

Birch Creek Summer Reading Program



KCHA Youth Centers



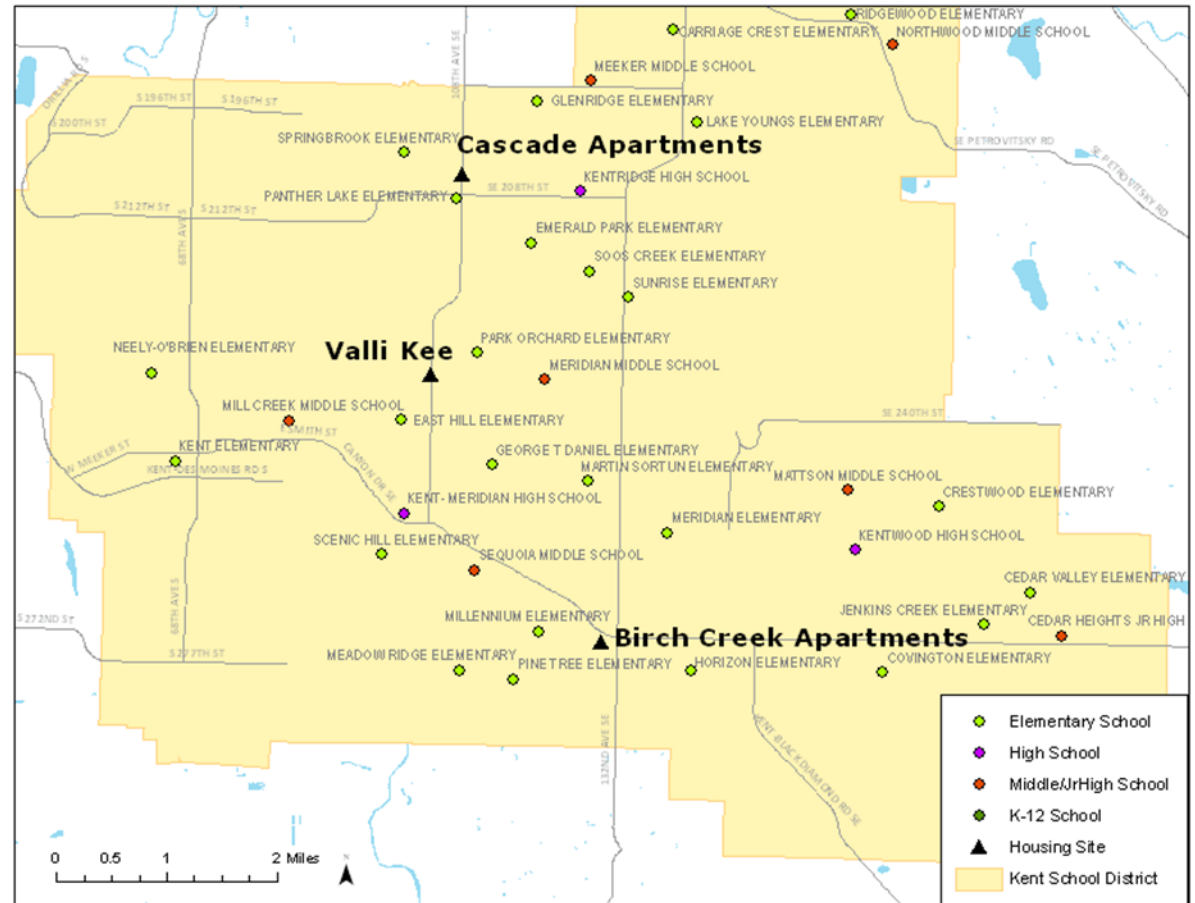
20,000 Children across
King County
Average Income: \$18,000
70% Minority
34% Non-English Speaking

Kent

Approximately 900 children
in KCHA properties

Average household income
is \$18,900

Major languages include
Somali, Ukrainian, Russian,
Vietnamese, English



Shared Concerns and Opportunities with School Districts, PHA's and Community Partners

Housing Security

Classroom Stability

Third Grade Reading

Access to High Quality Early Learning

Aligned Out-of-School Programs

High School Success and College Access

Family & Community Engagement



Why Focus on Summer?

Research shows that students lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer, a phenomenon known as “Summer Slide.” The problem is particularly acute among low-income youth who lose an average of more than two month of reading achievement over the summer. This slows students’ progress towards third grade reading proficiency and can add up to 5th grade students reading at nearly three grade levels below their more affluent peers.



Aligned Out-of-School Programs

Birch Creek
Summer
Reading
Splash



Unique
Program
Features

ELIMINATE SUMMER READING LOSS
FOCUS ON PHONICS
EMBEDDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
NEEDS BASED INSTRUCTIONAL CENTERS
FORMALIZED AND CONSISTENT DATA TRACKING
INTENTIONAL HIRING OF CERTIFICATED STAFF

Summer Splash Theory of Change

We will prevent literacy summer slide by providing learning opportunities based on student data and using a tiered intervention to identify individualized student academic needs and supports, as a result achievement during school day will be increased.

Accordingly, Summer Splash was designed to address the specific needs of the participating students. End-of-school data on student reading performance from the Individual Reading Level Assessment was used to both target youth for enrollment and to individualize the instruction provided to the students.

