summer into a Literacy Engine

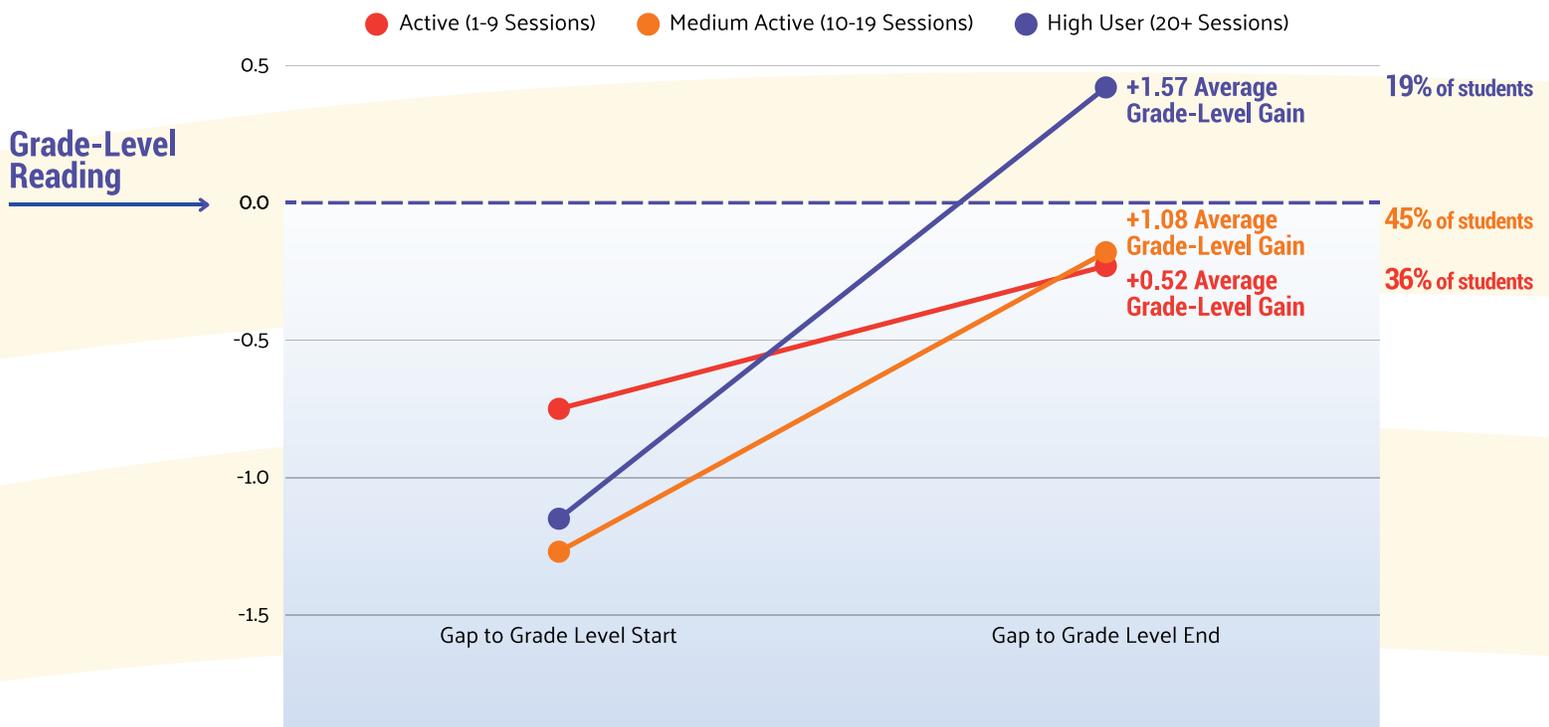
A different kind of summer learning.

Get Delaware Reading: Summer brings research-based reading instruction into trusted community spaces like summer camps, where children feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. Using the BookNook curriculum and a shared measurement system, the program personalizes instruction, tracks progress consistently, and ensures quality across sites statewide. Students who participate more frequently show greater reading gains, reinforced through enriching experiences such as field trips, career exploration, and real-world literacy connections. By engaging families and aligning schools and community partners, the initiative creates a seamless bridge between the in school and out of school to keep students learning and on track.

