



What is Co-Op Summer Enrichment?

Established over forty years ago, Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program provides six weeks of academic and summer recreational experiences for 230 Mamaroneck School District students. In Summer 2016, 83% of the students who attended received free lunch and an additional 6% received reduced lunch. The program also employs local teenagers to promote leadership opportunities and employment for a diverse group of students. Under the fiscal climate of the past decade, the Mamaroneck School Board has frequently considered complete elimination of the program due to fiscal constraints on the Board of Education budget.

Why do we need Co-Op Summer Enrichment?

The research is unequivocal about the multiple, positive outcomes of quality summer enrichment programs. Despite this, according to the New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN), "...far too many children have little or no exposure to the safe, supervised learning and enrichment activities that summer programs can provide."

The research on summer learning is largely a confirmation of what we intuitively know – children's experiences outside of school are crucially important to their social and academic growth. High-quality summer learning opportunities can support and improve a young person's social, academic, physical, and emotional development. Conversely, youth who lack access to enriching summer experiences, experience not just slowed development, but an actual decline in skills over the summer months.

The result of this phenomenon, often called "summer learning loss" or the "summer brain drain," are cumulative and, over time, contribute to the achievement gap between low and high income students. These kinds of academic losses are particularly dangerous today, as New York State

transitions to the more academically rigorous Common Core State Standards. Summer learning opportunities, or the lack thereof, contribute to long-term differences in achievement on measures such as high school graduation and college attendance, often differentiated by socioeconomic status, race, and/or ethnicity.

Why is additional funding needed for Mamaroneck's Co-Op Program?

The Wallace Foundation estimates that a high quality five week program costs between \$1,100 - \$2,800 per student. The District has now made a significant financial commitment to this program. But, their funds still fall short of the Wallace Foundation recommendations as the District is funding the program at only \$1,000 per student for six weeks. Furthermore, with the income disparity in this District, Co-Op students attend school with students whose families have spent six times as much on summer enrichment.

How will additional monies from the Co-Op Summer Enrichment Fund be used?

The Co-Op Summer Enrichment Fund is a dedicated STEM Alliance fund that is critically important to ensure the quality of the Co-Op Program and to secure its future. The fund will be used to address the following needs:

- To augment the Co-Op Summer Enrichment programmatic offerings through:
 - a significant increase in field trips,
 - an improved student-teacher ratio at the pool for more advanced swim instruction,
 - the hiring of dedicated sport and recreation educators,
 - leadership training for teenagers to elevate the role & responsibilities of local teenagers whom we employ, and,
 - STEM education training and professional development for staff to bring cutting edge, highly engaging learning approaches and materials to students.
- To make up the difference for families who can not afford their to pay their tuition responsibility. (Tuition is \$200 per summer for free lunch families and \$300 per summer for reduced lunch families. Some families can not meet this requirement.)
- To support a pilot program at the middle school level where the Middle School Co-Op was canceled entirely since summer 2016.

Donations can be made online [here](#). Or, checks can be made payable to:

STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck
P.O. Box 528
Larchmont, NY 10538

Use the comment box or check memo line to indicate "Summer Enrichment Fund" and the entire donation amount will be earmarked only for the Summer Enrichment Fund.