

# VIRTUAL SUMMER LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION



Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning

Maryland



# RIGHT NOW, SUMMER LEARNING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

Over the past two months, school districts have faced unprecedented challenges that have interrupted learning; caused stress for children, parents, and teachers; and created social isolation. The digital divide is straining preexisting opportunity gaps.

A recent NWEA report, [\*The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement\*](#), projects that, due to the COVID-19 crisis, students may return to school in the fall with roughly 70% of the learning gains in reading relative to a typical school year, less than 50% of the learning gains in math, and, in some grades, nearly a full year behind what we would observe in normal conditions.

Therefore, this coming summer will be more important than ever in helping kids recover from the current crisis and preventing the widening of the existing opportunity gaps we typically see over the summer months.

Figure 1. Mathematics forecast

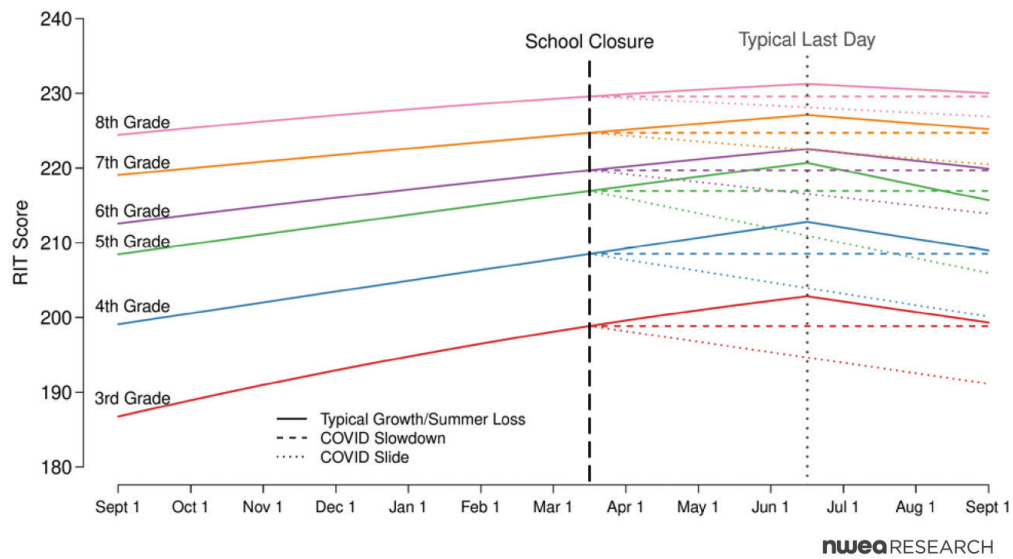
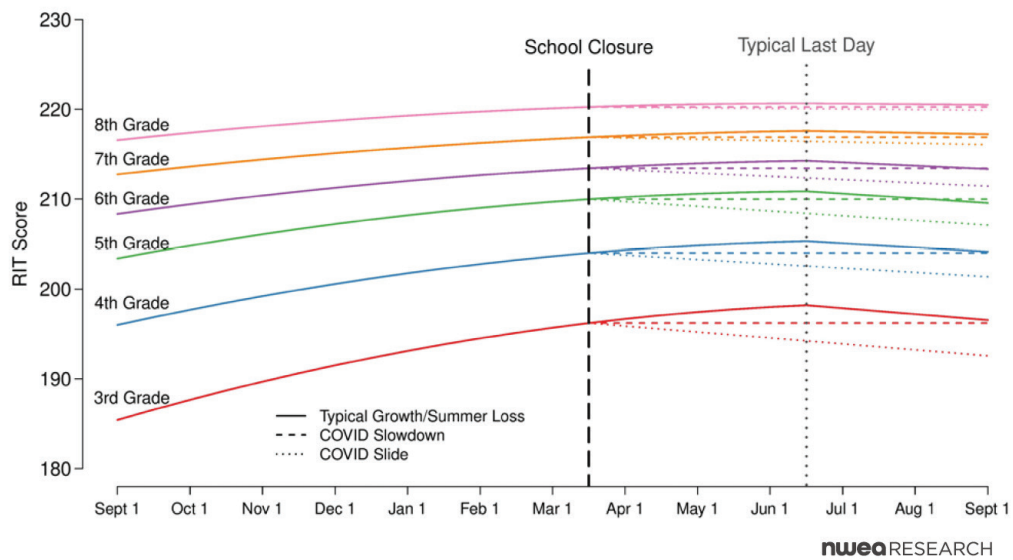


Figure 2. Reading forecast



*The digital divide is straining preexisting opportunity gaps.*



Now that school districts know their schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year and are finding the ability to operate any kind of in-person summer programs less viable, many school systems are developing contingency plans and solutions right now.

