



Summer is the solution to creating an equitable COVID recovery for *all* students.

Meet Horizons. Our programs ensure students experience the joy of a summer (and beyond) infused with diverse, new learning experiences. We provide out-of-school academic and youth development opportunities that bring STEM, art, reading, field trips, swimming, and so much more to students in communities where learning losses are greatest as a result of COVID-19 school closures.

With support from mental health professionals, social-emotional learning is built into every aspect of Horizons, helping our students achieve mental well-being, increased learning, and higher graduation rates, among many other benefits.

Throughout the pandemic, we pivoted to virtual learning, and now we're here to continue to support students, their families, and communities in making up for lost learning time. We have an unprecedented opportunity to make the proven benefits of summer learning the rule, not the exception.

Why are Horizons programs so important to advancing education equity following the pandemic?

By the 5th grade, summer learning loss can leave some students 2.5 to 3 years behind their peers. *Because of COVID-19, these losses have only compounded, and they will be felt for decades to come.* However, experts recognize that programs like ours make up for the difference and level the playing field for all students.¹

Horizons provides a multi-year solution that supports children and their families from pre-kindergarten through high school graduation over the summer, after school, and on weekends throughout the year.

Our proven, evidence-based programs help students reach their potential. In an average 6-week summer session, Horizons students:

Achieve a
94%
daily attendance rate

Gain an average of
8-12 weeks
of grade equivalence
in reading and math

85%
of Horizons students come back year after year, and develop relationships with Horizons teachers, staff, mentors, and friends.

The ability of our students to build long-lasting relationships with peers, teachers, and caring adults is a critical part of our success. Horizons students go on to earn higher elementary math and science standardized assessment scores, higher GPAs in the 9th and 10th grade, and higher graduation rates.

Every Horizons program is:



Long-term and effective - According to a longitudinal study conducted by RAND Summer Learning Series, students who participate in 5-week summer learning programs over consecutive summers experience benefits in math and language arts.² The same study notes that effective summer programs are:

Formula for Effective Summer Program	Horizons
5 days a week	✓
Voluntary, full day programs that include academic and enrichment activities	✓
At least 3 hours of language arts and math taught by a certified teacher	✓
No more than 15 students per instructor	✓
Free	✓
Transportation and meals provided	✓

Horizons' tuition-free, Pre-K-12 programs are hosted on the campuses of independent and charter schools, colleges, and universities, and operate outside the regular school day through a 6-week, high-quality summer program, and year-round programming after school, and on weekends.



Locally run, nationally supported - Each Horizons program is self-sustaining and self-governing, with a board of directors deeply connected to local needs and resources. However, we're also part of a national organization that provides centralized services, training, resources, and best practices to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.



Fun and engaging for educators and students - Our educators design their own curriculum aligned with their district and student needs. Lessons are hands-on and take place in informal learning environments that allow students to explore new interests and dive deeper into topics they love most. Our classrooms are fun, happy, engaging, and noisy - the way every classroom should look when kids are learning, applying new skills, and building community with those around them.

Together, we can create a positive, supportive, and enriching post-pandemic educational experience for all children and make up for learning loss. To learn more about the Horizons affiliate nearest you, **visit www.HorizonsNational.org**.



¹ <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/blog/covid-reinventing-school>

² <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/pages/every-summer-counts-a-longitudinal-analysis-of-outcomes-from-the-national-summer-learning-project.aspx>