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Nation's Libraries and Children's Museums Unite to Celebrate National Summer Learning Day on July 12

Celebration Kicks off by Ringing the Closing Bell at the NYSE and Includes National Read Aloud of Award-Winning Book, Trombone Shorty.

Baltimore, MD, June 18, 2018 – Goodbye homework, pop quizzes and science projects! Hellooo summer – a time when millions of students kick back, chill out and ‘check out.’ The summer months of June, July and August, however, present a classic case of the “summer slide,” when most kids can lose academic skills they worked hard to learn during the school year.

There's nothing fun about this kind of slide. It's a well-documented phenomenon where students can lose up to three months of progress in reading and math, and these losses add up. By fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave low-income students almost three years academically behind their higher-income peers. Recent research published by the RAND Corporation, however, point to new findings from a Wallace Foundation study, the largest-ever study of summer learning, which showed that students with high attendance in free, five to six-week, voluntary summer learning programs experienced educationally meaningful benefits in math and reading.

Summer is also an expensive and challenging time for families who don't have access to affordable summer program or child care options. On average, families who paid for their child's summer learning program spent \$288 per week – that's more than \$2,000 for eight weeks of summer programs. To that end, NSLA is a partner with the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE), an effort of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to ensure that school-age children in families of low income have increased access to high-quality out-of-school learning experiences that contribute to their overall development and academic achievement.

With all of these factors at play, July 12th has been designated as **National Summer Learning Day** – an advocacy day, led by the [National Summer Learning Association](http://www.nsla.org) (NSLA), aimed at elevating the importance of keeping all kids learning, safe and healthy every summer as well as promoting affordable, quality summer enrichment options for

families. National Summer Learning Day celebrations kick off early. On July 9, NSLA joins summer learning advocates and leaders in New York City, for the ringing of the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). That'll be followed by a week's-worth of celebrations across the country in libraries and children's museums – perfect venues for low or no-cost summer learning and fun.

“Libraries are uniquely positioned to support young people of all ages and all socio-economic backgrounds in America. From our traditional and effective summer reading and learning programs, to our work in expanding STEM programming and creativity, to new forays as free summer lunch providers, libraries are critical to summer learning and we know how to make it fun,” says Nina Lindsay, President of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).

As part of National Summer Learning Day, thousands of children will take part in a national read-aloud of the award-winning book, *Trombone Shorty*, the true story of a boy in New Orleans who follows his passion to become a professional musician. The book's acclaimed illustrator and 2016 Caldecott Honor recipient, Bryan Collier will serve as this year's national Summer Learning Ambassador and flagship library systems in Chicago, King County (WA), Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Nashville, New Orleans, New York will serve as flagship Summer Learning Day sites for the National Read-Aloud. Visit summerlearning.org/events to find Summer Learning Day events or programs throughout the country.

In addition to libraries, museums are valuable community resources for families. Museums for All, an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), offers free or reduced admission (up to \$3) at more than 275 museums in 42 states for eligible SNAP participants. Visitors can attend participating museums by presenting their state-issued SNAP EBT card with a valid photo ID, with up to four individuals per EBT card. You can find more information [here](#).

“Children's museums see themselves as a critical part of the learning landscape, particularly during the un-programmed months of summer. They're more than fun and entertainment as their summer programming often focuses on supporting development of core academic skills and strengthening social, emotional skills critical to student success in the classroom,” says Laura Huerta Migus, Executive Director of ACM. “ACM is proud to partner with NSLA in celebration of National Summer Learning Day.”

“We invest a great deal of resources in students throughout the school year, but much of that investment stops in the summer months. If we think of investing in our kids' growth and achievement as return on investment it doesn't make sense to walk away from that over the summer months,” says Boulay. “For the last 25 years, NSLA has advocated for access to quality summer programs and services for our country's most vulnerable students because we know that what our children do during their summers has a long-term and significant impact on their academic achievement and life chances.”

National Summer Learning Day is supported in part by the following corporate, media and program partners: Carson-Dellosa Publishing Group, Clear Channel Outdoor, iHeartRadio, Litton Entertainment, EverFi, Scholastic Inc., Lands' End, Learning Heroes, Association for Library Service to Children, the Association of Children's Museums, the Afterschool Alliance, National League of Cities and the National Center for Afterschool and Summer Enrichment.

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About National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. NSLA recognizes and disseminates what works in summer learning, develops and delivers capacity-building offerings and convenes and empowers key actors to embrace summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education. For more information, visit www.summerlearning.org.