



CHILDREN'S TRUST

OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Summer Camp 2025 Board Member Feedback

October 14, 2024

Summer Camp Funding for 2025



During the September 23, 2024 Board Meeting, Trust staff provided evaluation results from summer 2024 including a summary of input received from family satisfaction surveys (n=419).

Board members were provided with a survey to gain their feedback on possible revisions and ways make improvements for summer 2025. A compilation of these results are presented in the slides that follow.

Scholarship Types



Should we continue to offer both full and partial scholarships?

Yes

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

No

All Board members are in favor of continuing to offer full and partial scholarships.

Full Scholarship Criteria



What criteria should qualify a child for a full scholarship?

Criteria used in summer 2024 are listed below. There was the space provided to make additional suggestions.

Family Income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

(Issued annually by the Dept. of Health and Human Services these guidelines are used to determine eligibility for programs)

Family receives SNAP benefits

([Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) is a USDA food assistance program for low-income individuals)

Children in foster care, formal kinship, and under case management supervision

Children with IEP/504 plans and less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is a written document developed for a child who is eligible for special education. A 504 plan is a school plan for students with disabilities.)

Full Scholarship Criteria



What criteria should qualify a child for a full scholarship?

Checked

Not Checked

Family Income
<200% Federal
Poverty Guidelines

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

Family receives
SNAP benefits

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

Children in foster
care, formal
kinship, and under
case management
supervision

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

All Board members endorsed retaining the above listed criteria.

Full Scholarship Criteria



What criteria should qualify a child for a full scholarship?

Checked

Not Checked

Children with
IEP/504 plans
and <400% FPL

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

Children with special needs like autism, downs syndrome with income <400%. An IEP/504 for accommodations for extra time or gifted services is too wide open.

Full Scholarship Eligibility suggestions:

- I think any child should be allowed to apply with priority going to children who meet the previous criteria. (Ferrero).
- Disability. (Hardt).
- Family Income <300% FPL. (Pinkoson).
- Children receiving Medicaid might also be a qualification as most are under the 200% poverty level even if the family has not applied for SNAP. (Twombly).



2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/Household	200%	300%	400%
2	\$40,880	\$61,320	\$81,760
3	\$51,640	\$77,460	\$103,280
4	\$62,400	\$93,600	\$124,800
5	\$73,160	\$109,740	\$146,320
6	\$83,920	\$125,880	\$167,840
7	\$94,680	\$142,020	\$189,360
8	\$105,440	\$158,160	\$210,880

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person.

Source: [HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2024](#)

Partial Scholarship Criteria



What criteria should qualify a child for a partial scholarship?

Criterion used in summer 2024 is listed below. There was the space provided to make additional suggestions.

Family Income between 200%-400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

(Issued annually by the Dept. of Health and Human Services these guidelines are used to determine eligibility for programs)



Partial Scholarship Criteria



	Checked						Not Checked		
Family Income between 200%-400% FPL	Andrew	Certain	Chance	Cornell	Ferrero	Hardt	Labarta	Pinkoson	Twombly

