



Office of Student Support  
Services

*The Pathway to the Promise.™*



# Summer Dreamers Academy Preliminary Evaluation Results and Next Steps

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Education Committee  
March 8, 2011

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

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- ***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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the program to ensure a uniform summer learning opportunity across the District**

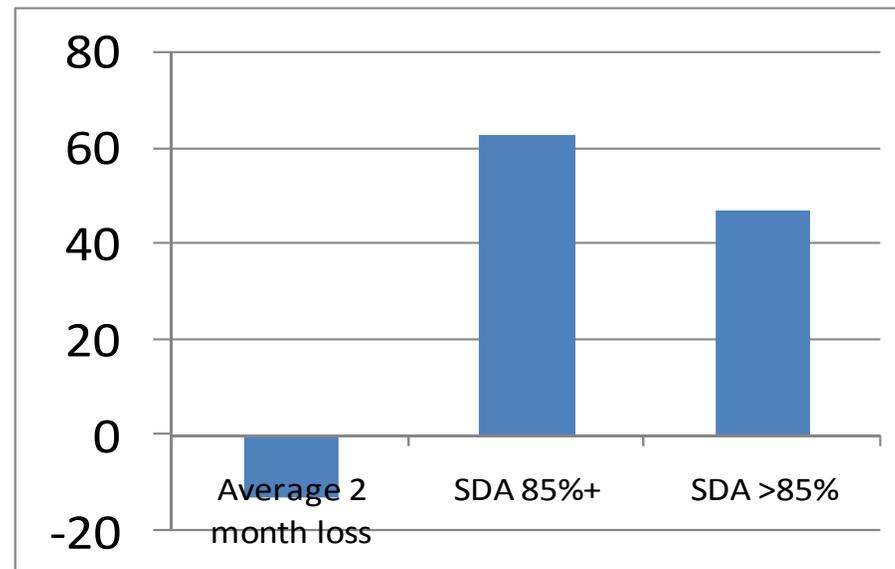
## Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss in literacy for our students

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- **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)**

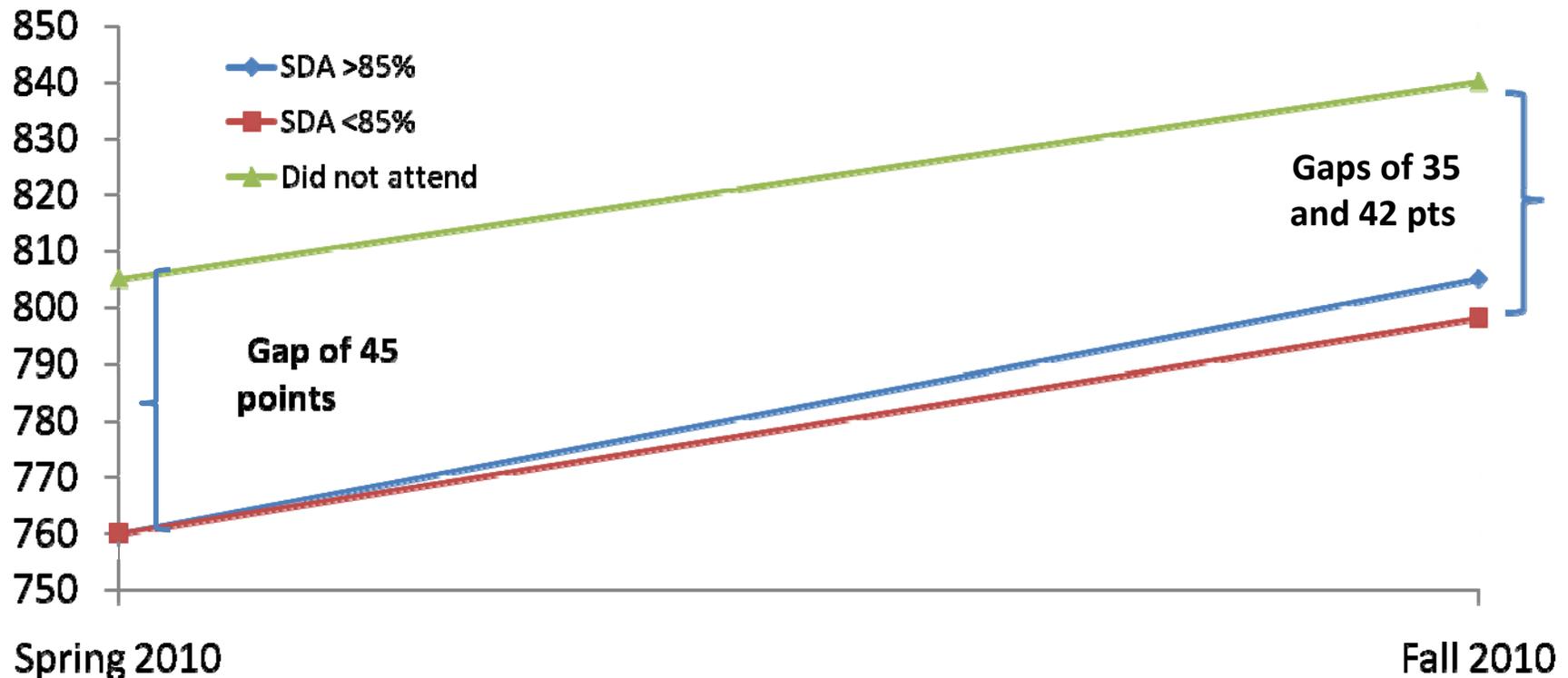
## Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss in literacy for our students

