



The Pathway to the Promise.™

Office of Student Support
Services



Summer Dreamers Academy Preliminary Evaluation Results and Next Steps

Education Committee
March 8, 2011

This past year the Summer Dreamers Academy (SDA) set several ambitious goals

- ***Engage our middle grades students in a high quality summer learning experience***
- ***Reduce summer learning loss in literacy among our students, especially those below basic and basic on the 4Sight assessment***
- ***Develop a new and unique passion among our students***
- ***Increase Promise Awareness and excitement for students as they approach high school***

There is evidence that we made substantial progress towards these goals in the summer of 2010

- **The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) recently completed a 268 page evaluation on year 1**
- **They have provided metrics about year 1 and have offered feedback on how to improve for coming summers**
- **The preliminary findings cause us to celebrate in many areas and reflect upon growth in others**

Successes -- Engaging a large percentage of our middle grades students in the program

- **2200 of our middle grades students enrolled (~40% of eligible students)**
- **We averaged 1200 a day (a 400% increase over previous summers.)**
- **NSLA determined that we, “Met goals to enroll students most at risk for summer learning loss...”**

Successes - Engagement cont'd

- 25% of campers surveyed stated that without SDA they would have “*done nothing, stayed at home and/or been bored.*”
- NSLA deemed our average daily attendance of 69% as “*moderately strong.*” 70% would have moved us to the “*strong*” category.



Areas for Growth -- Engaging a large percentage of our middle grades students in the program

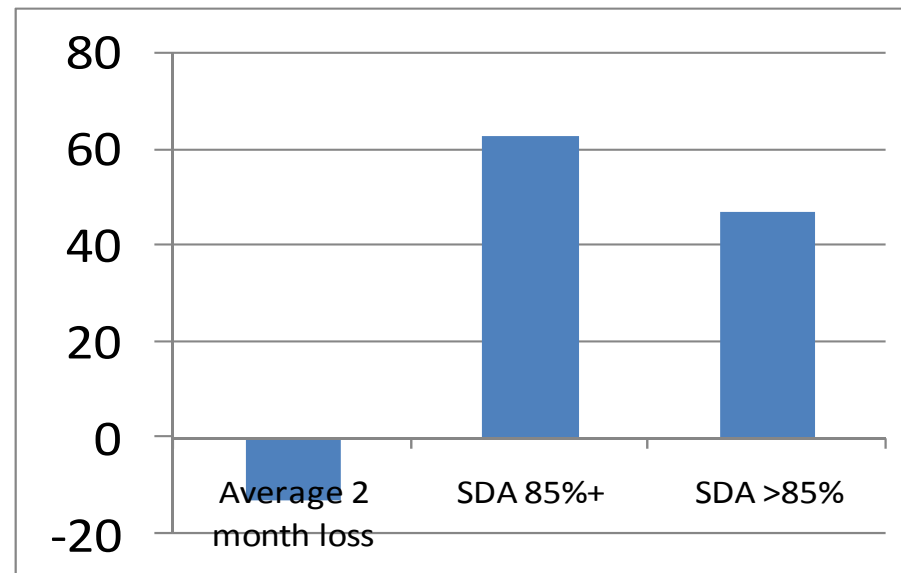
- **Develop ways to lessen drop off and low attendance among students with behavioral challenges during the year**
- **Boost daily attendance to 80-85%**
- **Include K-4 and 8th grade students in the program to ensure a uniform summer learning opportunity across the District**

Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss in literacy for our students

- **According to Scholastic, an average reading gain for a full, 10 month school year is approximately 65 points on the SRI.**
- **National research suggests that kids at risk (below basic, basic and free/reduced lunch) often lose up to 2 months of growth over a summer (~13 points)**

