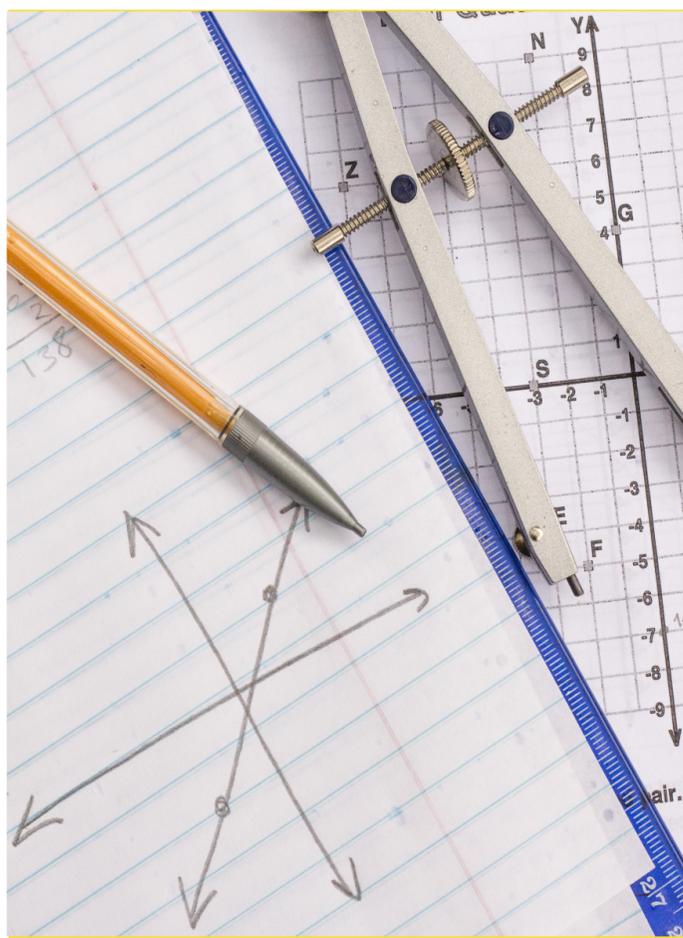


THE NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE



Summer 2023

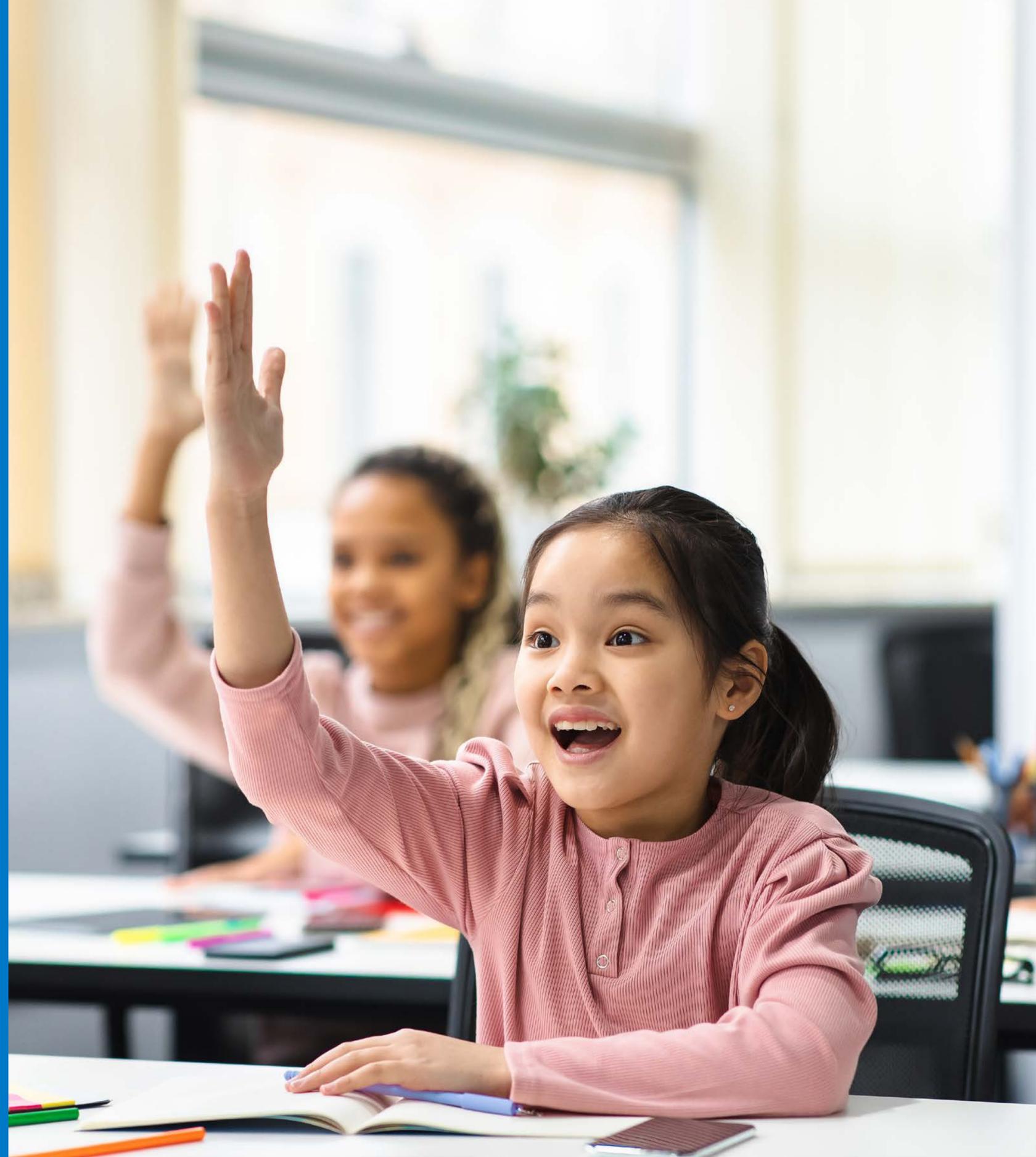
National Summer School Initiative

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Accelerate learning

Deliver live, engaging, grade-level instruction for all students in grades K-12 this summer in ELA and math. Discourse-based, culturally responsive curriculum. Your teachers. Our expert mentors. Working together to conquer learning losses.





THE PROBLEM

A generation at risk

COVID has taken a heavy toll on students across America. At every level of proficiency, our young people need to make up lost ground. If we fail to act now, they face potentially catastrophic academic, social, and economic consequences.

Offering an academically rich summer school to all students is an important part of the solution.

We'd welcome the opportunity to work with your leaders to mount an innovative and effective summer learning program to combat learning losses—and build teacher capacity for long term success.

THE SOLUTION

A five-week accelerated learning experience

Expert, award-winning educators lead teachers across America in delivering vibrant classes in ELA and math every day.

Like sitting in the back of the class of the best teacher in the building, partner teachers observe their mentor's moves in presenting the very lessons they'll deliver—and have the opportunity to make them their own. Teachers arrive to class uniquely prepared, confident, and invested in the content. Students return in the fall ready to tackle grade-level content.



The Program

ALL GRADES

Daily 15-minute advisory—Connection, Celebration, and Challenge—to start the day

ELA

MATH

