



The **Summer Learning Program** aims to provide students with opportunities to connect, engage in rigorous tasks, accelerate learning, and improve social and emotional well-being. Research suggests that students often experience learning loss over summer break, especially in math and at higher grade levels, but summer programs have shown positive effects on academic and socioemotional outcomes. The DISD Summer Cool program, a major component, offered PreK-8 students in-person instruction for 15 days in June, focusing on Reading and Mathematics content support alongside enrichment activities during the afternoon. Summer Cool also provided free transportation, meals, and materials.

## Key Findings

### Implementation

- Attendance at Summer Cool increased by eight percent compared to 2024, with 12,683 students participating across 58 sites.
- The average percent attendance per student was 73 percent. Almost two-thirds of students attended over 75 percent of program days and one-quarter attended all days.
- Eleven percent of tutoring hours required by HB 1416 were completed during Summer Cool and EOC Test Prep, exceeding the 10 percent target goal.

### Stakeholder Feedback

- A significant majority of students reported that Summer Cool helped them understand their schoolwork better (87%) and that they found it fun (84%). When asked about their favorite part of the day, most students chose Enrichment Activities (44%), followed by Mathematics (36%), and Reading (19%).
- Teachers felt that staff collaboration, student learning through fun, enrichment activities, and the relaxed environment were the best part of the program. Most of them were satisfied with the training provided (92%) and willing to teach summer classes again (96%). Ninety percent believed that participating students were more prepared to start the next grade in the fall.
- A significant majority of parents and guardians reported that they were satisfied with the program overall (87%), and that they noticed positive social-emotional changes (81%) and academic improvements (74%) in their students since attending Summer Cool.

### Student Outcomes

- Students showed a consistent upward trend in positive self-perception across mental wellbeing domains throughout the program.
- Students reported strong self-perceptions in Task Performance (84%) and Open-Mindedness (83%), with the greatest daily growth in Engaging with Others (+20%), Emotional Regulation (+14%), and Open-Mindedness (+14%).

## Recommendations

- **Continue integrating academic and mental wellbeing content into summer programming.**

Research shows that the most effective summer programs address both academic learning and mental wellbeing. By using District-created curriculum that combines these elements, Summer Cool maximized extended learning time to support the “whole child.” Teachers and parents reported positive academic and social-emotional outcomes, and student self-perceptions improved across all mental wellbeing domains compared to 2024. While teachers noted that Summer Cool was more academically challenging than the previous year, parents suggested offering even more demanding academic content, indicating ongoing opportunities to strengthen the program.

- **Continue improving access to academic information, materials, pre-camp communication, and summer tutoring.**

While teachers’ access to student information and resources, as well as pre-camp communication, has improved, some gaps remain, and parents often lack clear information about schedules, curriculum, and tutoring opportunities. To address this, program managers should refine processes for sharing academic information, ensure resources are available, provide earlier Summer Cool registration, communicate tutoring benefits clearly, streamline sign-ups, send reminders, and host informational sessions to increase awareness, engagement and participation.