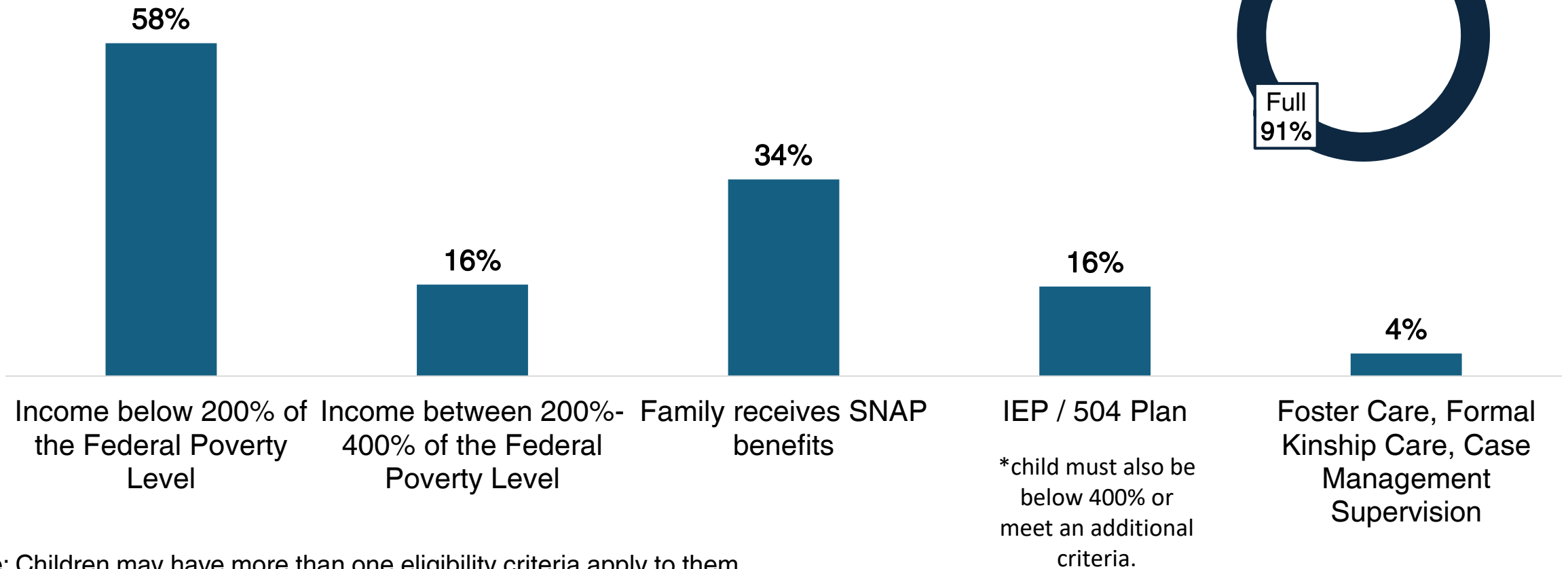
Partial Scholarship Eligibility suggestions:

- Referral from agency with documentation of hardship circumstances. (Chance).
- I think any child should be allowed to apply with priority going to children who meet the previous criteria regarding household income. I would love to see Foster children participate in the program. I think we might need to improve outreach. (Ferrero).
- Disability. (Hardt).
- Family Income <300% FPL. (Pinkoson).
- If a family is above the 200% poverty level, but has a child with involvement with DJJ, has a verified disability or guardianship over relative/non-relative child, it would be beneficial to offer the family even a partial scholarship to provide the child a positive out of school time program option. (Twombly).

Scholarship Eligibility



To be eligible for a scholarship families provide documentation to demonstrate economic or other needs.



Note: Children may have more than one eligibility criteria apply to them.

Scholarship Cost



Should we have a set weekly scholarship rate across providers?

Yes

No

Andrew

Chance

Cornell

Twombly

Not Sure

Certain

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Several Board members were not in favor of having a set scholarship rate; five were unsure.

Scholarship Cost



Should weekly scholarship rates vary across providers based on child population and programming/service delivery?

Yes

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Twombly

No

Pinkoson

Nearly all Board members were in favor of scholarship rate variance.

Comments on Scholarship Cost (1 of 2)



- Program specific. Remain flexible to meet various programmatic and student needs. I trust our staff to determine this matter. (Andrew).
- I'm cautious here. I do think we need a limit, but I also recognize that some programs cost more than others. I don't know a max cost; maybe an average of past 1-3 years. We have to recognize that staffing numbers and type of staff impacts program costs. Organizations have to pay competitive wages recruit and retain staff. Eliminate the attendance incentive and approve payment for staff vacation/time off. Working with youth is often low pay, high stress work and many organizations serving children don't offer benefits paid time off due to costs. We have to recognize that staffing numbers and type of staff impacts program costs. Organizations have to pay competitive wages recruit and retain staff especially staff serving children from under resourced communities, children with special needs/ability status, or involvement with DJJ/DCF, Foster Care or homelessness. Let's approach organization serving these students and fund summer/out of school time activities. (Certain).
- More flexibility for first time scholarships and 200% / SNAP/ Foster Care / IEP kids (Cornell).
- Unsure what you mean here. I think that we should offer a variety of options that would be attractive to different children with different interests. (Ferrero).

