



EASTON ROTARY SERVICE FOUNDATION

**Rotary Club of Easton
Easton, Pennsylvania**

2886 Hope Ridge Drive, Easton, PA 18045-8144

GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Name ProJeCt of Easton, Inc.

Address 320 Ferry Street

City Easton State PA Zip 18042

Phone 610-258-4361 Fax 610-258-7502

Email AOConnell@projecteaston.org

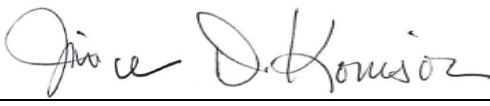
Contact Person Alison O'Connell Title Development Manager

Project Director Antoinette Cavaliere Title Program Manager

Project Title SIZZLE!® 2018

Grant Period June 2018-December 2018

Total Cost of Project \$126,021.00 Amount Requested \$2,500.00

Signature of Approving Agency Personnel  Date 3/29/18

Name of Approving Agency Personnel Janice D. Komisor Title Chief Executive Officer

For use by Easton Rotary Service Foundation

Date Received _____

Action Taken _____ Date _____

Brief Description of the Organization

ProJeCt of Easton, Inc.'s mission is to “*build a better community by helping people help themselves.*” We prepare people to succeed in work, school, and life by providing them with the skills and support needed to break the cycle of poverty and achieve their goals.

ProJeCt was founded in 1968 by a unique coalition of Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic community leaders who believed that our community could be better and that each of us has a responsibility for taking action. They created a bold collective effort that made a measurable difference to those living in poverty. The organization answers their call to action today through a comprehensive system of services that impacts more than 5,000 people every year.

As ProJeCt celebrates its 50th anniversary, we proudly offer all of our programs free of charge to low-income, at-risk Lehigh Valley residents. ProJeCt believes that education is key to helping people help themselves, and we invest in research-based, rigorously-evaluated school and workforce preparation services that teach clients the skills needed to increase their economic mobility. The climb out of poverty requires determination, but it also requires support systems and a community that refuses to tolerate poverty as an acceptable condition. We have created a large network of support, including the Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board, Pennsylvania CareerLink, community colleges, school districts and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley in order to provide tangible economic and social benefits to our community. ProJeCt has answered our founders' call to action, and in the next fifty years, we envision a future of growth and expansion of services that continue to meet the needs of at-risk families in the Lehigh Valley.

Summary of the Proposal

ProJeCt respectfully requests \$2,500 in support of SIZZLE![®] 2018. SIZZLE![®] is a seven-week summer reading skills program for low-income, at-risk children in grades K-5 in the Easton Area School District. The summer break represents a time of learning loss for all elementary school children, but for economically disadvantaged children who are already performing below grade level in reading, the “summer slide” of learning loss can be devastating and can significantly undermine future success in school. Reading skills are fundamental to children's success in all school subjects. SIZZLE![®], a trademarked program of ProJeCt, helps children learn to read so that they are empowered to “read to learn” in STEM and other subject areas. The program was created to address the “summer slide” by providing a high-quality, developmentally-appropriate summer academic intervention.

The goal of the program is to increase or maintain reading scores. To meet this goal, SIZZLE![®] provides children with evidence-based reading instruction taught by certified teachers. This instruction provides a fun, developmentally-appropriate opportunity for summer activity. The program provides an invaluable opportunity for at-risk children to improve their reading skills and enter the next school year confidently reading at or above grade level. We have partnered with Lehigh Valley Children's Centers (LVCC) to offer a full-day program, with ProJeCt providing academic instruction in the morning, and LVCC providing enrichment activities, including sports, arts and crafts, and STEM activities, during the afternoon. The enrichment activities will reinforce children's reading skills and provide working parents with a safe, empowering environment to place their children during the workweek.

SIZZLE![®] helps us build a better community by giving children the reading skills they need to succeed in school.

Project Description

- **Program Design:** SIZZLE!® will run from June 18-August 3, 2018, Monday-Friday, from 8:30am-5:00pm. The program will be run out of Paxinosa Elementary School, and the Easton Area School District (EASD) will assist with transportation, as well as free breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the children. Students will be placed into classes by grade and will be taught by certified teachers hired and compensated by ProJeCt. SIZZLE!® uses the Scott Foresman “Reading Street” curriculum, which has been endorsed by the EASD. Instruction is comprehensively cross-walked with school-year curriculum, Pennsylvania Core Standards, and summer learning models provided by the Rand Corporation: Making Summer Count and the National Summer Learning Association. Our evidence-based curriculum supports progress toward mandated standards, which allows for a smooth transition from SIZZLE!® instruction to school-year instruction. The “Reading Street” curriculum provides 4 hours daily of developmentally appropriate academic and enrichment activities. In the afternoon, LVCC will provide a safe, active program of physical education, coding, dramatic arts, and theme-based days such as “Mad Science Mondays,” which will reinforce the reading skills children are practicing throughout SIZZLE!®.