K-2

- Literature
- Writing

- Problem-solving
- Math foundations

3-8

- Novel studies
- Close reading

- Problem-solving
- Math foundations

9-12

- American studies *or*
- Global studies

- Algebra *or*
- Geometry

English Language Arts

Exploration of outstanding, culturally responsive literature is at the heart of our ELA program. All classes are discourse-based, privileging our students' ideas and voice. Our focus is on making meaning, not following procedures. Carefully selected nonfiction texts build background knowledge that deepens engagement with the novels and fuels student discussion, while grounding it in evidence.



Grades K-2

LITERATURE. Each week of the program, students explore one award-winning, beautifully told and illustrated text, chosen to capture their imaginations and provoke abundant conversation. Each class includes a combination of read-aloud and independent reading, and, always, a rich discussion.

WRITING. High expectations drive our class in written expression. Students learn to accept feedback from their teachers and classmates and revise their work to ensure their ideas are understood. Every day, students write and revise for 45 minutes—in kindergarten, writing simple sentences; in second grade, sophisticated multiple-sentence compositions.

Grades 9-12

AMERICAN STUDIES and **GLOBAL STUDIES** prepare students for success in rigorous humanities classes in high school and beyond. Each week students focus on a turning point in history, exploring literature from and about that time, as well as primary and secondary source materials. The week starts by building essential background knowledge on the turning point and culminates with a rich seminar discussion and a writing assignment.