Comments on Scholarship Cost (2 of 2)



- Not sure about this. Do you mean as a percentage of the camp fee? Or do you mean as a cap (such as \$100). Not sure what sufficient incentive would be for a camp provider to accept special needs kids. But there should be relief to families plus incentive for providers to accept the campers. (Hardt).
- Not sure what this means? If what this means is that we only subsidize up to a certain amount regardless of what the actual cost is, then no. I'd rather we decide if the cost per child is acceptable or not as part of selecting the providers. (Labarta).
- I would like to discuss an establishment of an average (or median) rate and if a program exceeds the average, an explanation or evaluation is done to see why and if there is a benefit justifying the additional expense. (Pinkoson).
- If the providers normally charge varied rates for camps, this may limit the provider's participation if we prescribed the amount they will be paid or limit a family's ability to participate if we only reimburse a set rate and the family has to make up the difference. Camps may need to staff youth with Behavioral Health/DJJ/Disabilities with a higher staff to child ratio in order to meet that child's unique needs. If it took a higher rate to ensure these populations of kids are served by the camps, I would support it. (Twombly).



Enrollment Fees & Weekly Rates

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Enrollment Fee</u>	<u>Full Scholarship</u>	<u>Partial Scholarship</u>
Santa Fe College - Counselor in Training	\$100	\$85	-
Alachua County - Cuscowilla	-	\$100	-
Girls Place	\$50	\$100	\$66
I AM STEM	\$100	\$100	\$75
City of Alachua	\$100	\$105	\$53
Boys & Girls Clubs	\$75	\$130	-
North Central Florida YMCA	-	\$145	\$115
St. Barbara CFC Ministries	\$50	\$150	-
Just for Us Education	\$45	\$160	-
Star Center Children's Theatre	\$125	\$175	\$130
Kids Count in Alachua County	-	\$186	-
Deeper Purpose Community Church	\$33	\$208	-
Community Impact Corporation	\$150	\$250	-
Santa Fe College - SF Camper	\$100	\$323	\$223
Traveling Art Camp	-	\$330	-
Greater Duval Neighborhood Association	\$25	\$351	-
Good News Arts	-	\$391	\$190
Gainesville Circus Center	\$35	\$425	\$213
University of Florida - CROP	-	\$497	-
Cultural Arts Coalition	-	\$616	-
Aces in Motion - Summer Camp	-	\$636	-
Aces in Motion - School and Career	-	\$784	-

Full Scholarship Weekly Rate:

- Average = \$282
- Median = \$197

Reimbursement Categories:

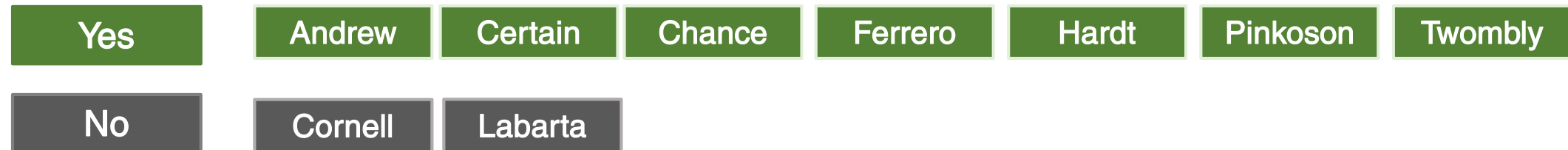
- * Enrollment Fees
- * Scholarship (Full & Partial)
- * Materials
- * Fieldtrips
- * Transportation
- * Background Checks

Not all providers requested reimbursement in each category.

Daily Hours of Operation



Should camps operate a minimum of 8 hours per day?



Most Board members agree camps should operate at least 8 hours per day.

Comments on Hours of Operation:

- For the most part to assist families. (Andrew).
- Working parents rely on a safe and productive environment for their children. (Ferrero).
- Parents work. (Hardt).
- Half day camps may be better for littles, but working parents need 8 hours. I think variety is good and some providers may be able to offer both options. (Labarta).



Days per Week of Operation

Should camps operate 5 days per week with the exception of holidays (and unforeseen closures due to weather, etc.)?



Nearly all Board members agree camps should operate 5 days per week.

