



## Why is summer learning so critical, especially now?

- Students across the country are testing behind an average of 4 months in math and 5 months in reading
- Students living in areas most affected by school closures, illness, and lack of community resources during the pandemic are now facing even more challenges, and many have lost an average of 7 months in reading
- The U.S. Surgeon General has raised a flag on youth mental health, and many young people are unable to access the support they need
- Summer and afterschool learning outside the classroom is a critical, yet often overlooked, part of the education system – and this became even more clear as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

## What can we do to benefit students as they recover from the pandemic today and in the future?

- Investments in programs, like Horizons, today will meet the needs of students at this moment, and benefit students for years to come
- On average, students who experience out-of-school learning receive up to 6,000 hours of additional instruction by 6th grade
- Schools can't be expected to tackle pandemic recovery alone. Partnerships between education institutions, community organizations, and government agencies are essential to support students, families, and teachers in working together for our students
- By providing support and funding for out-of-school learning, **all students** can access high-quality, long-term learning opportunities beyond the typical school day

## How do students and teachers benefit from Horizons programs?

**Horizons partners with schools** to create supportive, long-term learning communities outside the traditional school calendar:

- Students and families return every year from kindergarten through high school
- Horizons focuses on the whole child, blending literacy and STEM with social-emotional learning, the arts, sports, and field trips, while supporting students in forming long-term relationships and building self-confidence
- Every Horizons student learns to swim - a fun and life-saving skill that translates into increased confidence both in and out of the classroom

- Programs are equipped with social-emotional learning tools, social workers, and counselors to support students and ensure a trauma-responsive curriculum
- **Students achieve an average of 6-10 week gains in reading and math each summer**
- Teachers come back each year, too, creating student-driven classrooms, engaging in professional development, and experiencing different ways of educating the whole child

## What is Horizons?

Horizons National leads a national network of high-quality, evidence-based education and youth development programs specifically designed to support the learning recovery of K-12 students. Horizons programs are the perfect example of how government, schools, and community-based organizations can work together for our students over many years.

- Horizons National has been successfully expanding programs for over 25 years
- Horizons at Albertus Magnus College is one of 10 Horizons programs in Connecticut, and one of 74 across the country
- Horizons sites are added to the Network each year, welcoming new students and families
- 95% of Horizons programs ever created are still operating today
- Over 5,700 students engaged with Horizons in 2021
- 94% average daily attendance rate across the Network during the summer session
- Horizons programs retain 84% of students and families and over 80% of teachers each year

**Mission:** We advance educational equity by building long-term partnerships with students, families, communities, and schools to create experiences outside of school that inspire the joy of learning.

**Vision:** Our vision is a future in which every child thrives.