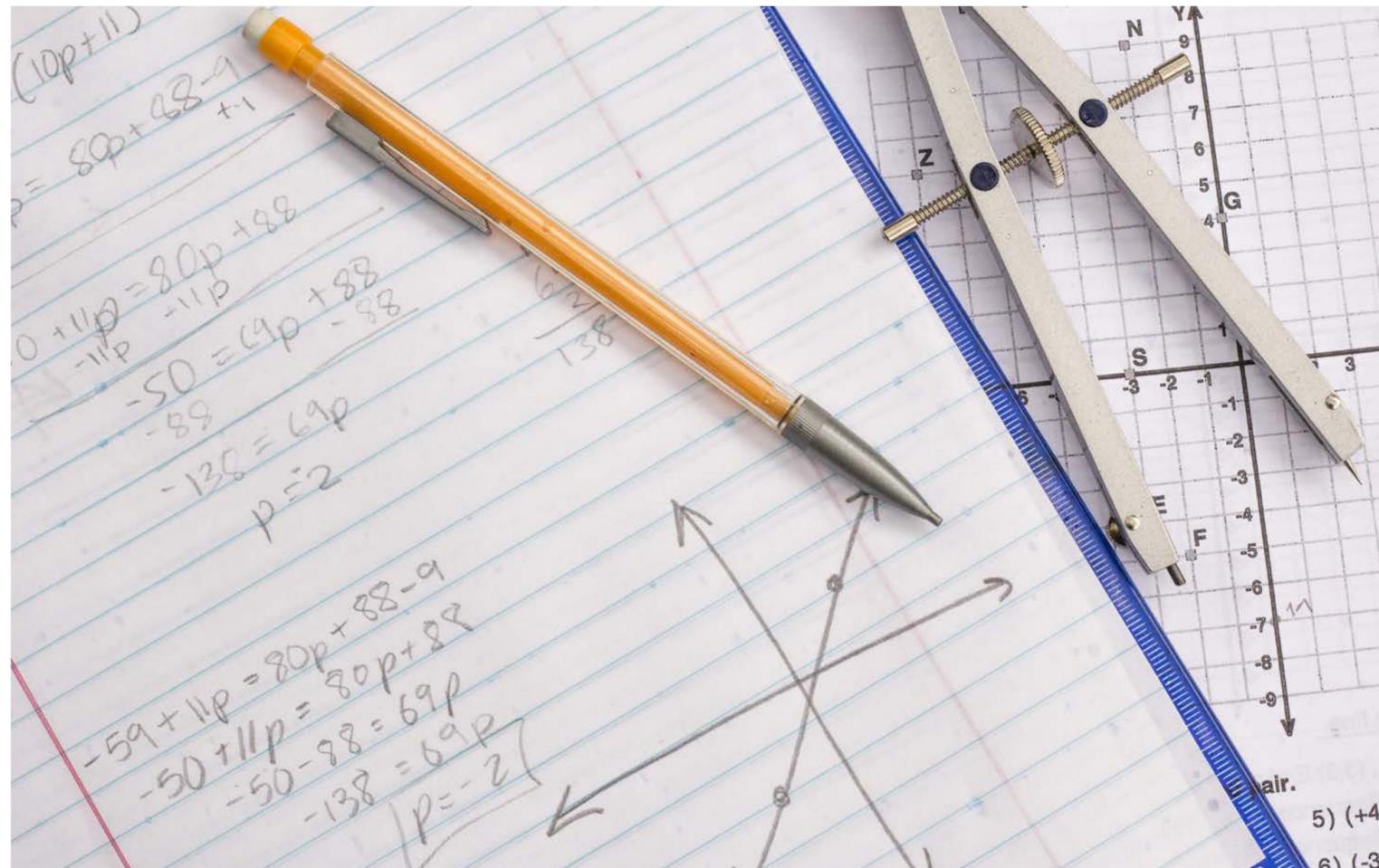
Grades 3-8

NOVEL STUDIES. Reading and discussing an exceptional novel, students discover the deep pleasures of great writing, develop their voice, and build critical thinking skills that they can apply to any novel they read.

CLOSE READING. Like literary detectives, students set out to unpack the meaning of challenging fiction and nonfiction texts of exceptional merit. Their reward: access to the work's deepest insights and claims on our imagination. Newly equipped, they stand ready to tackle above-grade level works on their own with confidence and precision, appreciative of the author's craft and artistry.

Math

Math is more than the standard algorithm. With NSSI, students build on their own mathematical conceptions, engage the ideas and conjectures of their classmates, and develop deep conceptual understanding. By targeting the grade's essential standards, we prepare students to thrive in the next grade.



Grades K-2

PROBLEM-SOLVING . Using cognitively guided instruction, each child uses his or her own emerging mathematical conceptions to solve a real-world problem. In the discourse, children learn to share their strategies and listen to those of their classmates, deepening their own understanding of foundational ideas.

MATH FOUNDATIONS . Students gain fluency with math facts and operations through daily practice. Each week engages one or more essential math standards necessary for success in the next grade.

Grades 3-8

PROBLEM-SOLVING . In Math Stories, students explore a single real-world problem, devise their own approaches, and contrast them with their classmates' solutions. In the discourse, children see how each approach arrived at the same answer. The beauty of math is revealed, and deep conceptual understanding is built. Students are excited to engage a more efficient procedure next time.

MATH FOUNDATIONS . A second period is devoted to the mastery of essential grade-level math skills (the power standards essential to success in the next grade), extensive practice and generalization, and math fluency. Students grapple with a new problem or idea before the key concept is stamped. Students then have the opportunity to practice similar problems with supportive feedback from their teacher.

Grades 9-12

ALGEBRA 1 and **GEOMETRY** are gateway courses for success in advanced math; NSSI provides students a jump start. Our high school classes are primarily aimed at students who are about to enroll in Algebra 1 or Geometry in high school. They can also be used for remediation and credit recovery, or for advanced middle schoolers. Each class highlights the critical, foundational standards of the discipline and deploys NSSI's discourse-based pedagogy to build deep understanding.

Build stronger teachers

Welcome to an entirely new approach to improving instruction. Together with their same-grade peers nationally, teachers work in sustained partnership with expert mentors, watch their mentor's moves, make them their own—and see their students soar.



Exceptional professional learning

The heart of our model is an intensive investment in professional development. Before the program launches, every participating teacher benefits from a three-day Institute that deeply prepares them in the specific pedagogies and curricula.

Then, each week, teachers join their peers across the country in a National Grade Team Meeting. Each session focuses on the two essential levers of great instruction: Intellectual Preparation and Student Work Analysis.

