

Learning from Summer: Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth



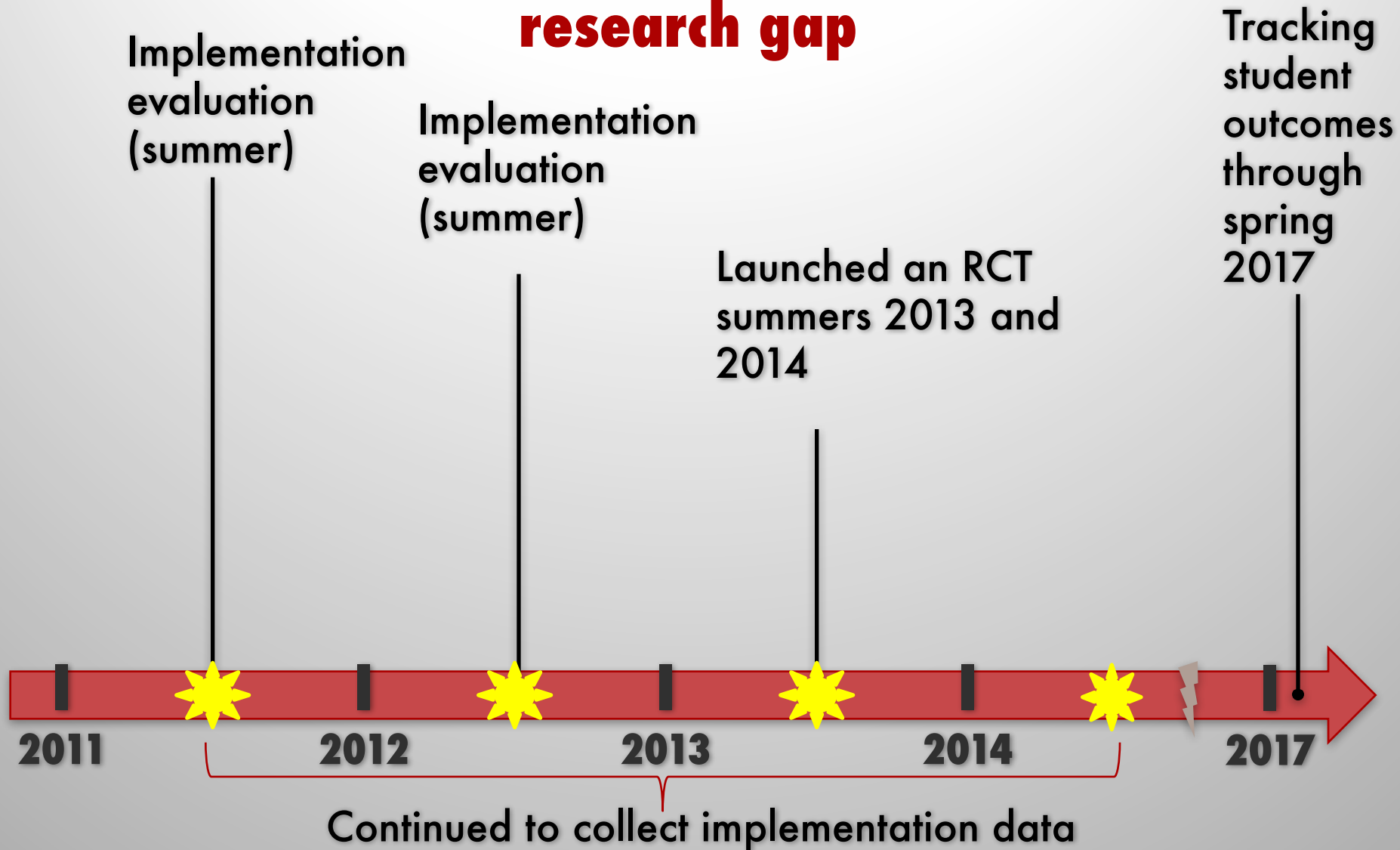
**Briefing for Pittsburgh Public Schools Board
September 7, 2016
Catherine H. Augustine**



Summer offers opportunities for low-income children and youth

- Recent research confirms that low-income students lose ground academically
 - And have fewer enrichment opportunities
- Summer is an opportunity to promote student achievement and provide enrichment opportunities
 - Some programs have achieved these goals
 - There is little research on the effects of large-scale voluntary summer programs provided by school districts and their partners

Wallace commissioned RAND to conduct longitudinal study of voluntary summer programs to fill research gap



Study findings should be generalizable to similar summer learning programs

- Free, voluntary programs for low-income, elementary students grades 3-5 in five districts
 - Small class sizes
 - Full-day programming that includes academic (at least 3 hours) and enrichment instruction
 - At least 5 weeks of programming
 - Academic instruction provided by a certified teacher

All five of the programs contributed toward the results



Of seven factors investigated, three were consistently associated with outcomes

- Student attendance
- Dosage
- Instructional quality
- Site climate
- Site orderliness
- Curriculum fit
- Alignment between teacher's SY and summer grade level



Study produced new evidence

- We have strong evidence that programs caused near-term benefits in mathematics after first summer
- We have promising evidence that high-attenders and those with high dosage benefited in the near and longer-term in mathematics and language arts
- There was strong demand for programs but not all students attended at high rates
 - Among attendees, ADA was 75% and 60% were high-attenders

Implications for summer program leaders

- Offer programs for at least five weeks
- Track and maximize attendance
- Create schedules that protect instructional time
- Invest in instructional quality
- Minimize costs by considering probable no-show and attendance rates