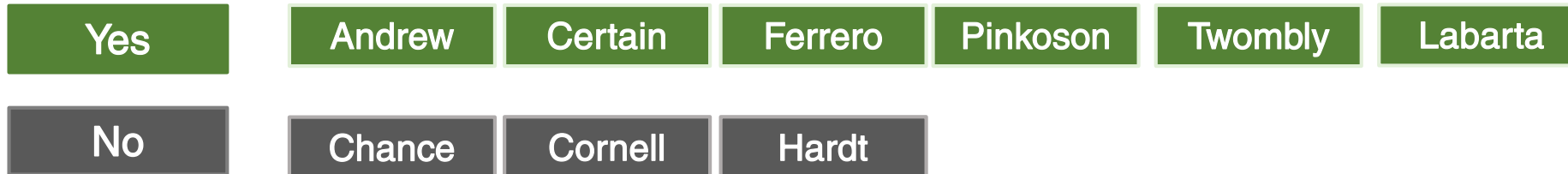
Comments on Days per Week:

- Consistency counts. (Andrew).
- Minimum of 3 days. (Cornell).
- Parents work. (Hardt).
- Would allow for consistent daily attendance and support working families with the cost of care during summer months. (Twombly).

Weeks of Operation



Should camps operate for a minimum of 4 weeks?



Most Board members agree camps should operate at least 4 weeks.

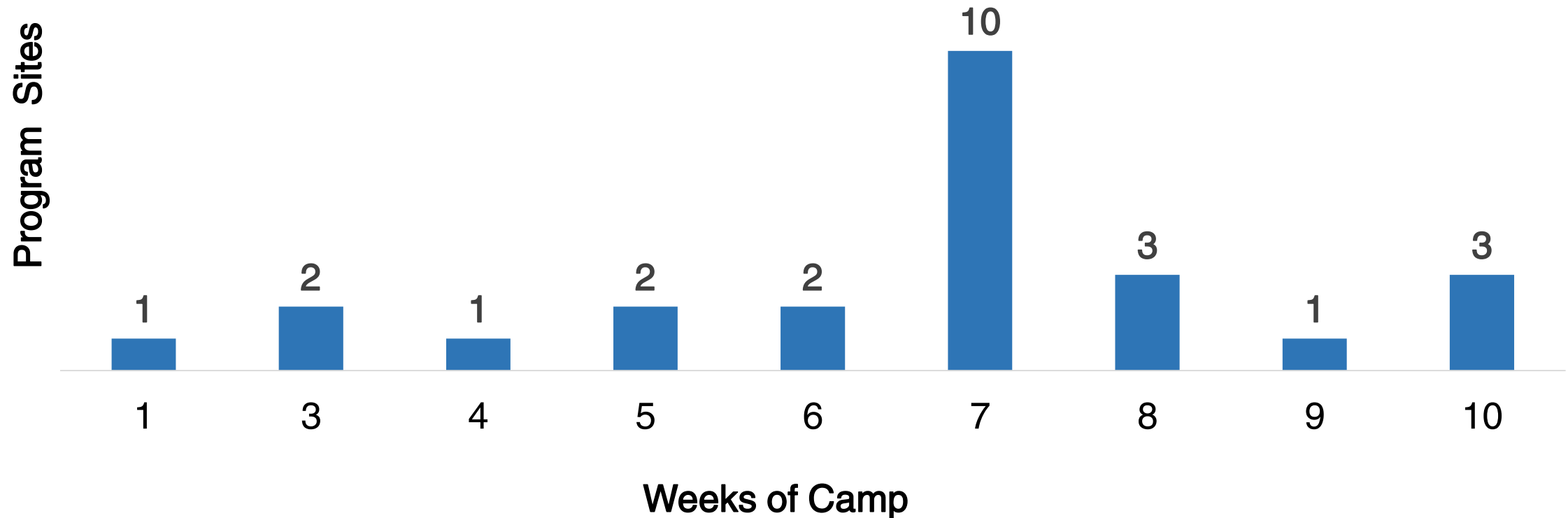
Comments on Days per Week:

- Impact takes time. (Andrew).
- A one-week camp can be highly impactful. (Chance).
- Unique camps flexibility. (Cornell).
- I would be open to one camp structure that offers different activities per week. (Ferrero).
- Depends. A really specific camp (such as pony club camp) may only be able to operate for 1-2 weeks. In such cases parents may only expect a week or two of camp. But they may be looking for other weeks of camp to fill in the rest of the summer. (Hardt).
- Again, allows for a consistent programming that children can attend during the summer months. (Twombly)

How many weeks of camp were offered?