INTELLECTUAL PREPARATION

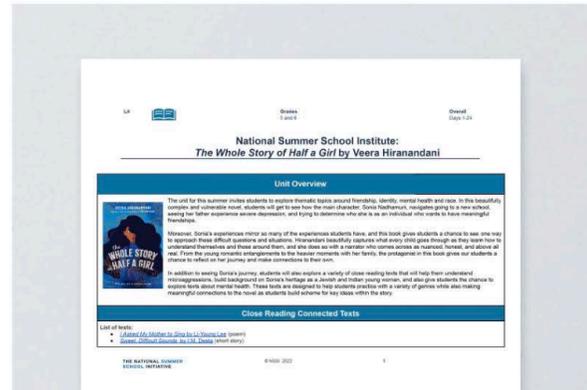
In Intellectual Preparation, teachers have the time to go deep in the novels, texts, and mathematical problems they will be exploring with their students the next week.

STUDENT WORK ANALYSIS

In Student Work Analysis, teachers look closely at what their students are actually producing. Teachers ask: What can the work tell me about my students' conceptions? How should I adjust my course?

Everything to ensure outstanding live instruction, every day

NSSI equips your teachers with exceptional resources—everything they need to lead classes focused on critical thinking and intellectual discovery.



Unit Overviews

Our curriculum is rigorous, relevant, and engaging. In math, our unit overviews go deep on the critical standards students need to master to enter the next grade with confidence. The units combine cognitively based instruction centered on real-world story problems with fluency practice and mastery-based teaching. In ELA, students explore culturally responsive, award-winning works of literature for rich class discussion.

“ I asked my students to rate the novel *One Crazy Summer* on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best book I ever read. It got mostly 5s. I will definitely teach it again.”

AVERY KOOSMAN
3RD GRADE ELA TEACHER

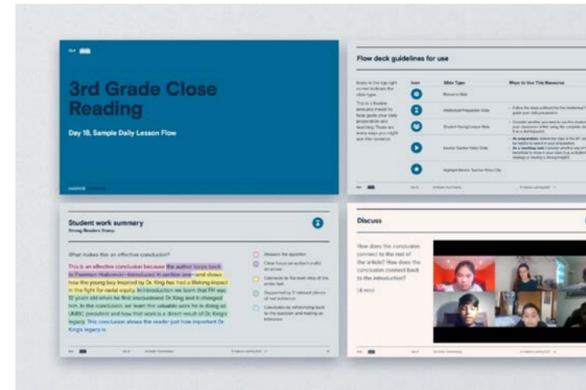


Lesson overviews

The daily lesson overview guides teachers through the necessary intellectual preparation to teach each lesson. Both math and ELA lesson overviews include key understandings, lesson flow, and common misconceptions. ELA lessons offer vocabulary, reading questions, and discussion and writing prompts; math lessons present a story problem, comprehension questions, equations and strategies, and fluency routines. For students who need additional scaffolding, including MLLS and those struggling with learning loss, lessons equip teachers with both skill and vocabulary supports.

“ I love the rigor! I didn't think my kids could handle it but they stepped up. They are really producing good work.”

OLYVIA KOZICKI
4TH GRADE ELA TEACHER



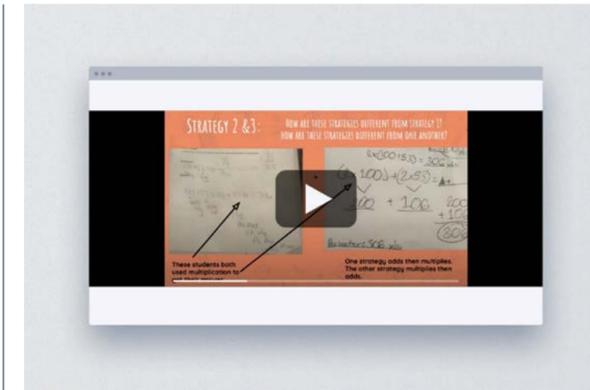
Flow decks

The flow deck contains, in one place, everything the teacher needs to prepare for the lesson and deliver it effectively:

- Intellectual preparation and background
- Likely student misconceptions
- Examples of exemplary student work in the lesson
- Question sequences
- Student-facing slides
- Embedded video segments of the mentor teacher's delivery that can be played in class

“ It was super helpful to have all that work done for me. I had the videos and slides. NSSI built the plane and I got to fly it.”

QUINCY BARNES
4TH GRADE ELA TEACHER



Mentor teacher videos

Like sitting in the back of the room of their strongest colleagues, teachers can watch an entire upcoming lesson taught by dynamic and effective mentor teachers to a group of actual students. With this modeling, they prepare to navigate the lesson themselves. And they may choose to share key portions with their classes.

“ My mentor teacher was so transparent. She would tell us about mistakes she made during the lesson and what to do instead. I always followed her suggestions.”

AVERY KOOSMAN
3RD GRADE ELA TEACHER



Student-facing materials

In addition to all the curricular materials to prepare the teacher, we also provide student workbooks with reading and discussion questions for ELA and story problems for math. Units include modified student work for MLLs and students struggling with learning loss to provide them with access to content—while maintaining the rigor of grade-level standards.

