Summer For All: A Third Semester of Work & Learning

SUMMER IS THE MOST UNEQUAL TIME IN AMERICA

Through no fault of their own, low-income children fare worse than wealthier peers in education, employment, health, and safety. Despite leading in average school performance, Massachusetts has substantial gaps in achievement, wealth, and life outcomes based on race and zip code:

- 2017 median net worth in Boston:
  - $247,500 for whites
  - $8 for blacks

The notion that school alone is the great equalizer is outdated. Even with great schools, **unequal access to summer opportunities** causes low-income students to fall behind in education, employment, health, and safety outcomes.

- **CHILDREN SPEND JUST 20% OF THEIR WAKING HOURS IN SCHOOL**

The other 80% is where disadvantage is exacerbated. Summer inequities compound over time and reveal themselves in achievement gaps and closing windows of opportunity after high school.

- **ONLY 1/3 OF YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER LEARNING OR SUMMER JOBS**

**PROJECT SOLUTION**

Boston Beyond and the Boston Private Industry Council will expand [evidence-based summer learning and employment](http://example.com) models in five high poverty cities to address these inequities in life outcomes.

We will demonstrate how major cities can ensure all young people, regardless of family income or zip code, have transformational summer learning and employment that will help them escape poverty’s long shadow.

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**America Needs a New Social Contract**

This project has the potential to...

- Create a new paradigm for learning such that all students have opportunities to build skills and social capital through experiential summer learning and employment
- Inspire cities across the country to adopt Boston’s evidence-based strategy
- Equip youth with the skills to navigate the next school year, employment opportunities, and the rest of their lives
- Directly benefit 200,000 low-income youth across 5 cities, with the potential to impact generations of learners

### THE EVIDENCE:

Boston's summer learning and employment models are well-researched and supported by a strong evidence base:

- The largest study to date on summer learning, commissioned by the Wallace Foundation and evaluated by RAND, found that high attenders of Boston Beyond’s model gained a statistically significant advantage over a control group in math, English language arts, and key social-emotional skills.
- An evaluation of Boston’s summer jobs programs by Dr. Alicia Sasser Modestino of Northeastern University found that participation in summer jobs leads to improvement in social and academic behavior, as well as reductions in criminal justice system involvement.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Investments of $1-$10 million would provide valuable resources to expand these models in high poverty cities. Funding opportunities include:

- **$1M** would expand access to summer learning and employment for low-income young people in Boston, and provide them opportunities to earn skills credentials used on college and job applications
- **$5M** would spread Boston's summer learning and employment model to one other city, establishing key system functions such as coordination, measurement, and professional development
- **$10M** would spread Boston's model to one other city and form a statewide council and a cross-city working group to learn from each city's experiences

### WHY US?

Boston Beyond and the Boston Private Industry Council have developed citywide, evidence-based models that span the developmental spectrum from K-12. Collaborating since 2010, together we create a comprehensive, citywide system of learning that can be replicated in other cities.