Get Delaware Reading: Summer

The chart below demonstrates a simple but powerful truth: in 2025, *Get Delaware Reading: Summer* helped students move closer to, or even exceed grade-level reading expectations.

By preventing summer learning loss year after year, GDR Summer is helping to write a different story for Delaware's kids. When students do not lose ground while school is out, they return to the classroom ready to build, rather than needing to catch up. For many children, especially those already behind, simply holding steady through the summer can be the difference between falling further off track and staying on a path toward long-term success.



What the Data Show

More engagement leads to stronger gains.

The “Gap to Grade Level” chart makes the relationship unmistakable. Students who participated in **more guided BookNook sessions** showed significantly stronger reading growth.

Across the program:

- On average, students entered GDR Summer reading below grade level.
- By the end of the program, they had closed the gap by nearly a full grade level, with an average gain of 0.86 of a grade level.
- The more sessions students attended, the greater their progress.

Moving Forward Together

Help us leverage summer to change the story.

Get *Delaware Reading: Summer* proves that summer learning loss is not inevitable. With the right partners, the right strategies, and a shared commitment, summer can become a season of growth. Delaware has the opportunity to lead the nation by showing what is possible when we leverage the months outside the classroom to keep students on track and moving forward. Join us in changing the story. Be a voice for summer learning. Volunteer your time. Invest in proven solutions. Every dollar, hour, and act of advocacy strengthens our children's futures and contributes to a healthier, more competitive state. This is about our kids, and it is also about building the long-term educational and economic success of Delaware.



*Across county and district lines,
we are working together with a
shared strategy and one agenda:
stopping the summer slide.*

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Appoquinimink School District
Brandywine School District*
Caesar Rodney School District*
Cape Henlopen School District*
Capital School District*
Christina School District*
Colonial School District*
Indian River School District*
Lake Forest School District
Laurel School District
Milford School District
NCC Vocational-Technical School District
Red Clay Consolidated School District*
Seaford School District*
Smyrna School District
Woodbridge School District

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
Academy Of Dover Charter School
Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence
Campus Community Charter School
Charter School of New Castle*
Delaware Military Academy
Early College School at Delaware State University
Eastside Charter School
Edison (Thomas A.) Charter School
First State Montessori Academy
Freire Charter School
Gateway Charter School
Kuumba Academy Charter School*
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy*
MOT Charter School
Newark Charter School
Odyssey Charter School
Positive Outcomes Charter School
Providence Creek Academy
Sussex Montessori School
Thomas Edison Charter School

* Indicates schools and districts with executed secure data-sharing agreements, enabling year-over-year tracking of student progress.

“
As a district, we are excited to work alongside
community partners in a unified effort that helps
our students stay on track and moving forward
when school is out.
”

*Dr. Dorrell Green, Superintendent,
Red Clay Consolidated School District*

**LEARN
HOW YOU
CAN HELP.**



uwde.org/GDRsummer



“
Moving our students forward moves our entire
state forward. It is work we can all unite
around because we share the same belief that
every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.
”

Bernice Edwards, Executive Director, First State Community Action Agency

We are a united coalition of partners dedicated to making summer count. *Get Delaware Reading: Summer* is building the foundation for a strong, skilled, and engaged generation, and in doing so, strengthening the future workforce and civic life of our state. By stopping the summer slide, we are investing in children, families, and the future of our communities.

Key Partners Doing the Work to Drive Impact



THANK YOU TO OUR INVESTORS

AAA Club Alliance

Aloysius Butler & Clark

Always Best Care

Arthur Hall Insurance

Bloom Energy

Chemours

Chesapeake Utilities

Christina School District

ChristianaCare

Comenity Bank

Corteva Agriscience

Delmarva Power

Delaware River and Bay Authority

Delta Dental

DuPont

Edgewell

FMC

Gilliam Foundation

JPMorgan Chase

Longwood Foundation

M&T Charitable Foundation

Nemours Children's Health

New Castle County Council

Nuclear Electric

Philadelphia Insurance

PNC Foundation

Seeds of Greatness Ministries

Solenis

Sussex County Health Coalition

Verizon

Wilmington Learning Collaborative

WSFS Bank



Join the Movement

Contact Michelle Taylor at mtaylor@uwde.org

Visit: uwde.org/GDRSummer