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Evidence Summary:

Rigorous internal and third-party evaluations

Built on Proven Research, Designed for Greater Impact

Arly is a powerful platform that enables any program, anywhere, to implement high-quality learning experiences. Developed by BellXcel, a nationally-recognized leader in youth programming for over 30 years, Arly's purposeful design unifies all of BellXcel's independently validated programming components into one complete solution.

With Arly, program providers gain research-backed resources, training, and support to create enriching programs that drive measurable outcomes.

Independently-Validated to Meet ESSA Evidence Standards

The following cites key conclusions from third-party assessments validating Arly's foundational model meets the ESSA evidence standards for high-quality summer and afterschool programming.

The RAND Corporation's independent review of summer programs nationwide confirms the program model meets the highest levels of evidence – one of only 43 summer programs in the U.S. with that distinction. [19]

Research for Action's independent study found that the model meets the highest levels of evidence – one of only 16 academically-focused afterschool programs nationwide. [20]

These are examples of the rigorous internal and external evaluations that create Arly's evidence base to strengthen youth programs and drive meaningful impact.

Evidence of Participant Success and Family Engagement

Arly is built on research-backed methods that have demonstrated measurable gains in youth academic performance, social-emotional development, and engagement. Findings show:

- **Continued academic progress during the summer.** On average, students gain 2 months of academic gains in literacy and 2.5 months in math during the summer. [1, 2]
- **Improved school-year standardized assessments.** Youth perform higher on fall and spring national standardized test, such as Dibels, NWEA MAP, and iReady. [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9]
- **Increased school year attendance.** Summer participants have higher school attendance in the fall than their peers*. [2, 7, 8]
- **Reduced school year behavioral referrals.** Participants have less school year behavioral referrals. [2, 8]
- **Boosted school year academic performance among various student groups.** Youth in key subgroups gain literacy and math skills and/or perform higher on school-year assessments*. [3,4,5,8,9,10]
  - 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
- **Increases engagement and interest in learning.** Summer participants enter the school year with improved attitudes toward learning and increased eagerness to learn. [1] Additionally, participants spend less time on screens. [9]
- **Strengthened key social-emotional skills.** Youth experience growth in key social-emotional competencies such as growth mindset, self-regulation, self-awareness, responsible decision making, and self-confidence. [1, 17, 18]
- **Increased family engagement** in participant's learning. Parents/caregivers increase their involvement in their child's education, including reading to their children* and encouraging their child to read more frequently. [1, 9]

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

Evidence of Strengthened Educator Practice

Educators participate in Arly's professional development, learning, and coaching while gaining relevant learning experiences that positively impacts their school-year teaching. Findings show:

- **Enhanced school year teacher practices and confidence.** Educators start the school year with new and enhanced approaches to teaching and more confidence to implement new practices, particularly in the areas of growth mindset and supporting positive behaviors. [11, 12]
- **Increased energy and passion for teaching.** Educators start the school year with increased energy and passion for teaching. [10, 11, 14]
- **Expanded use of student-centered practices.** Summer educators are more likely than teachers not employed in a summer program to improve their use of student-centered practices. [14]
- **More opportunities for coaching and feedback.** Summer educators receive important feedback and coaching about how to improve instruction and classroom practices. [14]

Evidence of High-Quality Program Outcomes

Strong positive outcomes for youth, families, and educators are closely linked to high-quality program implementation. Internal quality assurance and external third-party findings show:

- **National quality standards alignment.** The 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). [2, 5, 13]
- **Educator experiences that increase satisfaction and decrease burnout.** Programs powered by Arly create high-quality staff experiences by incorporating strong relationships, support, collaboration, a positive environment for teaching, flexibility, autonomy and readily available resources. [21]
- **Professional development supported**. Arly's professional development and activities are recognized for strengthening staff professional skills and supporting educator growth. [5, 10, 11]

Evidence of Systems Change for Provider Organizations

The influence of OST supports and partnerships on evidence-based practices in youth programs were examined. [22] Most providers sought help in key areas like program planning, staff management, enrollment, attendance tracking, curriculum use, instruction, culture, family engagement, and data utilization. Findings show providers using Arly saw improvements in:

- **Enrollment**
- **Program evaluation**
- **Workplace culture**
- **Community engagement**
- **Family connections**
- **Philanthropy and funding attraction**
- **Program design and daily operations**

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

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