

A Two-Generation Approach to Summer Learning Parent Survey Results 2019



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◆ Background

Summer Learning Academies were first piloted at Alta Vista Elementary School in 2012 through the vision of Joe & Mary Kay Henson and with support from other passionate Community Foundation of Sarasota County donors. In 2019 the program was expanded to include 12 Sarasota County Title I elementary schools. The six-week, free program is designed to increase students’ school readiness and decrease summer learning loss.

Academics are taught in the morning with community partners leading extended day STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) enrichment opportunities in the afternoon. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily, and parents are required to attend a



once-a-week evening class during “Parent University,” which offers a variety of options such as ESOL, art, cooking, financial literacy, book club, yoga, etc. These classes build social capital and promote successful student achievement through parent involvement. Some schools offered the summer program to K-4th grade students, while the majority provided it for Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

As a funding partner of Summer Learning Academies (SLA), Community Foundation of Sarasota County worked with the school district to develop a survey, available in both English and Spanish, for parents to complete during Parent University (Parent U). The objective was to gauge parents’ satisfaction with both their children’s summer learning experience and their Parent University class. This report represents a summary of survey responses for all 12 schools. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A. The report is organized in the following sections:

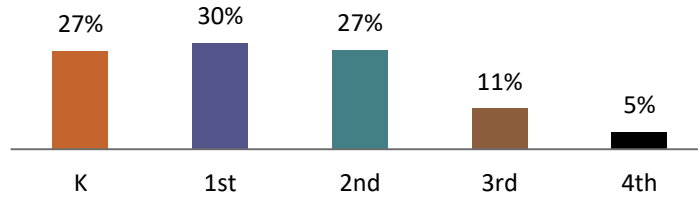
- ❖ Parent Demographics
- ❖ Summer Learning Academy Satisfaction
- ❖ Parent University Satisfaction
- ❖ 2Gen Target School Questions
- ❖ Conclusion



◆ Demographics

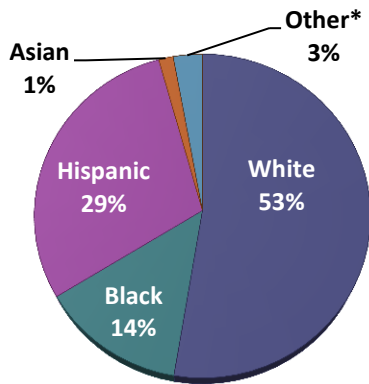
Total student attendance at the 2019 Summer Learning Academies averaged **1,422** children in the morning with **1,145** staying on for the afternoon STEAM program. A breakdown of attendance by each of the 12 schools is in Appendix B. Alta Vista and Gocio enrolled K-4th grade students, Emma and Tuttle had K-3rd, and the other eight schools had K-2nd graders. SLA enrollment by rising grade was as follows:

SLA Enrollment By Grade



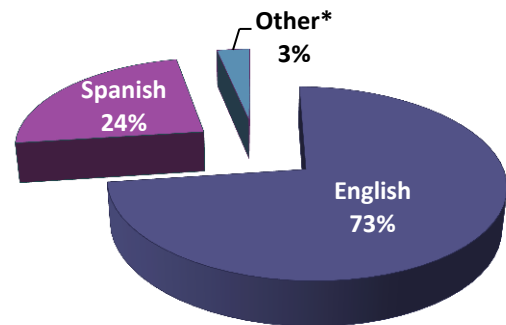
The average number of parents participating in Parent University was **995** with over 100 of them enrolling multiple children. A total of 980 parents completed the survey resulting in a completion rate of 98%. Parent demographics include:

Parent Race/ Ethnicity



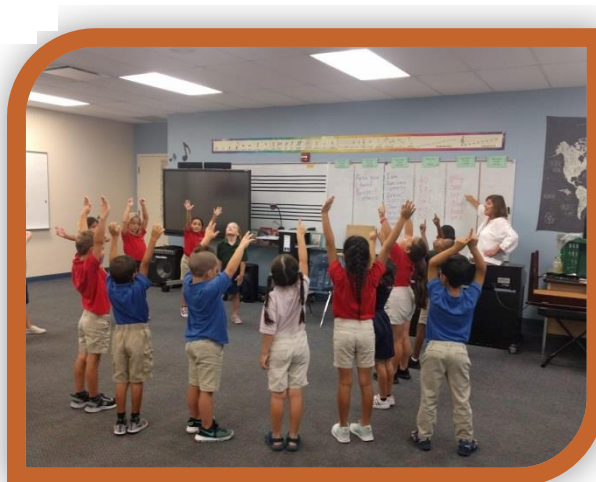
*Most common "Other" race - Mixed race

Parent Native Language



*Most common "Other" language - Portuguese

57% of the parents surveyed said they would be interested in **VOLUNTEERING** at their child's school.



