



The Impact of BellXcel Summer and Afterschool

The BellXcel Impact

BellXcel is a nationally-recognized leader in summer and afterschool education. For over 25 years BellXcel has been committed to excellence in out-of-school-time education, yielding significant results for youth, their parents, and educators. Through a culture of continuous improvement, BellXcel strives to learn more about what works to ensure that our programs evolve to meet the needs of scholars, partners, and communities.

BellXcel has built a robust evidence-base through rigorous internal and third-party evaluations that is aligned with **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** evidence standards. Taken together, this evidence-base illuminates the power and potential of BellXcel-powered summer and afterschool programs to narrow the achievement gap, increase school engagement, develop stronger educators, and meet family and community needs.

Externally-Validated to Meet ESSA Evidence Standards

Third-party reviews confirm that BellXcel Summer and Afterschool meet ESSA evidence standards.



BellXcel Summer: The RAND Corporation's independent review of summer programs nationwide confirms BellXcel meets the highest levels of evidence – one of only 43 summer programs in the U.S. with that distinction.



BellXcel Afterschool: Independent review conducted by Research for Action found that BellXcel meets the highest levels of evidence – one of only 16 academically-focused programs nationwide.

Evidence of Scholar Success

Rigorous internal and external third-party evaluations confirm that BellXcel's summer and afterschool models have strong, positive impacts on the academic and social emotional skills of scholars:

- **Provide continued academic progress during the summer months.** Scholars on average experience 2 months of academic gains in literacy and 2.5 months in math during the summer months. ^{1,2}
- **Improve performance on school-year standardized assessments.** Scholars perform higher on fall administered national standardized tests* such as Dibels, NWEA MAP, and iReady. ^{3,4,5,9}
- **Improve performance on spring school-year achievement tests.** Scholars perform higher* on end-of-grade math achievement tests. ^{6,7}
- **Improve school year attendance.** Scholars who participate in BellXcel's summer model have higher fall school attendance than their peers*. ^{2,7,8}
- **Reduce school year behavioral referrals.** Scholars who participate in BellXcel's summer model have fewer school year behavioral referrals. ^{2,8}
- **Improve school year academic performance among student sub-groups.** Scholars in key subgroups gain literacy and math skills and/or perform higher on school year assessments*:

- Pre-kindergarten
- Elementary grades K–4
- Middle school grades 5–8
- Special education needs
- Hispanic/Latino students
- Dual language learners
- Students receiving free and reduced price meals ^{3,4,5,8,9,10}

- **Increase engagement and interest in learning.** Scholars who participate in BellXcel's summer model enter the school year with improved attitudes toward learning and increased eagerness to learn.¹ Additionally, scholars* watch fewer hours of television and play fewer hours of video games.⁹
- **Strengthen key social emotional skills.** Scholars experience growth in key social emotional competencies such as growth mindset and self-confidence.¹



Evidence of Family Engagement

BellXcel's summer and afterschool solutions are intentionally designed to engage families in their child's learning and have been shown to:

- **Increase family engagement** in child's learning. Parents/guardians increase their involvement in their child's education, including reading more frequently* to their children at home and encouraging their child to read. ^{1,9}

Evidence of Improved Educator Practice

Educators participate in BellXcel's professional development while gaining real world learning experiences through ongoing coaching and reflection that positively impacts their school-year teaching.

BellXcel's professional development has been shown to positively impact teacher practice:

- **Enhance school year teacher practices and confidence.** Educators start the school year with new and enhanced approaches to teaching and increased confidence implementing new practices, particularly in the areas of growth mindset and positive behavior management. ^{11,12}
- **Increase energy and passion for teaching.** Educators start the school year with increased energy and passion for teaching. ^{10, 11}



Evidence of Program Quality & Implementation

A key factor influencing strong positive findings for scholars, families, and educators is comprehensive staff professional development and high-quality program implementation.

Internal quality assurance and external third-party studies confirm that BellXcel's model is:

- **Implemented with high quality and strong fidelity according to national standards.** BellXcel's summer model is implemented with strong fidelity and with high quality relative to national program quality standards developed by the RAND Corporation and National Summer Learning Association (NSLA). ^{2, 5, 13}
- **Implementing strong and comprehensive staff.** BellXcel's professional development model and activities are recognized for strengthening staff professional skills and supporting educator growth. ^{5, 10, 11}

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Citations

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