Young Audiences has the content and expertise to help you successfully deliver a program that helps students stay connected, prevents students from falling further behind academically, and nurtures their personal and creative development. And we do it while infusing hands-on creativity into the learning process, engaging students with both teachers and professional artists on a daily basis.

Baltimore City Public Schools, where we have been operating their elementary grade summer learning programs for five years, reported that our program saw higher levels of attendance over other district-run programs and, at 81% of other programs' costs, was the most cost-effective. External evaluations showed we mitigated summer learning loss in literacy and math. **Ninety-five percent of parents recommend our program.**



***We know you need to act quickly  
to put together a high-quality,  
outcomes-based virtual summer  
program in less than 8 weeks.***

## **HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP**

**Prevent further summer learning loss  
in literacy and math while keeping kids  
connected and creative this summer.**

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We have the capability and capacity to support Maryland school districts by providing the curriculum and resources to build a high-quality, outcomes-oriented five-week virtual summer learning program for up to 2,000 students, rising Kindergarteners through 6th grade.

We are developing digital content—including take-home arts kits, math, reading and arts video lessons, and project-based learning activities—which can be available to your school district. Along with a handbook and curriculum that you can use to structure a virtual program and train your staff in implementing the curriculum, we can also provide an instructional coach and technical assistance for those who want help with implementation.

# OUR SOLUTIONS FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION:

DIGITAL CONTENT, ARTS KITS,  
HANDBOOKS, TRAINING,  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## digital content

Video packages are available for purchase in both the Comprehensive & Individual Plans

### ELA + MATH VIDEO LESSONS

A series of recorded, asynchronous ELA and Math, 30-minute lessons by grade band (PreK-K; 1st-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade) that are co-taught by a certified teacher and professional artist, which address Common Core State Standards. This is branded: Arts & Learning Kids. You can check out [yamd.org/kids](http://yamd.org/kids) to see what it looks like for both literacy and math lessons for each grade band.

**Highly engaging and interactive**  
arts-integrated lessons that focus on making human connections.

**Professionally produced, broadcast-quality**  
videos that are ready to air on your public access channel—ideal for families without consistent access to devices/internet.

**Professionally closed-captioned**  
by Rev, a YouTube *Preferred Vendor*

**Spanish language translations**

**Includes Companion Teacher Guides**  
with activities/lesson extensions and standards and objectives.

**Grounded in the CASEL framework**  
Each ELA + Math lesson is SEL-focused, taking the time to ask and listen to how kids are feeling.

**Pre-branded with your logo**  
(if desired) and ready to upload to your school district website or learning portal.

## ARTS + STEM EXPLORATIONS

A comprehensive series of recorded performing, visual, media, literary arts, and STEM-focused lessons that are 15 minutes in length and are packaged as sequential lessons organized for all PreK-5 grade levels by grade band.

### **Taught by professional artists**

with deep expertise in their respective art forms.

### **Professionally closed-captioned**

by Rev, a YouTube *Preferred Vendor*.

### **Spanish language translations**

### **Includes supply list**

Each lesson comes with a supply list for the district with suggested suppliers.

### **Grounded in the CASEL framework**

Each Arts + STEM lesson is SEL-focused, designed to foster self and social awareness.

### **Pre-branded with your logo**

(if desired) and ready to upload to your school district website or learning portal.





# arts kits

Available for purchase in both the Comprehensive & Individual Plans

## SUMMER SNACKS / ARTS KITS

### (5 KITS: ONE PER WEEK OVER 5 WEEKS)

Arts & Learning Snacks are complete arts activity kits that children can work on independently or with their family—that do not require internet access—and that support their academic, creative, and social and emotional development.

#### **Ready for meal site distribution**

Snacks are designed to be distributed at meal sites in your community.

#### **Pre-assembled and pre-packaged**

following Young Audiences stated COVID-19 policies and practices.

#### **Includes a Student/Teacher Guide**

Each Snack comes with an additional guide that includes bonus activities and challenges for both students/families and educators.

#### **Spanish language translations**

To support our many ELL families, printed instructions are provided in both English and Spanish.

#### **Addresses MSDE Fine Arts Standards**

Each Snack pack addresses MSDE fine arts processes and standards in a variety of art forms.

#### **Grounded in the CASEL framework**

Each Arts + STEM lesson is SEL-focused, designed to foster self and social awareness.