The weeks of camp ranged from **1 to 10 weeks**. The greatest frequency of camps were open for 7 weeks. Three camps offered programming all summer long. Ten weeks represents the full duration of the 2024 summer break.





What Families Liked Least:

- **Program Length (too short)**
“Wanted more weeks.”
 - **Waking Up Early**
“It didn’t last longer.”
 - **Staffing**
“Short hours.”
 - **Activities**
“I wish it could have ran for the entire summer”
 - **Food**
“They wanted it to last the whole summer like some of the other camps.”
 - **Florida Heat**
“Too short of a day. They wanted to stay longer or come in earlier.”
- “My children wanted the camp to have more weeks.”
“Not long enough.”
- “The camp hours were not long enough.”
“Too short.”

Academic Focus



While there is no definitive dosage for producing academic results via summer programs, one article suggested that a duration of *at least* five weeks long with **70 hours of academic programming** and consistent student attendance is needed to be effective (McEachin, Augustine, & McCombs, 2018). These more effective programs are well planned, have established curriculums, small class sizes, and extensively trained staff.

	Alachua County Previous Value	Alachua County Most Recent Value	Change Between Years	State of Florida Most Recent Value
CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL				
<u>3rd Grade Reading Proficiency</u> <i>English Language Arts – B.E.S.T</i>	49.9% (2023) 26.5% of black students	56.1% (2024) 33.2% of black students	↑	55.1% (2024) 41.9% of black students
<u>8th Grade Reading Proficiency</u> <i>English Language Arts – B.E.S.T</i>	48.3% (2023) 22.0% of black students	49.9% (2024) 24.6% of black students	↑	50.6% (2024) 38.3% of black students
<u>3rd Grade Math Proficiency</u> <i>Mathematics – B.E.S.T</i>	49.3% (2023) 23.6% of black students	54.0% (2024) 33.2% for black students	↑	60.4% (2024) 46.5% of black students
<u>8th Grade Math Proficiency</u> <i>Mathematics – B.E.S.T</i>	63.6% (2023) 34.1% of black students	66.9% (2024) 38.6% for black students	↑	64.8% (2024) 50.1% for black students

Summer Learning Loss

Research on summer learning has shown that children from a higher socioeconomic status (SES) continue to learn during the summer months, but lower-SES students tend to lose ground.

- 2.6 months of math
- 2 months of reading

Academic Focus



Do you think funded camps should offer 70+ hours of academic programming?

Yes

No

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Pinkoson

Twombly

Labarta

Not Sure

Hardt

Nearly all Board members were not in favor of having 70+ hours of academic programming incorporated into funded camps; one was unsure.

Comments on Academic Focus



Do you think funded camps should offer 70+ hours of academic programming?

- I believe the hours should be a percentage of time (hrs/week) they are open. 25% or so. (Andrew).
- Burnout of staff and kids/parents. Summer can be used to expose kids to activities they may not get a chance to experience; this builds background knowledge which helps with academics. Capacity of staff to offer academic support UNLESS the program is academic focused like Freedom School. (Certain).
- For some camps it may be appropriate and for others it may not be. Summer camp experiences can be strong contributors to a child's overall development regardless. (Chance).
- New experience for these kids is more important than academic enrichment. (Cornell).
- Do all children need academics in summer? Or just children who are not reading at grade level? I would need to hear more info on this. My answer is not really yes here. My answer is "need more information". (Hardt).
- You can support keeping academic skills without doing things that feel school-like. Kids need a break. (Labarta).
- Unless it's a purely academic and even then, children probably could use a break during the day. Do we do purely academic summer programs? (Pinkoson).
- I need a better understanding on what we consider academic programming vs "learning opportunities", which could include life skills, job training, coping skills, etc., along with having mentors serving as positive influences while working with them at the camps. (Twombly).

