



Feed Your Brain **A Funding Opportunity** **For Rural Communities in WA**

What is Feed Your Brain?

Since 2001, School's Out Washington has awarded over 185 Feed Your Brain grants supporting 20,000 children in literacy programming and serving over 390,000 meals. The goal of Feed Your Brain is to increase the number of children who participate in literacy enrichment activities and receive nutritious meals during the summer in rural communities where the poverty level is high and the choice and supply of summer programs are limited. To work towards this goal, grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded to schools or community-based organizations in rural areas that run summer programs with a focus on literacy and enrichment activities and participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

Summer Learning Matters

Research shows that during the school year, students learn at about the same rate, regardless of their income-level. During the summer, however, low-income students lose an average of two or more months in reading achievement level whereas their middle-class peers show slight gains in reading achievement level. According to the National Summer Learning Association, **two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.** As the

achievement gap widens throughout the elementary years, lower income youth fall more than two and a half years behind their more affluent peers by the end of fifth grade. In order to prevent summer learning loss, children need access to academic enrichment activities that are fun, safe, and engaging.

For more information on summer learning research, best practices and policy, visit the National Summer Learning Association website at www.summerlearning.org.



CONSIDER APPLYING FOR A FEED YOUR BRAIN GRANT NOW!!!

The 2015 Grant Application is available until March 27th

For qualifications and funding timeline please visit:

http://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/page_879/FeedYourBrainGrants.htm

For questions about Feed Your Brain, please contact Clifford Armstrong III at School's Out Washington at (206) 336-6915 or carmstrong3@schoolsoutwashington.org.

School's Out Washington provides services and guidance for organizations to ensure all young people have safe places to learn and grow when not in school. School's Out Washington is dedicated to building community systems to support quality out-of-school time programs for Washington's 5-14 year olds through training, advocacy, and leadership.