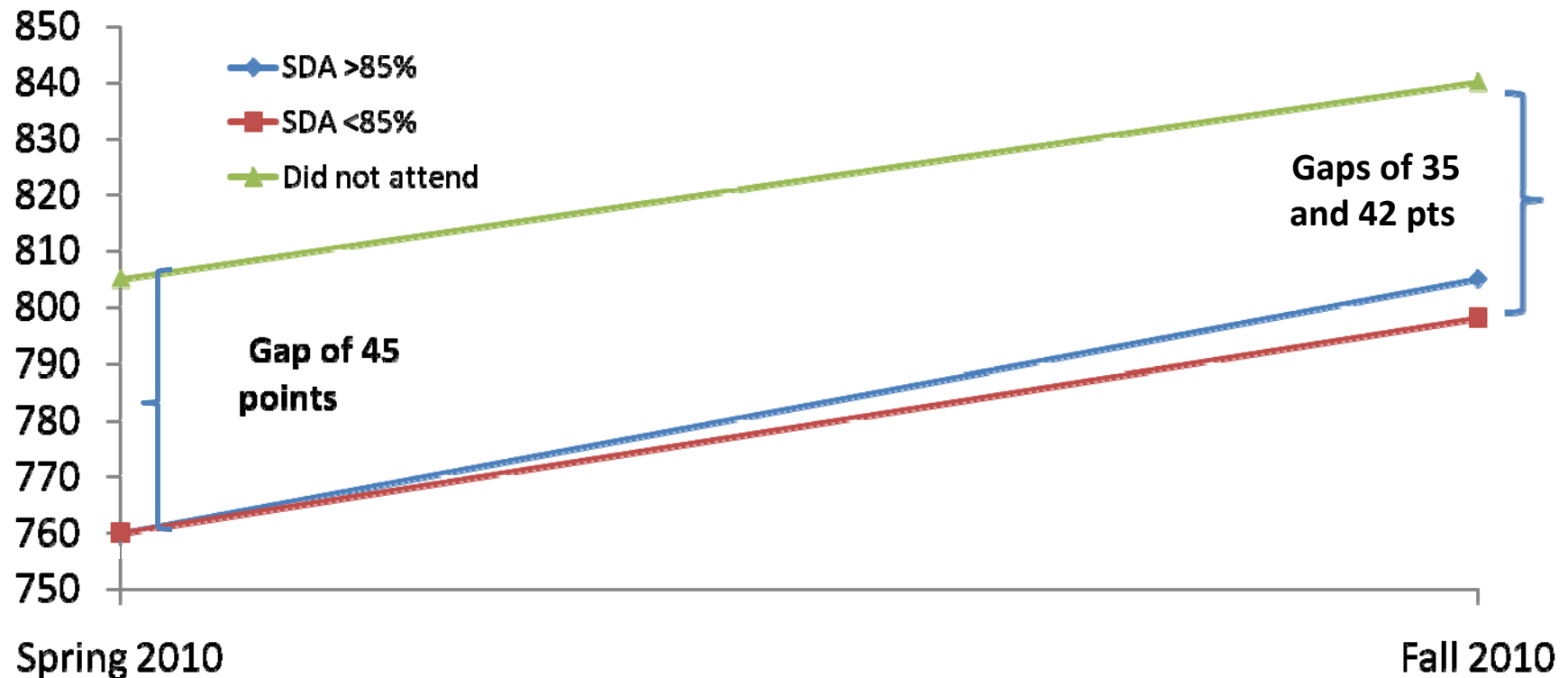
Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss in literacy for our students

- Campers who attended SDA demonstrated strong SRI reading gains over the summer–
- Since those who enrolled were at higher risks for loss, this is *incredibly encouraging*