In addition, students and their families are invited to attend two Family Fun Nights, which are informal evening events that offer fun activities to help the entire family participate in strengthening children’s reading skills. In addition, parents are encouraged to read with their children nightly and log reading times and books read. ProJeCt also invites community leaders, such as police officers, the Mayor of Easton, and more, to visit the program and read books to the children. These activities are meant to reinforce both the reading skills and "star traits" such as smart choices, positive attitudes, and respect that the children are learning in the classroom every day. Children who demonstrate excellence in the “star traits” will be recognized regularly throughout the program.

- **Statement of the need:** SIZZLE!®’s program design is based on nationally recognized research that shows the need for and benefit of high-quality summer learning opportunities for low-income children. Without high-quality interventions like SIZZLE!®, summer learning losses accumulate over students’ school careers and result in an achievement gap between high and low-income students, which can lead the low-income students to drop out of school. SIZZLE!® positively impacts the community need by providing a supportive and creative summer opportunity that sets children up to succeed in school.

According to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Individual Poverty Rates in our targeted service area are:

- City of Easton: 18.9%
- Northampton County: 9.1%
- The rate for families with related children under 18 years of age in the City of Easton is 24.3%

Other factors beneficial in describing service area need are as follows:

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Civilian Labor Force Unemployment Rates are: Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metro Area: 16.4%; Northampton County: 5.1%
- According to The Division of Data Quality of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (2015-2016), the high school dropout rates are: Easton Area School District: 1.4%; Northampton County schools: 1.09%

- **How the proposal addresses the need:** The proposal addresses this need by changing the trajectory of children living in poverty who would otherwise begin the next school year reading one or more grade levels behind their

peers. Reading skills are crucial to school success, and without a high-quality academic intervention, these students continually struggle year after year, and many eventually drop out of school. ProJeCt also addresses the need by providing assistance to the whole family through an integrated system of social, educational and economic support services. This includes safety net services such as food access and rental and utility assistance, as well as educational programs for adults and families. ProJeCt is committed to preparing families for success in work, school, and life.

- **Population to be served:** Children grades K-5 are invited to attend SIZZLE!® based on referrals from the Easton Area School District, which identifies students who are economically disadvantaged, struggle with classroom performance, and are reading below grade level. This selection process ensures that students with economic and academic challenges have access to interventions that can dramatically improve their reading scores and help close the achievement gap. In 2017, 47% of students resided in the Ada B. Cheston and Paxinosa Elementary School service areas. Both schools are identified as United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley priority schools. To strengthen family literacy, siblings of students who meet the enrollment criteria will also be served if space is available. This includes siblings who have participated in the past but may no longer have low scores, as well as qualified children of parents in our Adult Education and Family Literacy Programs. This is an intentional strategy to build attendance; build a heterogeneous group of learners; and, address the needs of working low-income families to have a place for all their children during the summer.
- **Goals and measurable outcomes:** The goal of SIZZLE!® is to maintain or increase reading scores. To measure this goal, SIZZLE!® will use the same tests as the school district – the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and the STAR 360 – to assess students’ progress in the skills associated with reading success: phonological awareness; the alphabetic principle; and, fluency in reading connected text. The EASD administers a baseline DIBELS and/or STAR 360 pre-test in the spring, and ProJeCt’s teachers use the results of these assessments to develop lessons that are aligned with EASD curriculum and support instruction at the skill level most appropriate for each child and each class.

The measurable outcomes of SIZZLE!® are:

- 80% of invited children will attend 5 or more days and will be considered fully enrolled.
- 75% of enrolled children will maintain or improve their reading scores as measured by pre- and post-test scores.

To evaluate the outcomes of the program, the following data is collected on an ongoing/regular basis:

- Program attendance: Measures intensity of engagement daily throughout the 7-week program;
- DIBELS and STAR 360 pre- and post-test scores: Monitors overall level and increase/maintenance/loss of reading skills; and,
- Satisfaction surveys: Gains feedback from students, parents, and teachers.

