

Summer Slide Is Real. Here's How NYC Is Fighting Back.

The data behind summer learning loss, the trends reshaping how NYC families respond, and what research says actually works.

THE TAKEAWAY

The slide is predictable and math takes the biggest hit — but the fix is well documented: enough weeks, consistent attendance, and academics blended with fun. That's why NYC families now build learning-first summers and book them in spring.



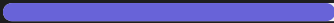
SUMMER SLIDE BY THE NUMBERS

52% lose ground five summers in a row

— losing roughly 39% of their school-year gains each time. The slide is chronic, not occasional.

Source: AERA

Math slides harder than reading

Math  25-34%
Reading  17-28%

% of yearly gains lost · AERA / NWEA

+0.323 SD math boost from NYC's own programs

K-2 students attending Summer Rising for 20+ days outperformed matched peers in math.

Source: NYC Public Schools

~13% of students actually participate

Most kids never get the boost — access and consistent attendance are the bottleneck.

Source: NWEA



THE FIVE BIGGEST TRENDS IN NYC

1

Camps are learning-first

Parents pick programs with academic or skill-building content — not just supervision.

Enrichment > Childcare

2

STEM leads demand

Coding, robotics, and AI classes for kids are the fastest-growing category.

Fastest Growing

3

Tutoring: catch-up → keep-up

Families book tutors preventively, before problems hit report cards.

Preventive

4

Hybrid schedules are the norm

Camp mornings plus weekly classes or tutoring in the afternoons.

Mix & Match

5

Planning starts in spring

Popular NYC programs fill months before school lets out.

Book Early



WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ACTUALLY WORKS



Attendance is the #1 lever

20+ days

Gains show up for consistent attenders, not occasional drop-ins.



Enough hours, enough weeks

5+ wks · 3 hrs/day

Programs need real dosage to move the needle — not a one-week booster.



Academics + enrichment beats either alone

Kids attend more consistently when summer doesn't feel like school.



Small groups, qualified instructors

Teachers matched to subject and grade level predict stronger outcomes.



Keep books in the house

Access to self-selected books measurably reduces reading loss — the cheapest fix on this list.