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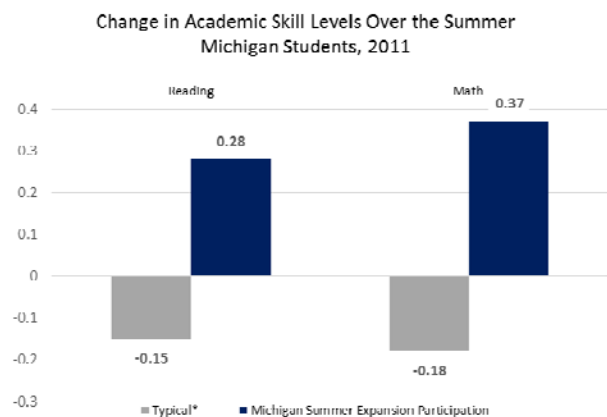
The Right Expanded Learning Opportunities Improve 3rd Grade Reading

Without expanded learning opportunities, educational disparities grow through early childhood and the early elementary years, resulting in a 6,000-hour learning gap between low-income children and their higher income peers by the time they enter the 6th grade due to differences in their time spent out of school.

Expanded learning – before-and after-school, during the summer and other opportunities to bolster the learning that goes on during the typical school day and year can help children maintain and improve their skills and provide opportunities not otherwise available for the most challenged students, families and communities. In Michigan, those programs are almost entirely financed through the \$38 million federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program, but this funds fewer than half of the best programs applying. In addition, 40% of Michigan's Child Development and Care (CDC) program is spent on school-aged children, but current reimbursement guidelines create difficulties for quality expanded learning programs to access the funding.

A quality expanded learning summer program pilot in Michigan, last funded in 2011, helped students retain academic skills from the previous school year, and improve performance in reading and math among other outcomes. Despite these and other research findings, quality opportunities are not available consistently across the state, and a lack of state investment has contributed to the lack of accessibility.

Despite prioritizing almost \$17 million in state resources 10 years ago, funds specifically for quality expanded learning programs have been reduced to a few small pilot programs that serve only a few areas of the state and a minimal number of young people. A state investment of at least \$50 million would be required to fund just the most qualified unfunded CCLC applicants, and a larger investment is required to provide quality expanded learning opportunities through the summer months for all who need them.



Source: 2011 Before and After School Summer Expansion Grant Fact Sheet
Michigan State University, January 2012.

The FY2016 budget included \$17.5 million for additional instruction time by extending the day or school year in K-3rd grade, and the Governor requested this funding be continued in FY2017.

Recommendations:

1. Better target early literacy dollars for expanded learning to expand Michigan's 21st CCLC program that requires school-community partnership and goes well beyond just expanding hours in a school day or days in a school year.
2. Dedicate additional resource, possibly through TANF, to further expand 21st CCLC opportunities to additional grade levels and communities.
3. Shift subsidy reimbursement for the CDC program dollars spent on school-aged care from an hourly rate to one that would better support programs through contracted slots for participants.