



**bellxcel.**<sup>®</sup>

**BellXcel's Impact on  
Summer and Afterschool**



## The BellXcel Impact

BellXcel is a nationally-recognized leader in summer and afterschool education. For three decades, 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:

- **Provides 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.<sup>1,2</sup>
- **Improves performance on school-year standardized assessments.** Scholars perform higher on fall administered national standardized tests such as Dibels, NWEA MAP, and iReady.<sup>3,4,5,9</sup>
- **Improves performance on spring school-year achievement tests.** Scholars perform higher\* on end-of-grade math achievement tests.<sup>6,7</sup>
- **Improves school year attendance.** Scholars who participate in BellXcel's summer model have higher fall school attendance than their peers\*.<sup>2,7,8</sup>
- **Reduces school year behavioral referrals.** Scholars who participate in BellXcel's summer model have fewer school year behavioral referrals.<sup>2,8</sup>
- **Improves 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<sup>3,4,5,8,9,10</sup>
- **Increases 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.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, scholars\* watch fewer hours of television and play fewer hours of video games.<sup>9</sup>
- **Strengthens key social emotional skills.** Scholars experience growth in key social emotional competencies such as growth mindset, self-regulation, self-awareness, responsible decision making and self-confidence.<sup>1,17,18</sup>

## Evidence of Effective Remote Learning in Summer

Rigorous internal evaluation of the 2020 BellXcel Remote Summer learning program implemented during COVID-19 school closures confirm the model has strong positive impacts on scholar and family engagement and social emotional skills of scholars:

- **Engaged scholar, staff, and families.** Scholars, families, and staff report high levels of remote learning engagement in the BellXcel Remote Summer program.<sup>15</sup>
- **Enhanced confidence and skills using remote learning technology.** Scholars, families, and staff report increased confidence and improved skills using remote learning technology in the BellXcel Remote Summer Program.<sup>16</sup>
- **Strengthened key social emotional skills.** Scholars experienced growth in key social emotional competencies necessary for remote learning such as relationships, self-confidence, growth mindset, self-regulation, and routines and schedules.<sup>18</sup>

## 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.<sup>1,9</sup>



## 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.<sup>11,12</sup>
- **Increase energy and passion for teaching.** Educators start the school year with increased energy and passion for teaching.<sup>10, 11, 14</sup>
- **Improve use of student-centered practices.** BellXcel summer educators are more likely than teachers not employed in a summer program to improve their use of student-centered practices.<sup>14</sup>
- **Increase in opportunities for coaching and feedback.** BellXcel summer educators receive important developmental feedback and coaching about how to improve instruction and classroom practices.<sup>14</sup>

## 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:

- **Implements 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).<sup>2, 5, 13</sup>
- **Implements strong and comprehensive staff development.** BellXcel's professional development model and activities are recognized for strengthening staff professional skills and supporting educator growth.<sup>5, 10, 11</sup>

## Citations

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\* Compared to a comparison group of similar students who did not participate in a summer or afterschool program. See each individual study for more details on the comparison group.