Program Features

- Summer Splash program was two hours of reading instruction followed by variety of enrichment activities, including arts, sports and hands-on projects and field trips on Friday's
- Fieldtrips are intended as an incentive for consistent attendance in the program, as well as an opportunity for these youth to have experiences they otherwise may not have

Program Features

- Using grant funds, KSD provided three certified teaching staff to lead the reading instruction portion of the program. KSD provided professional development around reading instruction to both KSD teachers and to partnering youth development staff at Kent Youth and Family Services.
- Through a contract funded by KCHA, KYFS provided staff to assist with the reading instruction portion of Summer Splash, as well as staff to plan and lead the enrichment and fieldtrip activities. In addition, KYFS staff coordinated program enrollment and family engagement activities.

Program Features

- Summer Splash also incorporated family engagement. Each year included an end-of-summer celebration where families were invited and youth were recognized for their achievement. Each Thursday, families were invited to attend the program to learn from program instructors about specific reading skills on which their children were working on. Following, family members would pair up with their kids to practice skills and listen to them read. In addition, youth were also recognized for perfect weekly attendance at this time in front of parents.

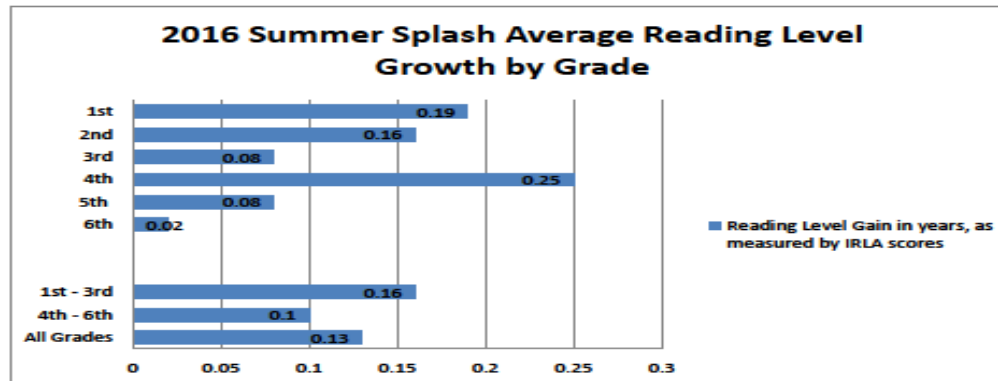
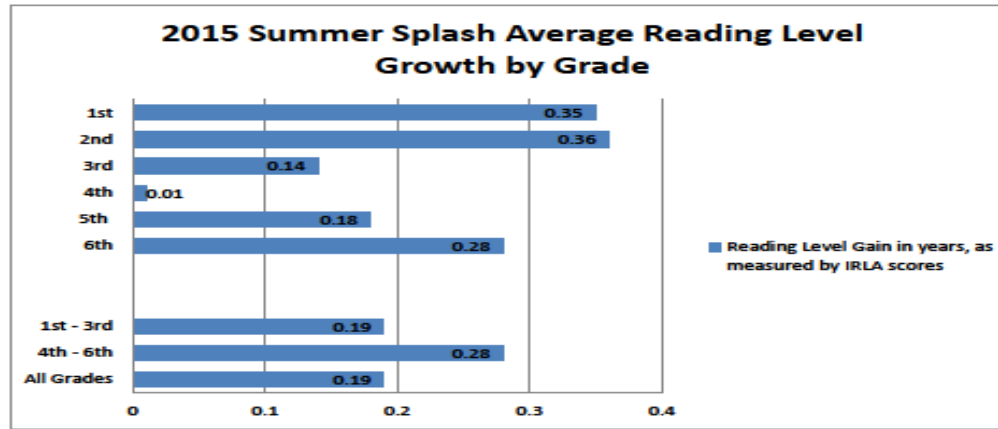
Innovations of Program

- 1) An authentic three-way partnership between a housing authority, local school district and non-profit youth development organization
- 2) Blended academic and enrichment instruction
- 3) The use of data and rigorous evaluation throughout the program
- 4) Embedded professional development and sustainability

*Program design and implementation was achieved through joint-decision making, regular meetings and an equitable division of labor, creating an authentic partnership

Summer Splash Key Results

Attachment B: Reading Level Gain for Summer Splash Participants



Lessons Learned

- Build time into program planning for developing a shared understanding of data collection tools, needs, and expected outcomes
- Work with an array partners to register students
- Set attendance expectations early, and identify any resources that can help families bring their students to the program regularly
- Encourage program completion through student and family incentives
- Plan early, and meet often as a team

How to Pay for These Types of Programs

Housing	Schools	CBO
Moving to Work (if applicable)	Proposal for Basic Ed dollars	Grants from municipalities or Govt.
Summer Learning Grants (Foundation Center, Afterschool Alliance)	School and District Title I funds	Philanthropic grants
21 st Century Learning Grant	21 ST Century Learning Grant	21ST Century Learning Grant
501c3 Orgs. (School foundations, Community Based Organizations)	PTA/PTSA or other 501c3 Orgs.	Fundraise specifically for summer learning programs
City partnerships	City partnerships	