



Leveraging Summer Learning to Improve Student Achievement and Turn Around Low-Performing Schools



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BELL Directly Addresses Achievement Gap

Our Mission

- BELL exists to **transform the educational achievements, self-confidence and life trajectories** of children living in under-resourced, urban communities.
- Because we believe in the potential within all children to excel, we recognize them as **scholars**.

Our Reach

- Founded in Boston in 1992, BELL serves more than **15,000 scholars each year** from low-income communities.
- We partner closely with leaders in the cities of Boston, Springfield (MA), New York City, Newark (NJ), Baltimore, and Detroit to **target the scholars most in need** of additional services. During the summer of 2012, we also plan to partner with Winston-Salem (NC), Spartanburg (SC), and San Jose and San Rafael (CA).

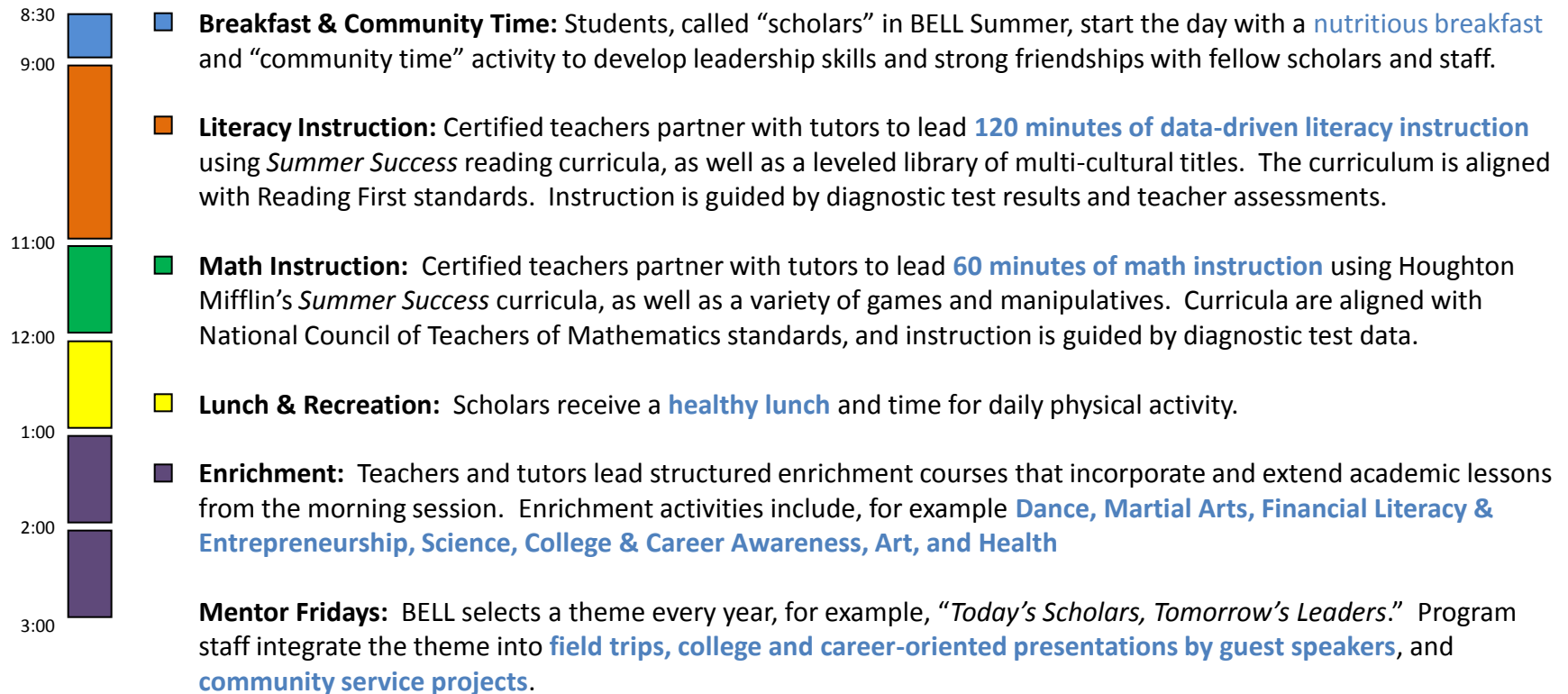
Our Focus

- Develop **strong partnerships** with city leaders, philanthropic partners, school districts, and principals to focus resources on the most challenged schools and students.
- In Summer 2011, BELL scholars **gained 6.1 months of literacy and 6.7 months of math skills**. Scholars **increased their percentile rank** scores from the 21st percentile in reading to the 32nd, and from the 17th percentile in math to the 26th.



BELL Summer Program Model

BELL Summer is a full-day, 5-6 week program that provides intensive small group instruction with a ratio of 2 instructors for 20 students. The rich daily schedule includes:



BELL Summer National Outcomes

Academic Outcomes

- Scholars' participation not only prevents summer learning loss, it consistently results in **gains of at least 3 months** in literacy and math skills over a 5-6 week summer program. In the 2011 BELL Summer program, scholars achieved gains of **6.1 months' reading skills and 6.7 months' math skills**.

Self-Confidence & Social Outcomes

- 88% of teachers see an **increase in scholars' self-confidence**.
- 82% of teachers indicate scholars are better at asking for help when needed.
- 85% of parents report that scholars show an **improved attitude toward school** and learning.

Health & Safety

- Scholars are in a full-day, comprehensive learning environment for 5- 6 weeks during critical summer months.
- Scholars engage in **30-60 minutes of daily physical activity** and receive **two healthy meals each day**.

Parent Engagement

- 79% of parents report that they feel **more engaged in their child's education** because of BELL.

Independent Evaluation

BELL's impact has been validated through an **independent, random assignment study** conducted by the Urban Institute and Mathematica Policy Research, finding that BELL Summer **increases reading achievement and parental engagement**.

Why BELL Partners with Districts

- BELL is working to expand our impact to reach **more students in more communities**.
- BELL can impact more students by forming **public-private partnerships** with school districts built on a shared funding model through which we augment district funding with cash and in-kind support from national and local foundations and corporate partners. BELL recently received a **Social Innovation Fund** grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to catalyze expansion.
- Partner districts assist in identifying and recruiting **high-performing teachers** to lead academic instruction in BELL Summer and connect summer learning with in-school learning.
- BELL has the capacity to provide program management, staff recruitment and training, student enrollment, evaluation, and quality assurance to help districts serve high-need students during out-of-school time.



Why Districts Partner With BELL

BELL has partnered with school districts to deliver our program in place of traditional summer school.

- Traditional summer school (typically 4-5 weeks of academics only) is replaced by a 5-6 week, academic and enrichment summer learning experience that offers the students 2-3 times the amount of programming.
- BELL's turnkey planning and implementation eases the burden of summer planning for school district leaders:
 - BELL secures contributed revenue from foundations and corporations to cover a portion of program costs.
 - BELL hires all program staff (site managers, teachers, TAs) and manages payroll
 - All staff receive extensive professional development through e-learning and 2 days of classroom instruction
 - All curriculum and supplies are centrally purchased at a 50% discount and drop shipped to site.
 - BELL organizes weekly field trips, community service projects and parental engagement programs.
 - BELL manages all pre and post testing using Stanford Diagnostic reading and math as well as parent, teacher and scholar satisfaction surveys. Academic outcomes are available to teachers to inform instruction within 24 hours of testing.



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Key Lessons

Students benefit most when partners:

- Plan early
- Share data
- Make multi-year commitments to optimize participation
- Make multi-year commitments to fully leverage financial investments
- Consider long-term sustainability



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