

FINDINGS FROM 2022 SUMMER ARTS FOR LEARNING ACADEMY

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Arts for Learning partnered with the research and evaluation firm WolfBrown to conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness of the 2022 Summer Arts for Learning program. This evaluation was conducted in coordination with the Office of Achievement and Accountability. The evaluation findings include:

- 1) Students who participated in 75% or more of SALA (16/22 days) experienced statistically significant growth between their pre- and post-SALA math assessments ($p < .001$). The mean score on the pre assessment was 35% and the post assessment was 47%. This corresponded to a large improvement in terms of effect size ($d=.64$).
- 2) Students who attended 75% or more days of SALA exhibited a statistically-significant increase in their math standardized test scores from the end of the 2021-22 school year to the beginning of the 2022-23, improving from an average score of 28.2% to an average score of 30.3%. In contrast, students in the comparison group (comprised of eligible students who applied to participate in SALA but did not ultimately attend) did not make gains. **This demonstrates that participation in SALA did not merely mitigate summer learning loss in math, but actually fostered students' academic development.** This was especially true for students who ended the 2021-22 school year one or two levels below their grade level in math performance, as these students displayed particularly large gains in math scores.
- 3) A similar finding was observed among students who participated in 75% or more days of SALA and who ended the 2021-22 academic year below or well below benchmark on the DIBELS reading assessment. On average, students who were well below benchmark exhibited a 76% increase in their DIBELS scores over the course of the summer, meaning that their scores nearly doubled.
- 4) Students who were identified as ELL or having an IEP also exhibited substantial gains in their DIBELS scores. Students identified as ELL increased their DIBELS scores by 26% on average; students with an IEP increased their scores over 10%.
- 5) Students and families give SALA high ratings for its climate 4.5/5 and report high levels of satisfaction 4.6/5.
- 6) Average daily attendance at SALA was 71%. It is worth noting that there is no district transportation provided to and from this program with students from 116 schools across the City participating, and COVID infections were still impacting daily attendance in 2022.

A copy of the report is linked [here](#). Wolf Brown presented these findings to the Office of Achievement and Accountability on March 17th 2023.