At the end of the program, all of this data is evaluated by Independent Evaluator Robert J. Popp, Ph.D. who issues a yearly evaluation of the program. The evaluation has been a key component to ensuring fidelity to the evidence-based program model, high-quality implementation, continuous improvement, and is valuable as we pursue our intentions to take the program to scale.

- **Other funding sources:** SIZZLE!® 2018 has the following committed sources of funding:
 - Just Born: \$4,000.00
 - Embassy Bank: \$30,000.00

- BB&T: \$7,500.00
- Capital Advantage Insurance: \$2,500.00
- Merchant's Bank: \$2,000.00
- American Bank: \$2,000.00
- We have applied or plan to apply for funding from Crayola, The Will R. Beitel Children's Community Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, UGI Utilities, PPL Corporation, the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and one anonymous foundation.

Financial Information

- **Project budget:** Please see "Attachment A."
- **Most recent year-end financial statement:** Please see "Attachment B."

Other Information

- **IRS letter 501 (c) (3) status:** Please see "Attachment C."
- **Board of Directors:** Please see "Attachment D."
- **Any other supporting material:** We have attached Dr. Robert J. Popp's evaluation of SIZZLE!® 2017 in "Attachment E."

Conclusion: ProJeCt has successfully operated SIZZLE!® for more than twenty years. We are pleased to be expanding this year to serve more low-income, at-risk children and families by offering a full-day, five-days-a-week program. Our partnership with Lehigh Valley Children's Centers will provide a well-rounded, high-quality environment for working families to place their children during the week. We appreciate the Easton Rotary Service Foundation's commitment to improving our community, and are honored to submit this proposal for \$2,500 in support of SIZZLE!®.

Attachment A

Project of Easton, Inc.
Revenue and Expense by Sequence
Report Period: 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018
Rounding: Dollars

	Sizzle
Revenue	
Contributions - Corporations / Business	10,000
Contributions - EITC	34,500
Contributions - Foundations	18,500
Contract Revenue - UWGLV	20,000
Contributions - Other	4,000
Indir Cont - UWGLV	10,000
In-Kind - Goods and Services (Non-Fund Raising)	33,944
Revenue	130,944
Expenses	
CEO	12,438
Managers	8,250
Assistant Managers	9,813
Teachers	15,406
Aides	3,390
Assistants	2,000
Nurses	2,750
Health Insurance	4,850
403 b	1,114
FICA	4,135
PA - SUI	2,354
Workmen's Comp	351
Employee Background Check	395
Employee Physicals/Immun/Medic	969
Program Evaluation	5,250
Other Consulting Fees	576
Employment Ads	100
Meals - Staff	37
Travel	153
Training	129
In-Kind - Transportation	33,944
Program Supplies	2,859
Field Trips	125
Indirect Expense	14,633
Expenses	126,021
Excess or (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	4,923

Attachment B

PROJECT OF EASTON, INC. (A Not-for-Profit Corporation) STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2017 and 2016

	June 30, 2017				June 30, 2016			
- ASSETS -	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Current Assets:								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 424,800	\$ 88,562	\$ -	\$ 513,362	\$ 264,345	\$ 19,278	\$ -	\$ 283,623
Accounts Receivable	56,838	-	-	56,838	183,343	-	-	183,343
Contributions Receivable (Note 3)	5,524	38,000	-	43,524	740	37,500	5,150	43,390
Prepaid Expenses	14,900	-	-	14,900	10,167	-	-	10,167
Total Current Assets	501,862	126,562	-	628,424	458,595	56,778	5,150	520,523
Long-Term Investments (Note 2)	308,038	202,200	1,366,742	1,876,980	188,089	139,333	1,361,592	1,689,014
Property and Equipment, (Note 4)	29,925	1,086,015	-	1,115,940	41,907	1,115,058	-	1,156,965
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 839,825	\$ 1,414,777	\$ 1,366,742	\$ 3,621,344	\$ 688,591	\$ 1,311,169	\$ 1,366,742	\$ 3,366,502
- LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS -								
Current Liabilities:								
Line of Credit (Note 5)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	41,075	-	-	41,075	24,854	-	-	24,854
Payroll and Related Accruals	56,200	-	-	56,200	41,727	-	-	41,727
Total Current Liabilities	97,275	-	-	97,275	66,581	-	-	66,581
Total Liabilities	97,275	-	-	97,275	66,581	-	-	66,581
- NET ASSETS -								
Undesignated	404,587	-	-	404,587	466,014	-	-	466,014
Board Designated-Operating Reserve	308,038	-	-	308,038	114,089	-	-	114,089
Invested in Property and Equipment	29,925	1,086,015	-	1,115,940	41,907	1,115,058	-	1,156,965
Temporarily Restricted (Note 7)	-	328,762	-	328,762	-	196,111	-	196,111
Permanently Restricted (Note 7)	-	-	1,366,742	1,366,742	-	-	1,366,742	1,366,742
Total Net Assets	742,550	1,414,777	1,366,742	3,524,069	622,010	1,311,169	1,366,742	3,299,921
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 839,825	\$ 1,414,777	\$ 1,366,742	\$ 3,621,344	\$ 688,591	\$ 1,311,169	\$ 1,366,742	\$ 3,366,502

See independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

PROJECT OF EASTON, INC.
(A Not-for-Profit Corporation)
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
Years Ended June 30, 2017 and 2016

	Year Ended June 30, 2017				Year Ended June 30, 2016			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<i><u>Revenues, Gains and Support:</u></i>								
Contributions	\$ 458,532	\$ 258,500	\$ -	\$ 717,032	\$ 380,059	\$ 115,178	\$ 40,000	\$ 515,237
Special Events (Net of direct costs totaling \$25,854 and \$18,071)	45,188	750	-	45,938	43,782	-	-	43,782
Contract Revenue	585,576	9,567	-	595,143	627,161	47,750	-	674,911
In-Kind Contributions	283,092	-	-	283,092	393,024	-	-	393,024
Investment Return	4,898	138,867	-	143,765	4,345	(8,183)	-	(3,838)
Other Income	2,728	-	-	2,728	1,743	-	-	1,743
	<u>1,380,014</u>	<u>407,684</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,787,698</u>	<u>1,430,114</u>	<u>154,745</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,624,859</u>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>304,076</u>	<u>(304,076)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>248,972</u>	<u>(248,972)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	<u>1,684,090</u>	<u>103,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,787,698</u>	<u>1,679,086</u>	<u>(94,227)</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,624,859</u>
<i><u>Expenses:</u></i>								
Program Services	<u>1,370,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,370,250</u>	<u>1,462,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,462,478</u>
Supporting Services:								
Management and General	106,081	-	-	106,081	144,548	-	-	144,548
Fundraising	87,219	-	-	87,219	93,645	-	-	93,645
Total Supporting Services	<u>193,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>193,300</u>	<u>238,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>238,193</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,563,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,563,550</u>	<u>1,700,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,700,671</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>120,540</u>	<u>103,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,148</u>	<u>(21,585)</u>	<u>(94,227)</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>(75,812)</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>622,010</u>	<u>1,311,169</u>	<u>1,366,742</u>	<u>3,299,921</u>	<u>643,595</u>	<u>1,405,396</u>	<u>1,326,742</u>	<u>3,375,733</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 742,550</u>	<u>\$ 1,414,777</u>	<u>\$ 1,366,742</u>	<u>\$ 3,524,069</u>	<u>\$ 622,010</u>	<u>\$ 1,311,169</u>	<u>\$ 1,366,742</u>	<u>\$ 3,299,921</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

Attachment C



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0752851399
June 30, 2016 LTR 4168C 0
23-1699851 000000 00
Input Op: 0752251399 00023202
BODC: TE

PROJECT OF EASTON INC
320 FERRY ST
EASTON PA 18042-4539



014142

Employer ID Number: 23-1699851
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear PROJECT OF EASTON INC:

We issued you a determination letter in April 1969, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(03).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

Attachment D

ProJeCt of Easton, Inc. 2017-2018 Board of Directors

JoAnn Bergeron Nenow, *President*, Meals on Wheels of Northampton County, Executive Director, Elected to the Board 2011, Term 2017-2019

William Proehl, *Vice President*, BB&T, Market President, Elected to the Board 2008, Term 2017-2019

Cary Giacalone, *Treasurer*, Concannon, Miller & Co., P.C., Audit Manager, Elected to the Board 2014, Term 2017-2019

Pastor Susan Ruggles, *Secretary*, St. John's Lutheran Church, Pastor, Elected to the Board 2006, Term 2017-2019

Alan Abraham, Abraham, Borda, Corvino, Butz, LaValva & Co., PC, CPA, Elected to the Board 2003

Patrice Amin, Northwood Hand Center, RN/Office Manager, Elected to the Board 2003

William Bryson, Attala Steel Industries, VP Sales and Marketing, Elected to the Board 2008

Debra Ashton-Chase, Ashton Funeral Home, Co-Owner/Director, Elected to the Board 2012