- 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*



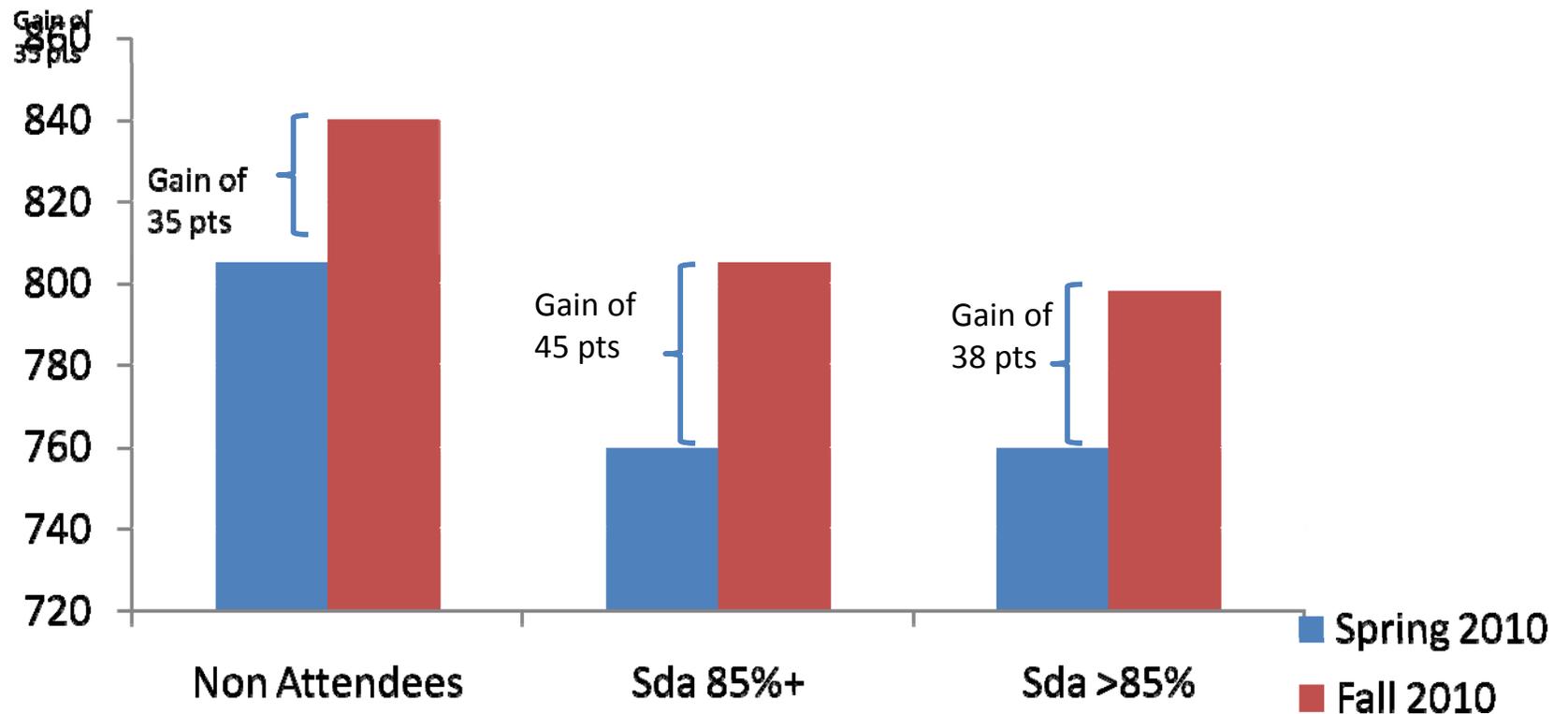
# Successes -- Reducing summer learning loss

- 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 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

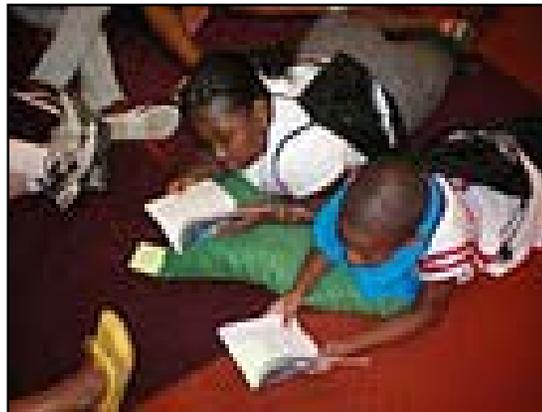
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- **Focus on reaching out to the campers who attended SDA, but less frequently to see how we can better retain them this summer**
- **Integrate the academic and activity components of camp**
- **Include more differentiation and kinesthetic and/or project-based 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

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- **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

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Expand  
Activities

Maximize  
Literacy

Improve  
Attendance

Incorporate  
K-4 & 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade  
students