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Curriculum

Require a summer learning curriculum that has shown promising results

Andrew

Allow providers to propose how they will incorporate academic learning

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoson

Twombly

Other

Certain

SBAC could host a convening with providers to share topics/areas that could be addressed.

Most Board members endorsed providers proposing how to incorporate academic learning rather than requiring a curriculum that has shown promising results.

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Staffing

Qualified / credentialed staff to go into the camps to provide academics to campers.

Andrew

Cornell

Hardt

Twombly

Train camp staff to deliver academics campers.

Andrew

Cornell

Pinkoson

Twombly

Hire certified teachers as camp staff to deliver academics campers.

Andrew

Cornell

Hardt

Twombly

Other

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Staffing - Other

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

- At least one qualified/credential person to support trained staff. Maybe a combination of all three staffing options based on the program and student needs. (Andrew).
- Recruiting skilled staff is becoming more challenging, I think requiring staff to provide academic support will increase burnout and thus staff turnover. (Certain).
- I think any of these could work - but only for those program with an academic component. Can we give them all these options? (Chance).
- I'm flexible here. (Cornell).
- I think that a camp that is focused on academic enrichment would be the best option for parents and students that are interested in this option. (Ferrero).
- If teachers would like this summer work, it would be ideal. (Hardt).
- Ensure that camps have enrichment that uses age/grade appropriate activities that use reading, math, and problem-solving skills without it being classroom like. (Labarta).
- Each of these options could work and would allow CTAC to work with the camp's capacity to handle this piece with their own staff or request to have an outside provider to off this program to campers.

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Materials/Resources

Book / reading materials.

Andrew Chance Cornell Labarta Pinkoson Twombly

Take home learning activities.

Andrew Chance Cornell Twombly

Incentives / prizes for youth engagement.

Andrew Chance Cornell Ferrero Hardt Labarta Pinkoson Twombly

Other

Certain

Coordinate with school district to share consumables that would otherwise be thrown away. Use library district.

Chance

Any of these are fine to me, but I would not require all.

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Assessment - Require an assessment of academic skills for youth participants.

Yes

Andrew

Pinkoson

Twombly

— Because we need to have the ability to measure a program's success to support future funding decisions, it is important to have some sort of assessment to show program efficacy.

No

Certain

Cornell

Labarta

Other

Chance

In an ideal world, for those programs with an academic component would have common assessment tools and students would be tracked in terms of school performance. This would require data sharing agreements and significant staff time and knowledge. I don't think this is feasible or reasonable for most summer programs unless they are solely focused on learning.

Hardt

Maybe parents could assess this? I hesitate to burden camp staff with testing pre and post.

Academic Enrichment & Summer Learning



What strategies would you like to see camps employ to support summer learning?

Family/Partner Engagement

Host Family Engagement.

Andrew

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Pinkoso

Twombly

Partner with the Library for Visits / Programming.

Andrew

Certain

Chance

Cornell

Ferrero

Hardt

Labarta

Pinkoso

Twombly

Other

Certain

Joint events where two or more providers plan/host events for parents along with other ancillary organizations like library, Health Department, Early Learning Coalition and School District.



What Families Liked Best:

- **Activities**
- **Field Trips**
- **Staff**
- **Friendships**

“I love how camp was fun and educational. The campers learned basic life skills which is extremely important.”

“I loved the fact that my granddaughter was in, both, a fun and learning environment. The Summer Slide is real, and the school provided lessons in all areas of learning, to help her remain strong through the summer. What a blessing to have breakfast and lunch provided daily. The program brought comfort in knowing that summer would be filled with positive and youthful activities.”



Performance Measures

Summer Camp



How Much?

Measure	Target	Actual
Children Enrolled	1,115	1,174
Program Days	785	772

How Well?

Measure	Target	Actual
Children Attend Planned Days	75%	80%
Communication	85%	93%
Overall Experience	90%	96%

Better Off?

Measure	Target	Actual
Learning Activities	90%	95%
Program Safety	90%	96%
Camp Activities	90%	96%
Child Enjoyment	90%	95%



CHILDREN'S TRUST

OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Thank you!