“ I really liked the program because I got a lot of chances to put my ideas into the conversation. I never felt shy about asking questions. Sometimes when I got stuck [my teacher] gave me sentence starters and that really helped me get my ideas out. I know I'm a better writer.”

ANISTON CLEMINGS
8TH GRADE STUDENT

Meet our mentor teachers

Meet three of our exceptional educators.



John Kaczorek

John began his career with Teach for America as an eighth-grade math teacher in a district school in the Bronx. Later, at KIPP's Rise Academy in New Jersey, 86 percent of his fifth-grade math students were found proficient on the state exam. After moving to Minnesota, John joined Hiawatha College Prep, where he was a founding teacher, and for six years, principal. Under his leadership, Hiawatha Prep was recognized by Teach for America as a "School to Learn From" and was designated a Reward School by the Minnesota Department of Education. Longing to focus on instruction, John served as seventh-grade teacher for three more years before starting his current role as a director of curriculum and assessment. John earned his B.A. from St. John's University in economics and an M.S. from Pace University.



Ayanna Grey

Ayanna began her career with Teach for America in Baltimore, where she taught the fifth grade. Since then, Ayanna has served as dean of students, literacy coach, co-school leader, and principal with several charter school management organizations, including KIPP and Achievement First. Most recently, she joined the Achievement School District in Tennessee, a newly established district charged with reforming and boosting student achievement in the lowest-performing schools in the state. As the Achievement School District's literacy coach and the principal of Georgian Hills Achievement Elementary School, Ayanna coached a team of educators responsible for moving the school from the bottom five percent of elementary schools in the state. Ayanna earned her B.A. in American Studies at Occidental College and an M.A.T. from Johns Hopkins University.



Carrie Roby

Carrie began her career teaching second and third grades for Teach for America in the South Bronx. Her students made on average 1.7 grades of growth in reading per year and 84 percent were found proficient in math. Carrie was a founding second-grade teacher and leadership resident at Success Academy's flagship school, before becoming founding principal of Success Academy Upper West. Her school received the Blackboard Award for Rising Star Grade Schools and was ranked #1 in math and #8 in ELA, based on student performance on the New York State assessments. Carrie was a cognitively guided instruction (CGI) math consultant for various schools in Minnesota and most recently worked as a dean of instruction at Hiawatha Academies. Carrie earned a B.A. from Harvard University in psychology and an M.S. from Pace University.



I'm used to programs where the teacher explains the thinking behind a solution, but with NSSI, I ask questions to put the thinking work on my students. I love that there is time for revision built into every lesson. My students have learned how powerful it is to have a discussion and then go back and revise their work—maybe they had the wrong answer but more likely they discover and then try a different strategy.”

