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Education Organization Reports Reasons for the June Attendance Slump and Provides Strategies for Avoiding It

Examination of NYC schools with no slump shows ways to increase attendance rates, boost student engagement and minimize summer learning loss

More than 20% of the school year remains after state testing is finished; yet a troubling pattern begins in May and worsens in June. There is a 5.8 percentage point difference between April and June attendance rates. In struggling schools, the drop in attendance rises to a difference of 11 percentage points. While this data is from New York City, similar trends occur across the country.

There are many reasons for this decline, which are identified in *Avoiding the Attendance Slump: Strategies to Maximize Learning Time in June*, a report being re-released by ExpandED Schools. From culminating events that take place before the year ends to post-testing mindsets held by parents and educators, students miss learning time in June that could give them a jumpstart for the summer and year ahead.

Says Hedy Chang, Executive Director, Attendance Works, “We applaud ExpandED Schools for producing this insightful look into an under-recognized piece of the attendance puzzle. We’ve seen similar patterns in other school districts, but no one has documented how some schools avoid this slump. We hope city and district leaders will use the strategies outlined in this brief to re-capture this critical learning time.”

Analyses of schools that avoid the spring slide and June slump show a variety of strategies that all schools can implement to increase end-of-year engagement and make use of extra learning time. They include:

- **Mentoring Programs** Assign fifth graders to buddy with kindergarten students to help them prepare for first grade.
- **Spirit Week** Use time in June to build positive school culture and meet non-academic school goals.
- **Field Trips** These are a great way to keep students engaged, as long as policies include children on trips rather than exclude them.
- **Incentivized Scheduling** Move key events like prom or graduation to the final days of school.
- **Experimental Learning** Explore new instructional techniques; do field-based work in nearby parks.
- **After School** Continue programs until the very end of the school year.

- **Shows/Showcases** Participation in end-of-year shows keeps attendance high.

Taking full advantage of June school days will help ensure that students have extra time to practice a skill, develop a talent and work on projects in an environment that fosters curiosity and inquiry. These strategies will pay dividends in minimizing the effects of summer learning loss, accelerating learning for the following school year, and supporting young people to reach their full potential.

The full report and an infographic highlighting the seven strategies can be downloaded [here](#).

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[ExpandedED Schools](#) (formerly TASC) is a nonprofit dedicated to closing the learning gap by increasing access to enriched education experiences. In school, after school and during the summer, ExpandedED Schools reimagines learning time, seeking to ensure that all kids have opportunities to discover their talents and develop their full potential. Since our founding in 1998 we have reached more than 800,000 kids, leveraged \$738 million in public and private money, and helped schools add more than 860,000 hours of enriched learning.