Daniel Cohen, Seidel, Cohen, Hof & Reid, LLC, Attorney, Elected to the Board 1968

Sharon DiFelice, Crayola, Director, Innovation & Consumer Insights, Elected to the Board 2015

Alvin "Skip" Fairchild, Retired, Elected to the Board 2013

Brian Lokitis, TD Bank, VP Commercial Lending, Elected to the Board 2012

David T. Lyon, MD, MPH, Retired, Elected to the Board 2012

Pete Reinke, ALTRealty, LLC, VP of Operations, Elected to the Board 2010

Thomas J. Schlegel, Fitzpatrick, Lentz & Bubba, P.C., Attorney, Elected to the Board 2012

Linda Tretiak, Retired, Elected to the Board 2017

Janice D. Komisor, Chief Executive Officer, ProJeCt of Easton, Inc.

SIZZLE!® 2017

Independent Evaluation Report

Robert J. Popp, Ph.D.

August 29, 2017

SIZZLE!® is a summer learning program for children in grades K-4. ProJeCt of Easton developed the program and implements it annually in a K-4 school building in the Easton Area School District. The program operates for six weeks during the summer and serves children who have completed grades K-4, who qualify for free/reduced lunch, and who have scored below expected benchmarks on the DIBELS Next literacy assessment. The program's purpose is to prevent the summer slide in literacy skills.

Program Implementation

SIZZLE!® has successfully implemented its summer literacy program for over fifteen years. In 2010, ProJeCt's Chief Executive Officer took two steps to increase the program's effectiveness:

1. Instituted a research based model for the program with measurable literacy outcomes.
2. Implemented a continuous improvement process that included an annual independent evaluation of the program.

SIZZLE!®'s research-based model included a more specifically defined outcome, a research based curriculum, the hiring of teachers with the experience in delivering the curriculum, and pre/post assessment of student literacy skills. As part of the continuous improvement process, the program administrator and coordinator receive recommendations for program improvement from the annual independent evaluation report.

In addition to the development of a research based model for SIZZLE!®, ProJeCt has strengthened its collaborative relationship with Easton Area School District (EASD). This relationship supports the SIZZLE!® program in several ways. EASD provides:

- A secure school building is provided to house the summer program. EASD front office staff control access to the building through a locked front door.
- The school building is air conditioned and has age appropriate classrooms, furniture, bathrooms, and equipment.
- Custodial staff clean and maintain the building during the summer program.
- Federally funded meals (breakfast and lunch) for SIZZLE!® students are provided in the school cafeteria.
- EASD provides administrative support for solving problems that arise during the SIZZLE!® program, which have been mostly related to bus schedules and stops.

Attendance

A total of 156 students were invited to attend the 2017 SIZZLE!® program:

- 14 of the invited students did not attend the program at all.
- 15 students attended from one to four days and were not considered fully enrolled.
- 127 attended five or more days and were considered fully enrolled.

In 2017, 81% of the invited students met the enrollment benchmark. This was an increase over the 78% in 2016 and the 74% in 2015 who met the enrollment benchmark.

Table 1 shows the number of students invited and the number fully enrolled (attended five days or more) over the most recent seven year period. The enrollment rate (number of fully enrolled / number invited to enroll) ranged from 69% to 81%. The median rate was 75%.

Table 1
Number and Percentage of Students Who Attended 5 or More Days (2011-2017)

Year	Invited (N)	Enrolled (N)	Enrollment Rate (N)
2011	222	154	69%
2012	222	168	75%
2013	213	157	74%
2014	176	140	80%
2015	164	122	74%
2016	169	132	78%
2017	156	127	81%

Table 2 shows the number of fully enrolled students by grade level for 2011-2016.