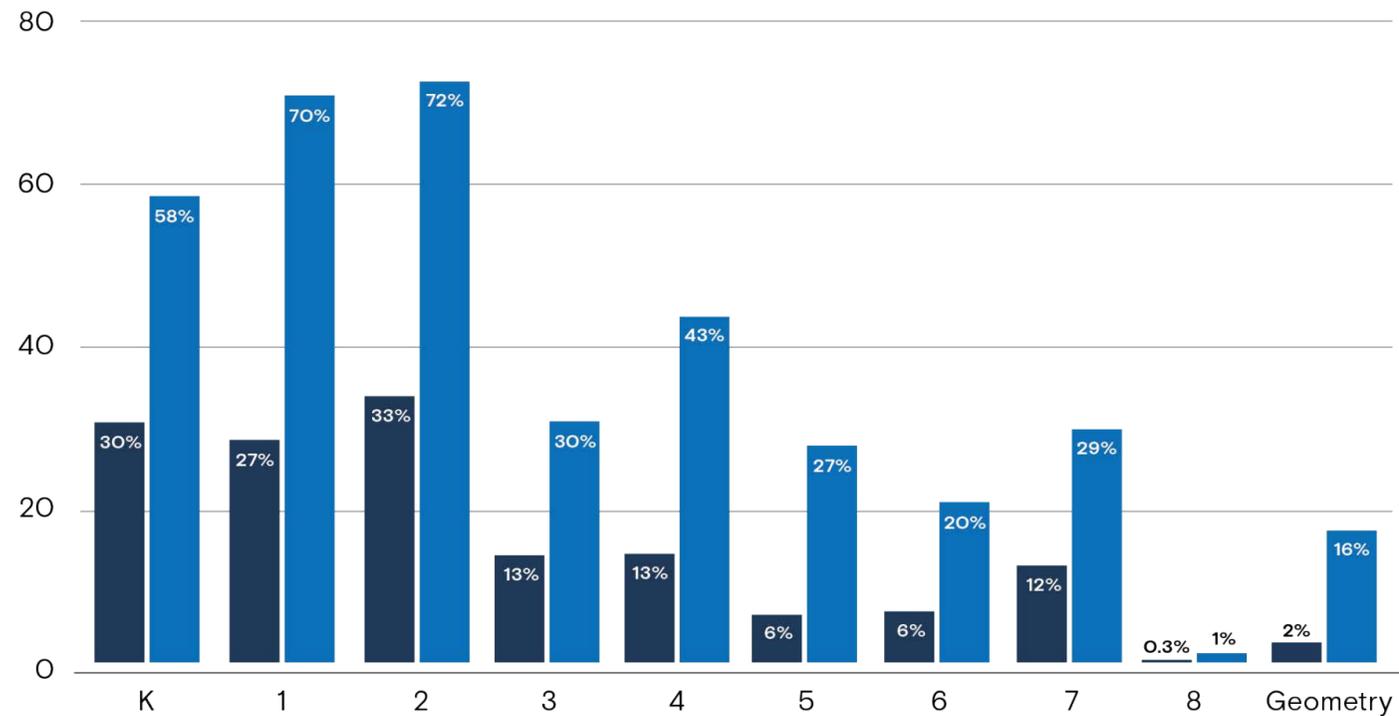
GRISELDA GARCIA, 6TH GRADE MATH TEACHER



Our results

■ Pre-test ■ Post-test

Math percent proficient

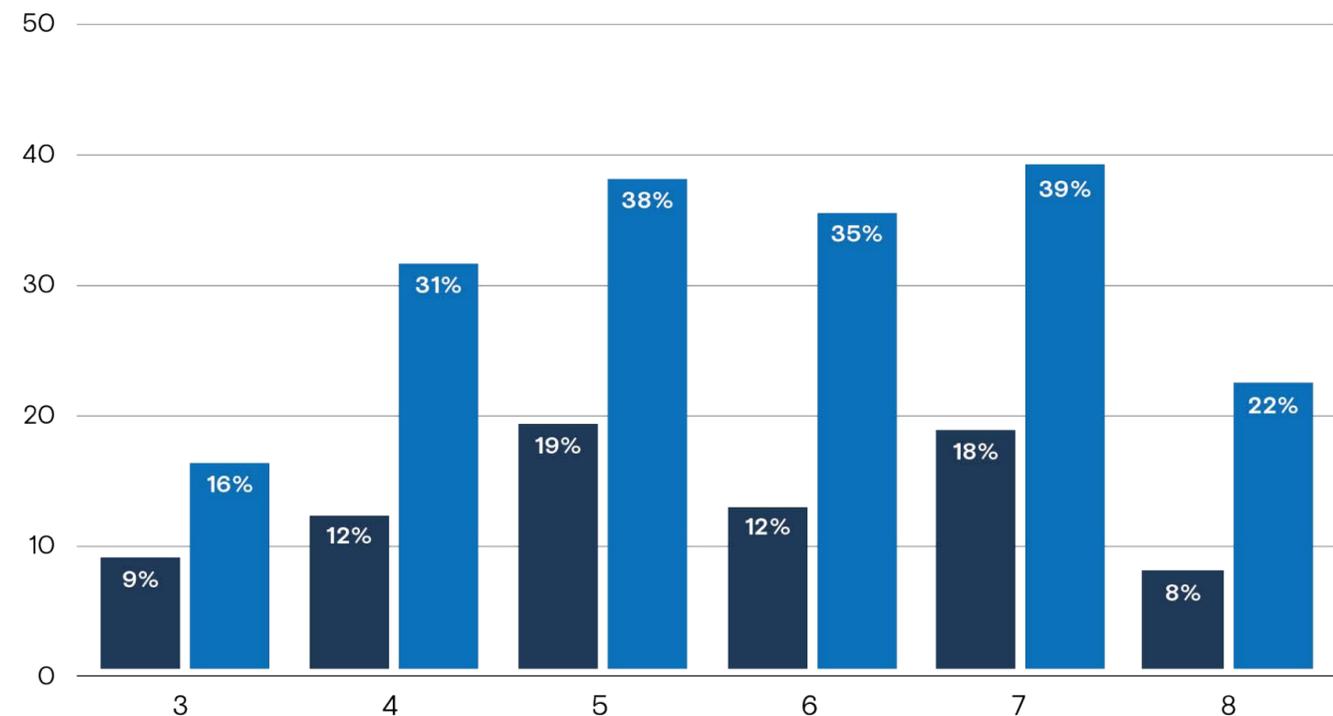


Students learned—a lot.

Last summer, students were given 30-minute pre-tests in both ELA and math on the first day of the program, and post-tests as the program ended, both constructed of released state exam items.

In just five weeks, students made striking gains in every grade and subject —gains large enough to move many students over the state's proficiency bar on the summer's standards of focus.

ELA percent proficient



Hear from our partners



SCHOOL LEADERS SEE NSSI AS A HUGE SUCCESS.
of participating district and school leaders said they were happy to be teaching summer school through NSSI.



TEACHERS PRAISE THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM.
of partner teachers agreed that “the daily lesson videos and lesson flow documents provided by the mentor teachers are strong.”



BOOK LOVERS ARE BORN.
of students agreed or strongly agreed that the program’s novels made them want to read every day.



FAMILIES ARE THRILLED.
of families this summer said they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their child's experience in a summer program that is supported by NSSI—with 63% selecting the highest possible response.