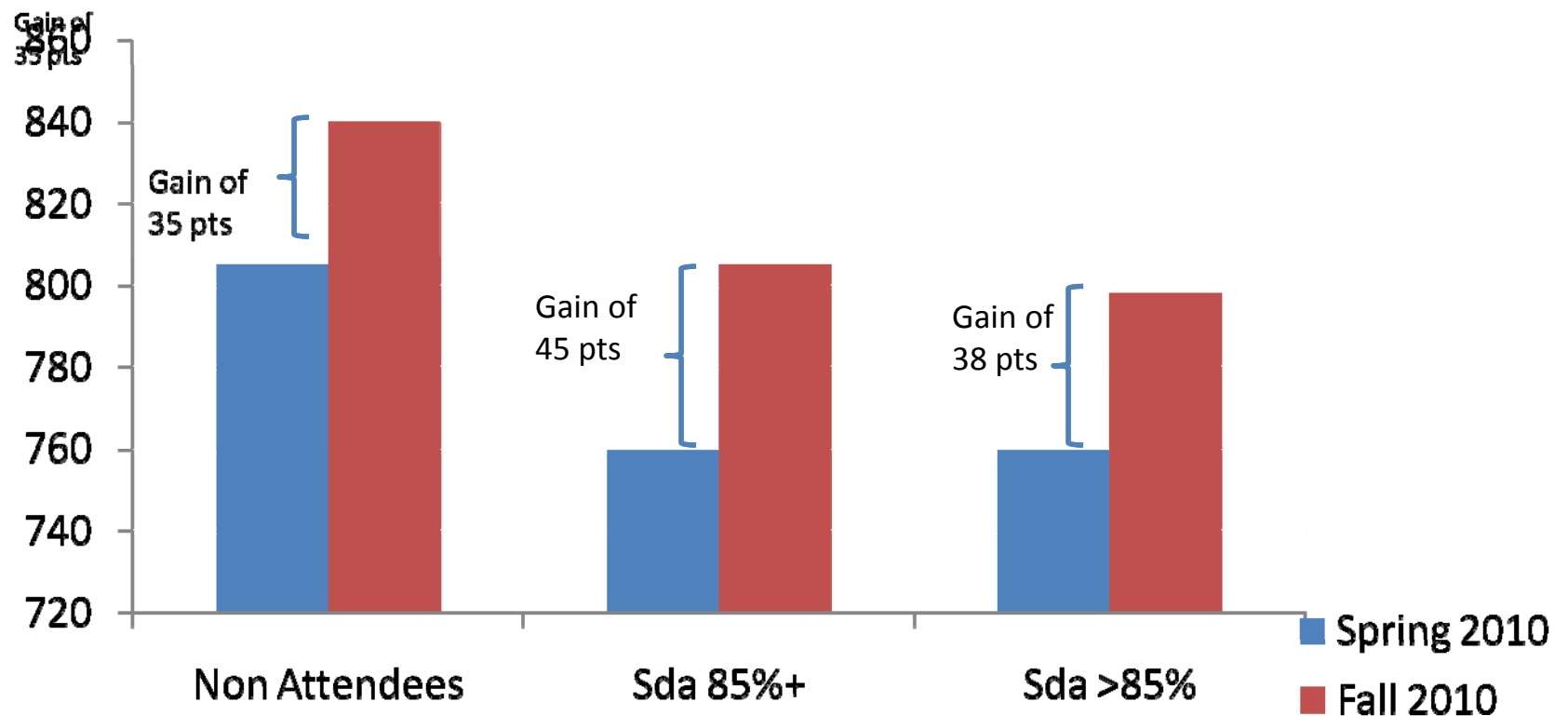
Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss

- The gap is closing for those students who attended SDA, who were by and large at a higher risk for summer learning loss



Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss

- **Summer Dreamers attendees made greater gains than non attendees**



Successes – Reducing summer learning loss cont'd

- **Surveys suggest that Students, parents, and teachers felt that the literacy block improved campers' academic achievement**

"My son/daughter had a bad experience in 4th grade that set the tone with book reports in 5th grade... thinking 'I'm stupid, I'm not good at reading.' But this summer I didn't get that. [He/she] enjoyed the reading and vocabulary. He/she couldn't wait to go school shopping when this ended... He/she is back on track."

"My son/daughter is really into reading. He/she spent 5 hours every day on our camping trip reading. This never happened before."

Successes – Summer learning loss cont'd

- **Surveys indicated:**
 - SDA increased camper confidence and motivated campers to learn for the sake of learning*
 - SDA increased children's confidence and motivation to persevere in the face of academic challenges*
- **Additionally, those campers who reported that they are more confident in their ability to succeed in school and are motivated to succeed earned higher scores on the Fall 2010 SRI**

Areas for Growth -- Reducing summer learning loss in literacy for our students

- **NSLA stated that the curriculum was, “*comprehensive, well-planned, and intentionally designed*” however they also stated that we have to include more hands on, project-based activities to keep campers engaged**

Successes -- Increasing Promise Awareness and excitement for post secondary schooling

- **70.5% of Campers think that SDA helped them gain the skills they need to go to college.**
- **82.4% of Campers said that they know what they need to do to get into college after attending SDA.**



Areas for Growth - Increasing Promise Awareness and excitement for post secondary schooling

- **This summer we are working to schedule at least one college visit for all middle grades students**
- **In addition, we are developing a College and Career Exploration Block for the 8th-9th transition portion of the program and this will serve as a model for providing explicit college admission information to the entire camp**

NSLA has offered us several ways to improve for this summer to increase our effectiveness

- **Focus on reaching out to the campers who attended SDA, but less frequently to see how we can better retain them this summer**
- **Integrate the academic and activity components of camp**
- **Include more differentiation and kinesthetic and/or project-based learning in the curriculum**
- **Provide a greater quantity of more explicit college exploration activities**
- **Include a control group to measure academic gains over 2 years**

NSLA Recommendations cont'd

- **Establish an official policy on removal from camp more consistently among sites**
- **Get additional input from community activity providers on how they can be supported from PPS staff**



Summer: Priorities for 2011