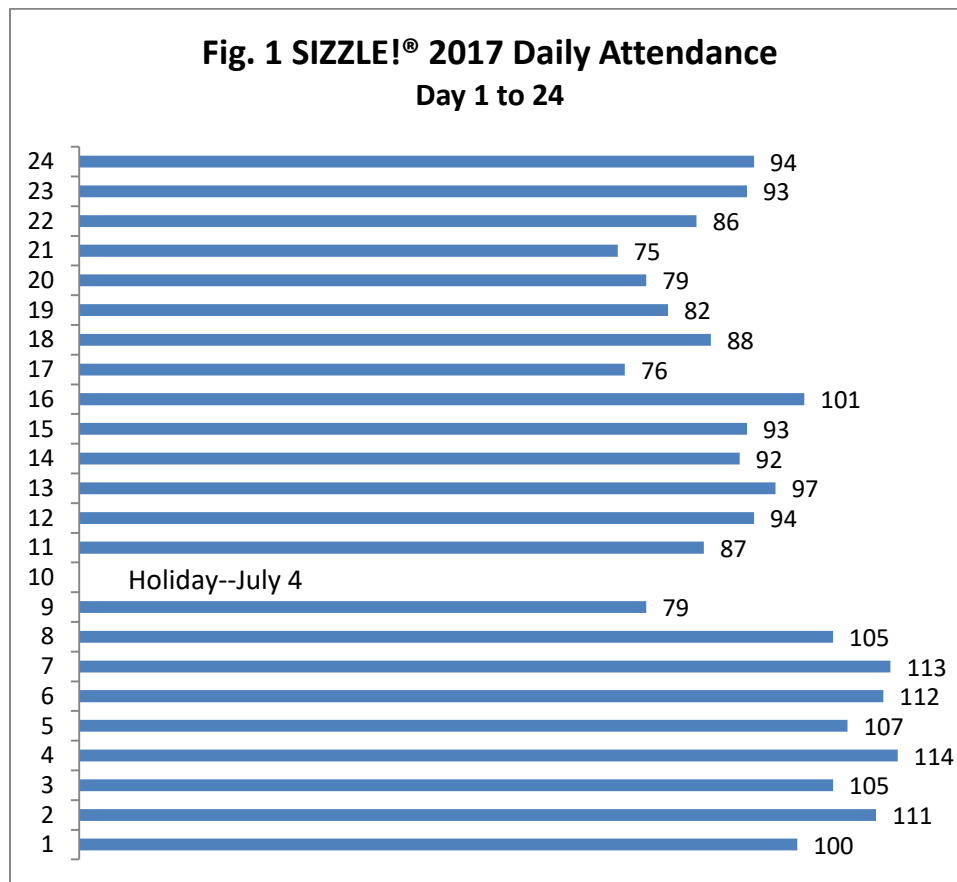
Table 2
Number of Students Who Attended 5 or More Days

Grade	2011 (N)	2012 (N)	2013 (N)	2014 (N)	2015 (N)	2016 (N)	2017 (N)
K	27	38	35	40	23	39	25
1	45	53	34	38	39	35	38
2	40	25	28	20	29	20	20
3	25	29	38	23	20	24	22
4	17	23	22	19	11	14	22
Total	154	168	157	140	122	132	127

During 2017, SIZZLE!® offered 23 days of classes, beginning on June 19 and ending on July 27, with a holiday on July 4th. The number of enrolled students in 2017 decreased 4% over the number enrolled in 2016.

After identifying the 127 students who met the enrollment benchmark, we examined the number who attended the program consistently over its service period. Figure 1 shows how many of the 127 enrolled students attended on each day of the program.

Figure 1: SIZZLE!® Daily Attendance



The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) has recommended a benchmark of 85% attendance for high quality summer programs. Figure 2 shows the seven year trend for SIZZLE!® average attendance. Annual attendance rates ranges from 75% to 83% over the seven year period.

Figure 2: Seven Year Trend of SIZZLE!® Program Attendance Rates

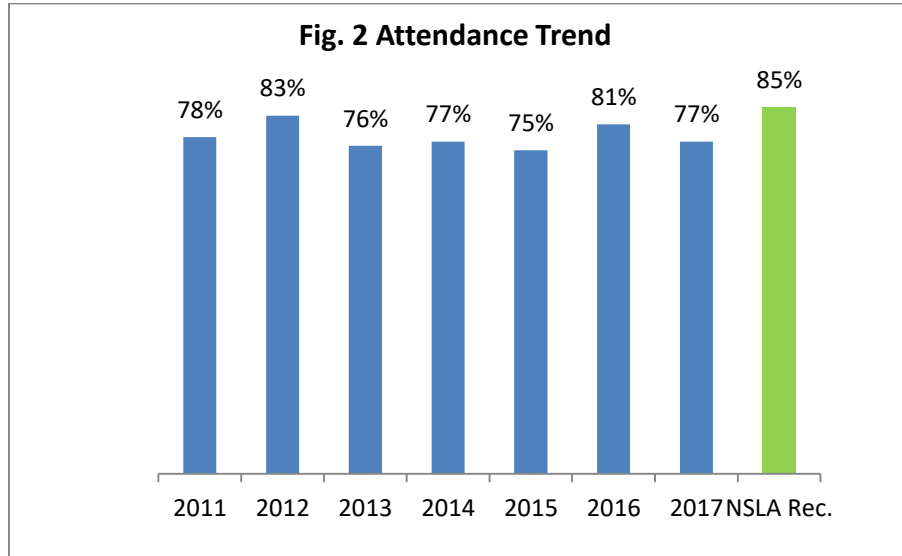


Table 3 shows a breakdown of average grade level attendance from 2011-2017.

