

**Don't Miss:** Wine caves | Hawaii photo quiz | Sagging pants video | 5 summer solstice spots | Ask Mick LaSalle | What did you get your dad?



## Jennifer Peck

Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth

[Read Bio](#)

City Brights

« Putting California's... | Main

### Celebrating Summer Learning Day in California every day

[Tweet](#) 14 [share](#) 10

Most Californians know **June 21** as the longest day of the year and the first official day of summer.

But the 21st of June is also a call to action here in California and across the country -- [National Summer Learning Day](#), a nationwide celebration of the importance of summer learning programs and their effectiveness in preventing [summer learning loss](#) and engaging students in meaningful educational enrichment activities during the summer months. Any Californian who cares about education should celebrate summertime learning -- on June 21 and throughout the summer months -- as a key component of students' educational success.

Just as after school programs are now widely recognized as vitally important to children's academic achievement, summer learning programs deserve to be equally valued as an integral element in every student's continuum of learning.

This is particularly important in California, where only 27 percent of students participate in any kind of summer learning program and where low-income children are often unable to participate due to economic circumstances and lack of local programs.

Imagine that -- nearly 75 percent of our state's children are missing out on enriching summertime learning that will help prepare them for the coming school year and contribute to their academic and physical health and well-being in fun and engaging ways.

In a [new research report](#) commissioned by the [Wallace Foundation](#) and published by the [RAND Corporation](#), summer learning loss is shown to be **cumulative over the course of a student's career** and to **further widen the achievement gap** between low- and upper-income students.

California is marking National Summer Learning Day with a flagship event on June 21 in Sacramento.

There, hundreds of middle school students will descend on the California State Capitol building, video cameras in hand, to put California lawmakers on the record about the vital importance of summer learning programs.

They'll interview lawmakers like Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, as well as other state and local community leaders about the importance of summertime learning and broadcast their video interviews via their favorite social media channels, such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and on [summermatters2you.net](#).

Nothing says summer like a picnic, so they'll also picnic in Capitol Park with lawmakers, teachers, parents, media and local business, civic and nonprofit leaders, enjoy a pop-up science lesson from [Superintendent Torlakson](#) (a former science teacher) and discuss ways to expand summer learning opportunities across the state so that many more students can benefit from summer learning programs just as they are.

[Partnership for Children and Youth](#) will bolster these student news crews' advocacy efforts at [summermatters2you.net](#) and via social media channels, including Twitter and Facebook. We invite parents, educators, civic leaders and lawmakers alike to tune in and see how California's children and youth make the case on National Summer Learning Day for **why summer learning matters more than ever**. Thank you, and enjoy National Summer Learning Day!

Posted By: [Jennifer Peck \(Email\)](#) | June 16 2011 at 07:45 PM

Listed Under: [Education](#)

[Share](#) | [Email](#)

**Editor's note:** This is an SFGate.com City Brights Blog. These blogs are not written or edited by SFGate or the San Francisco Chronicle. The authors are solely responsible for the content.

#### ABOUT CITY BRIGHTS

City Brights are prominent local citizens and experts with a unique Bay Area perspective that is often enlightening, sometimes infuriating and always thought-provoking. [All City Brights Authors](#)

**CONTACT:** [citybrights@sfgate.com](mailto:citybrights@sfgate.com)

advertisement | your ad here

#### RECENT ENTRIES

- [Celebrating Summer Learning Day in California every day](#)
- [Putting California's lawmakers on the record about summer learning](#)
- [Why summer learning matters more than ever](#)

#### CATEGORIES

- [Education](#) (3)
- [Summer Learning and Enrichment](#) (1)

#### ARCHIVES

« JUNE 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		