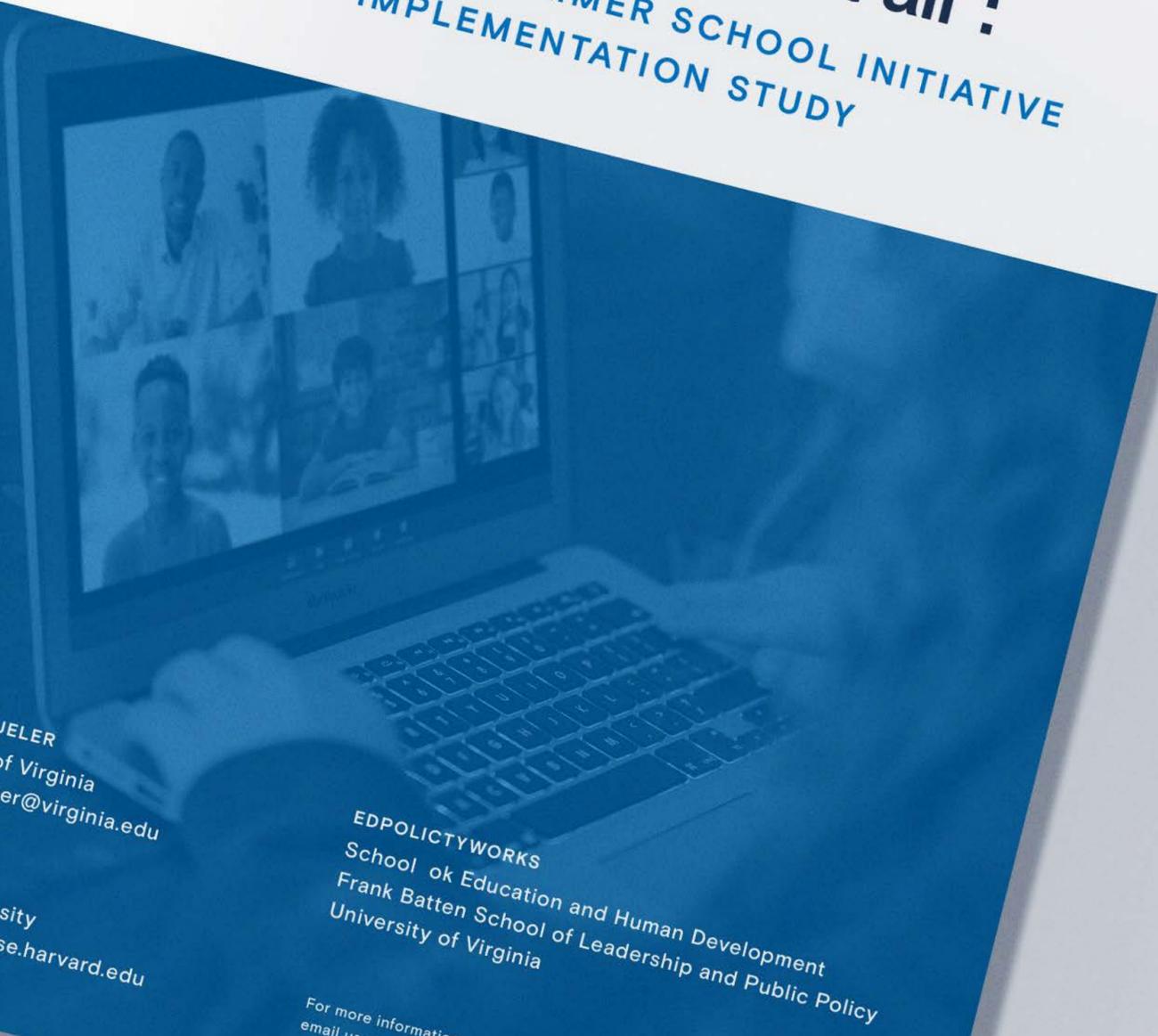
Bring back fun

Learning is more than academics. Students crave connection and community. Develop safe and fun activities to supplement our academic program. Outdoor sports and games. Art and crafts. Chess. Robotics. Wherever your creativity takes you.





“It was not like a normal summer school at all”:
THE NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION STUDY



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Harvard and University of Virginia scholars found that students in NSSI Summer 2020 improved their academic skills and gained confidence.

- 92% of parents, when asked if they would recommend the program to other students, responded with a 9 or a 10 on a 10-point scale.
- In an independent evaluation, Harvard and University of Virginia researchers found that large majorities of participating teachers agreed that students improved their academic skills (82%), gained confidence in their academic abilities (83%), and became more interested in school and learning (72%) as a result of NSSI.



I honestly felt like all of my kids, they improved. Pretty much across the board they all said, I read differently now. And I pay attention to what I read. And I’m going to be thinking about what I read and what it means for my life.”

FROM A SUMMER 2020 ELA PARTNER TEACHER

Join us this summer.