Table 3
Average Attendance for Enrolled Students

Grade	Avg Attendance 2011	Avg Attendance 2012	Avg Attendance 2013	Avg Attendance 2014	Avg Attendance 2015	Avg Attendance 2016	Avg Attendance 2017
K	80%	82%	65%	80%	73%	82%	74%
1	78%	83%	83%	81%	78%	81%	76%
2	76%	84%	78%	68%	67%	74%	74%
3	76%	81%	76%	78%	80%	82%	79%
4	84%	83%	77%	71%	79%	85%	86%
Total	78%	83%	76%	77%	75%	81%	77%

Program-level and classroom-level attendance averages are important, but programs should also monitor individual student attendance and strive for consistent attendance with every student.

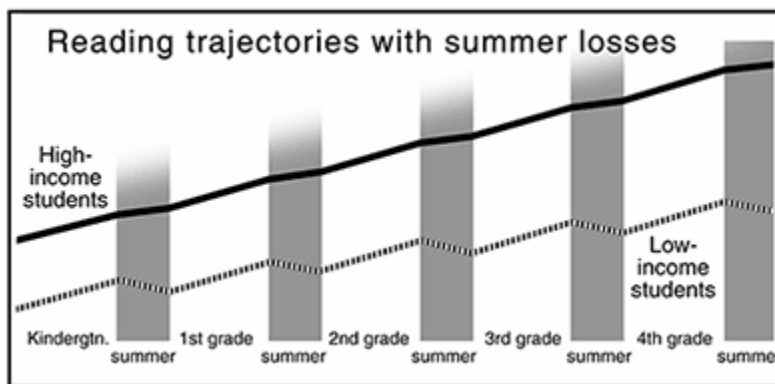
For example, if the benchmark for SIZZLE!® attendance was 85%, it would mean that a student would attend a minimum of 20 days.

- During 2014, 52% of students met the benchmark.
- During 2015, 49% of students met the benchmark.
- During 2016, 52 % of students met the benchmark.
- During 2017, 46% of students met the benchmark.

Student Achievement

The SIZZLE!® program's purpose is to help students maintain or improve their literacy skills over the summer. Figure 3 shows why that is important. Low income students tend to lose ground academically during the summer, then return to a positive learning trajectory during the school year. The result is that they are starting each school year from a lower point than they were at the end of the previous school year. This loss accumulates over students' school careers and results in an achievement gap.

Fig. 3 Reading Trajectories and Summer Loss



Over time, this “summer slide” accumulates, leading to a significant achievement gap between high and low income students. The SIZZLE!® program's goal is to prevent the “summer slide” and, in addition, engage students in the type of research-based instruction that can result in academic gains during the summer.

The SIZZLE!® program used the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS Next) as a pre-post measure of academic achievement. Students' performance on the May-2017 DIBELS was the pretest. It showed the level of academic achievement at the close of the school year. The DIBELS was administered again in July-2017 during the final weeks of the summer program. Comparison of students' May and July scores showed whether students gained, maintained, or lost skills during the summer.

The DIBELS Next composite score was used to compare students' general level of literacy skills in May and again in July. A change score was calculated by subtracting the May composite score from the July composite score.

Pre/Post change scores were reviewed in the context of the standard error of measurement (SEM) for each assessment. If the change score fell within the standard error of measurement, the student was considered to have maintained the assessed literacy skills during the summer.

program. Change scores greater than the standard error of measurement reflected a gain in skills; change scores less than the standard error of measurement reflected a loss in skills.