#### **Connected with academic content**

Snack packs provide students, families, and educators with rich arts experiences that connect with academic content.





# handbooks

Available for purchase in both the  
Comprehensive & Individual Plans

## SEL AND ARTS PROJECT-BASED TEACHING HANDBOOK

Young Audiences will provide a handbook with daily prompts and extensions for staff to use during their synchronous small group sessions.

### **Summer Squads: A creative approach to virtual Social & Emotional Learning**

*Squad Time:* templates for morning check-ins with hand-selected, grade-level specific resources for staff to choose from as needed each day, based on the individual needs of students. *Squad Challenge:* Resources for implementing 5-week-long arts- and STEM-based projects, developed by some of the most creative educators and artists in the state. Includes five different challenge projects, each with a different focus area (music, visual art, engineering, etc).

**Connects to academic lesson themes** with discussion prompts, suggested activities, and extensions.

**Provides ideas for reflection, sharing, and celebration** with discussion prompts for what students are creating in their arts classes so students feel seen, heard, and celebrated.

# training

Available for purchase in the  
Comprehensive Plan ONLY

## TRAIN THE TRAINER

Our train the trainer solution will help you recruit and train your summer staff to effectively implement synchronous learning.

# assistance

Available for purchase in the  
Comprehensive Plan ONLY

## COACHING + TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A Young Audiences instructional coach can be assigned for daily technical assistance and to support your team.

# ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES

## Our programs are grounded in our values.

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- **Equity:** Our lessons are designed to empower students. We honor students' experiences and communities while providing opportunities for students to develop powerful voices and strong leadership.
- **Community:** Our programming encourages students to build strong relationships with both adults and their peers. Students are expected to learn from and with each other, while teachers and teaching artists ensure that students are known, loved, celebrated, and valued.

## We are a trusted leader in the Summer Learning field.

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- Our ability to mitigate summer learning loss in literacy and math has been featured nationally and locally through NPR, *The Hechinger Report*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *The Capital Gazette*.
- We have been featured speakers and presenters at the National Association of Elementary School Principals conference, SEDEA, National Arts Education Partnership, and, most recently, through the National Summer Learning Association webinar for the field.
- Young Audiences is serving as the elementary grades operator and partner for Baltimore City Schools for its seventh year.

## Our summer program gets results.

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National Evaluation Firm WolfBrown's latest study on our 2019 summer learning program found:

- Students who have participated in the summer program for two years showed no summer learning loss in math and, in fact, experienced gains when returning to school in the fall. These students grew in their iREADY scores by nearly 3 percentile ranks.
- On average, students who took the Eureka math assessment, conducted at the beginning and end of the program, showed statistically significant growth (with a calculated effect size **nearly three times** the threshold of practical importance as defined by the US Department of Education) and increased their scores by nearly 20%.
- On average, students (K-2) who took DIBELS assessments, conducted at the beginning and end of the program, improved their score on 5 of 6 domains tested and showed statistically significant growth on four measures.
- Students (Grades 3-5) entering the program two levels below grade level saw no summer learning loss in reading as measured by iREADY, and, in fact, grew by two percentile ranks when returning to school in the fall.
- On average, students (Grade 3-5) saw statistically significant growth (a 20% increase in their scores) in writing skills from the beginning to the end of the program.
- Normed observers scored our program particularly high in classroom climate, teacher sensitivity, ability to develop math skills in students, co-teaching, and differentiated literacy instruction.



## We know best practices in Virtual Learning.

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Young Audiences' team has reviewed the research about virtual learning and its pitfalls, particularly for kids living in poverty. Here is what we know about how virtual summer programs should be designed:

- Building relationships and making sure kids feel connected to others should be the **most** important outcome.
- The delivery of academic content **must** be captivating in order for kids to tune in.
- Learning must provide kids the opportunity for choice and play, particularly in the summer months.
- Employing creative, competitive challenges will create high levels of engagement. It's also a "twofer," as it develops both cognitive and noncognitive skills.
- Families and kids will be more likely to sign up for an academic summer program if the arts are offered as a "hook." The arts are particularly important to a child's wellness at this time, because of their ability to help people feel connected, understand who they are, and express how they are feeling.
- For mental wellness to be nurtured this summer—after months of large doses of screen time and being inside—virtual programs need to create opportunities for physical exercise and play.

***Our virtual Summer Learning Program meets these expectations with energy, compassion, and enthusiasm.***







Young  
Audiences  
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Maryland

2600 N. Howard St.  
Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21218

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CONTACT

**ERYN LESSARD**

[eryn@yamd.org](mailto:eryn@yamd.org)