

## **The Case for a Longer School Year**

### **By Tim**

American children spend fewer days in school than their peers in many other countries. Most American school districts take 2 to 3 months off in the summer. But some have started experimenting with shortening these breaks. Extending the school year through July will help lower-income students, improve test scores, and keep kids busy and productive.

A longer school year would level the playing field for low-income kids. Over the summer, all students forget some of what they've learned that year. But according to a Johns Hopkins University study, the losses are much greater among lower-income children. The researchers think this could be because of differences in opportunities, like camps and other enrichment.

One consequence of the summer slide is lower test scores. Extending the school year would improve student test scores. If students spent more time in their classes, they would have more time to study and prepare for tests. With more time to study and prepare, students' test scores would improve.

With more days in school, kids will stay busy and productive. When kids are in school, they participate in activities beyond classroom learning. They play sports and participate in clubs, for example. However, during the summer break, many kids don't have activities to fill their days. A longer school year would allow them to stay busy and productive, rather than watching TV or doing nothing.

Given the evidence, A longer school year is worth exploring as a way to close the achievement gap, raise test scores, and keep young minds engaged. Schools across America should extend their school days through July, effective immediately! The future of our nation depends on it.