- Available to schools, districts, networks, and community organizations
- Three five-week summer sessions—find the dates right for you
- Reach hundreds or thousands of students, at low cost

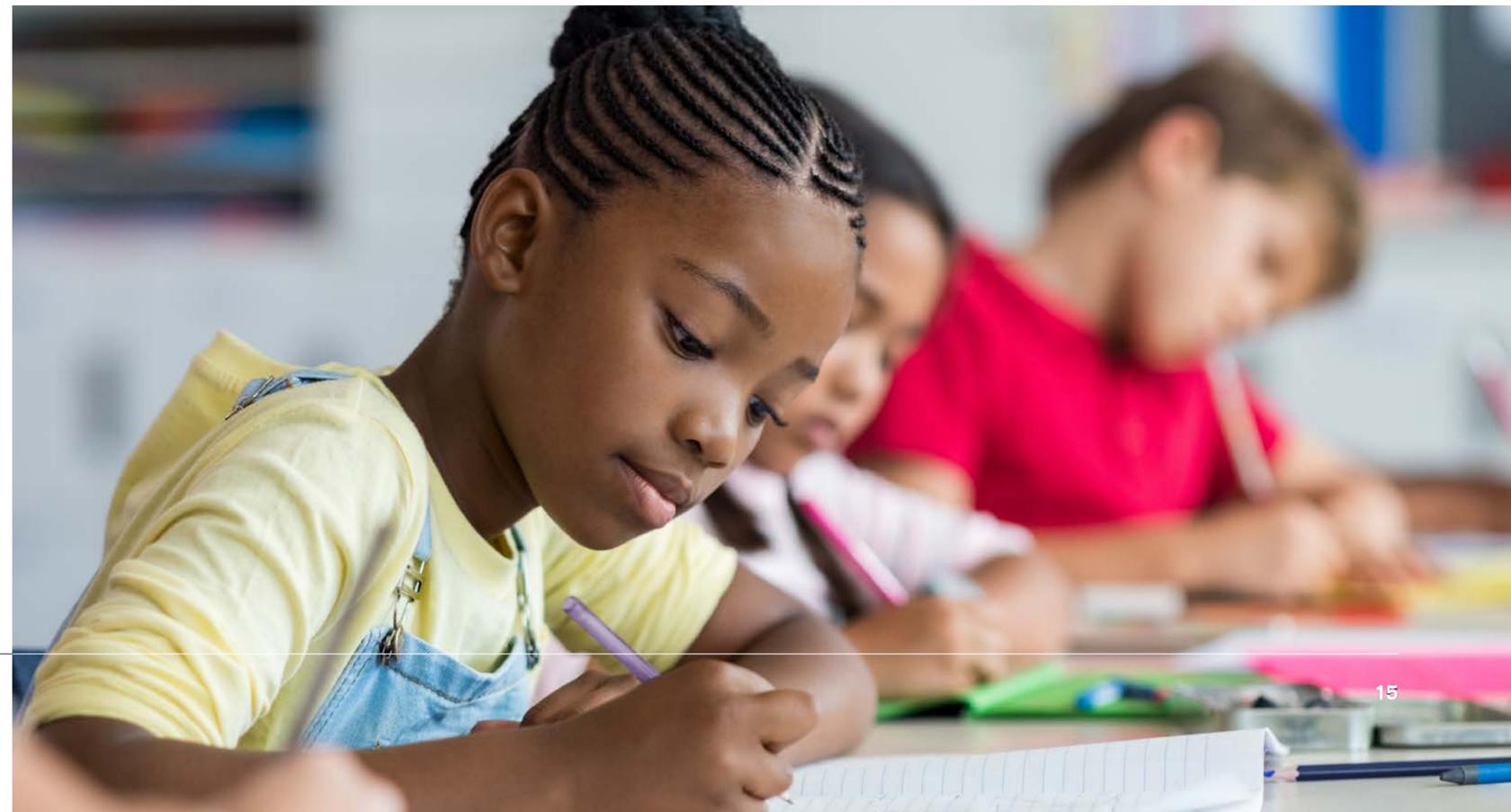
Three sessions

SESSION 1

SESSION 2

SESSION 3

Admin Institute	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Teacher Institute	May 30-June 1	June 13-15	June 27-29
Student start	June 5	June 20	July 5
Student end	July 11	July 25	August 4



We are not a “vendor” but rather a not-for-profit philanthropically funded entity, led by experienced educators with a record of running high-achieving schools.

We partner with you to deliver the accelerated learning solution you’ve been seeking.

Our equity commitment

Our five-part organizational commitment to leading for racial equity includes:

1. Rigorous curriculum that tackles texts and ideas that are at or above grade-level
2. Leveraging students’ voices and expertise through discourse and deep thinking
3. Intentional connection and relationship-building, led by a diverse mentor teacher team
4. Psychologically safe classrooms
5. A culturally responsive curriculum that foregrounds and celebrates authors of color and thinkers and elevates their voices and perspectives



Good morning, I just wanted to thank you for being an awesome teacher during summer school. I know we barely started school but my grades are really up like they never been before. Mostly in ELA I always used to get kinda bad grades but after summer school I have gotten better. I have 5 “A’s” and 1 “B”. I really just wanted to thank you so much. Anyways bye, have a great day.”

APRIL ROSAS, 6TH GRADE STUDENT



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