Grade: Kindergarten

Number of Students Enrolled: 25

Number of Students with Pre and Post Scores: 19

Table 4
Pre/Post Gain, Maintain, or Loss

Pre/Post Status	Number of Students
Gain	0
Maintain	13
Loss	6
Total	19

Grade: 1

Number of Students Enrolled: 38

Number of Students with Pre and Post Scores: 24

Table 5
Grade 1 Pre/Post Gain, Maintain, or Loss

Pre/Post Status	Number of Students
Gain	6
Maintain	14
Loss	4
Total	24

Grade: 2

Number of Students Enrolled: 20

Number of Students with Pre and Post Scores: 14

Table 6
Grade 2 Pre/Post Gain, Maintain, or Loss

Pre/Post Status	Number of Students
Gain	4
Maintain	7
Loss	3
Total	14

Grade: 3

Number of Students Enrolled: 22

Number of Students with Pre and Post Scores: 11

Table 7
Grade 3 Pre/Post Gain, Maintain, or Loss

Pre/Post Status	Number of Students
Gain	1
Maintain	3
Loss	7
Total	11

Grade: 4

Number of Students Enrolled: 22

Number of Students with Pre and Post Scores: 17

Table 8
Grade 4 Pre/Post Gain, Maintain, or Loss

Pre/Post Status	Number of Students
Gain	3
Maintain	8
Loss	6
Total	17

Table 9 shows the percentage of summer students who maintained or gained literacy skills during the summer.

Table 9
Percentage of Students Who Maintained or Gained Literacy Skills During SIZZLE! 2017

Grade	Percentage of Students
K	68%
1	83%
2	79%
3	36%
4	65%
Total	69%

Overall, 69% of the SIZZLE!®2017 students who had matched pre/post assessments either maintained or gained literacy skills during the summer.

Teacher Ratings of Student Engagement and Literacy Gains

At the end of the summer program, teachers rated their students in two areas: engagement in classroom activities and progress in literacy skills. Ratings were completed on the three point scale:

- 1 = Below Expectations
- 2 = Meets Expectations
- 3 = Exceeds Expectations

Teachers also wrote comments to support their ratings in both areas. The average ratings in both areas are shown in Tables 10 and 11.

Engagement

Student engagement here refers to the degree of interest and attention that students show when they are in instructional and learning situations.

Table 10
Teachers' Ratings of Student Engagement

Grade	Number of Students	Average Rating
K	29	1.90
1	36	1.89
2	15	1.93
3	21	1.86
4	22	1.95
Total	123	1.90

Progress in Literacy Skills

Progress in literacy skills refers to the amount of student learning during instruction based on the literacy curriculum used in SIZZLE!®

Table 11
Teachers' Ratings of Student Literacy Gains

Grade	Number of Students	Average Rating
K	27	1.81
1	36	1.81
2	15	1.93
3	21	2.00
4	22	2.00
Total	121	1.89

Family Fun Nights

SIZZLE!® 2017 offered two Family Fun Night activities during the summer program.

- The first Family Fun Night was offered for the parents of students in Grades K-1. A total of 16 students had parents and other family members attend the Family Fun Night with them.
- The second Family Fun Night was offered for the parents of students in Grades 2-4. A total of 10 students had parents and other family members attend the Family Fun Night with them.

Overall, 26 students attended a Family Fun night with their family. This represents only 20% of the 127 students enrolled in SIZZLE!®.

Table 12
Students Whose Parents Attended Family Fun Night

Grade	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Students Attending Family Night
K	25	9
1	38	7
2	20	6
3	22	2
4	22	2
Total	127	26

In previous years, we reviewed the Family Fun Night participation according to students' risk levels in reading. The purpose was to determine if the program had engaged the parents of students who were most at risk of failure. In 2017, SIZZLE!® did not document which families attended the Family Night activities, so this type of data analysis was not possible.

The SIZZLE!® Program Coordinator conducted a parent satisfaction survey with those parents who attended Family Fun Nights. Because the number of parents completing the survey was so low, the results of the survey were not considered representative of overall parent satisfaction with the summer program. For that reason, results of the survey were not included here.

Home Assignments for Reading

The program model included a component for homework assignments to build reading skills. Information about this component was not available at the time of this report. We will include that information and the level of student/family participation when the data are available.

Recommendations for Program Improvement

SIZZLE!®'s administrative staff will review this report and meet with the independent evaluator to discuss the evaluation findings and to prioritize steps for program improvement in 2018. The meeting is scheduled during the October 24-26, 2017 evaluation site visit and will address topics such as:

- The program logic model and definition of the target population.
- The policies and procedures for identification of eligible students.
- The process for inviting identified students to participate in SIZZLE!®
- Strategies to increase student participation in the summer program.
- Strategies to increase the number of students who receive the DIBELS Next assessment during the summer program.
- Targeting areas for instructional improvement, based on the analysis of DIBELS Next pre/post scores.
- Strategies to increase parent engagement in the program.

The outcome of the meeting will be an Action Plan for Program Improvement. The plan will include:

- Actions that will be taken to improve SIZZLE!® implementation and outcomes in the summer of 2018.
- Staff responsible for each action step in the plan.
- Timelines for completion of all action steps in the plan.