

# LEARNING LOSS in Tennessee

## WHY IT MATTERS

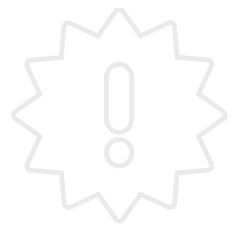
Students across Tennessee experienced different instructional environments in the spring and now— with some students who had access to online instruction, while others had work packets. This variance coupled with traditional summer slide led to learning loss for some students.

- Learning loss **widened persistent achievement gaps** for students from low-income backgrounds, students with disabilities, and English learners.
- Districts are realizing how **COVID-19 disruptions such as quarantine time** in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years is impacting early learners.

Nationally and in Tennessee, we see a few patterns emerging in reading and math:

**More significant drops in K-2 literacy** but stronger results for those students and grades who have already learned to read and are therefore able to learn independently

**In many districts, math declines in all grades**, largely due to the need for more direct instruction and support in the content



## KEY TAKEAWAY

Districts **provide extra support** including strong summer programming and tutoring for students who need to catch up.

## Helpful References:

1. **Time:** *A New Report Confirms Our Fears About Remote Learning's Impact on Students*
2. **The Washington Post:** *'A lost generation': Surge of research reveals students sliding backward, most vulnerable worst affected*
3. **EdWeek:** *Kids Are Behind in Math Because of COVID-19. Here's What Research Says Could Help*
4. **The74:** *Tutoring Can Help Reverse COVID-Related Learning Loss. 6 Principles for Doing It Right*
5. **USA Today:** *As COVID-19 closes schools again, education loss may hurt millions of children for years*
6. **The Wall Street Journal:** *Student Test Scores Drop in Math Since Covid-19 Pandemic*



## TENNESSEE LEARNING LOSS REMEDIATION & STUDENT ACCELERATION ACT

- ✓ The legislation establishes *learning loss remediation camps* over the course of two summers, to serve students entering grades 1-8, beginning in 2021.
  - Programming for full school days of instruction includes a *focus on English Language Arts and mathematics as well as after-school support for STREAM* (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math).
  - *Students are prioritized for participation*, and every child must have an opportunity to engage in programming, either in their home district or by being provided transportation to another district site.
  - Daily summer programming must include *four hours of instruction in literacy and math*, with additional time requirements for *physical education and RTI<sup>2</sup>*, and after-school programming is focused on *STREAM*.
- ✓ After the initial two years of summer programming, the state adopts a *permanent bridge program for students* entering 4th-8th grades. The permanent program would last 4 weeks each summer to cover literacy and math remediation for students who need additional learning time before the start of the next year.
- ✓ Tennessee *teachers, tutors, and staff* participating in this program *receive stipends* for their extra work.
- ✓ The legislation establishes a *statewide Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps* (ALL Corps) to ensure availability of qualified tutors for students, no matter where they live.
- ✓ The legislation also *establishes a 3rd grade "reading gate" and provides students with additional time and academic support*, such as retesting, participation in a learning loss bridge camp or a tutor through the ALL Corps for the entirety of 4th grade, before retention.
- ✓ The *source of funds* for this program is a combination of TANF, LEAPS (21st Century Afterschool Federal Dollars), and state funds.
- ✓ The state will establish and administer a retention *appeals process for certain students*.