Parents **LEARNED** about SLA through:

SLA Flyer	32%
Teacher or Principal	24%
Attended Last Year	22%
Parent or Friend	9%
Other*	8%
Kindergarten Roundup	4%
Connect Ed	0%

* Most common "Other" - Preschool



The **MAIN REASONS** parents enrolled their children were:

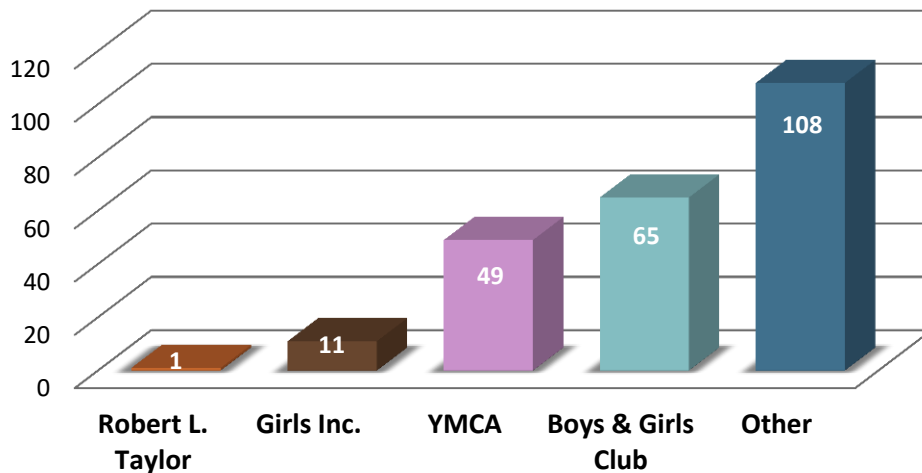
- ✓ Prepares my child for the school year
- ✓ Great experience last year
- ✓ Heard positive things about program

(The lowest response was the *morning bus transportation* with only 7 parents citing this.)



24% of parents indicated that their child is enrolled in an afterschool program.

Most Common Afterschool Programs



◆ Summer Learning Academy Satisfaction

With 908 surveys completed:

99% of parents would recommend the SLA program to others.

98% said their child(ren) enjoyed the morning academics.

98% said their child(ren) enjoyed the afternoon *STEAM* program.



Sample SLA Comments:

"She is a better reader now."

"Every day I pick her up, she says how awesome her day was."

"He comes home excited about experiments and things they learned about for the day."

"He thrives on a routine. This prepares him for kindergarten and incorporates a variety of active learning."

"She enjoys her friends, teachers, and activities and eating family dinners."

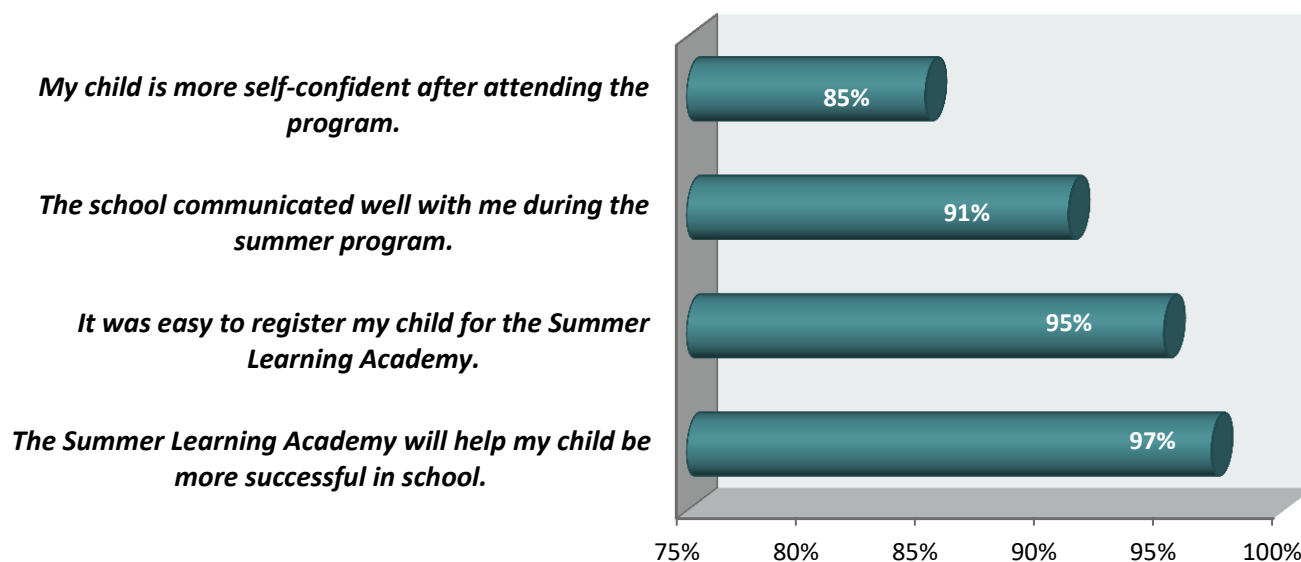
"He loves going into the computer lab."

"She kept busy with fun learning activities and loves the teacher."

"He loves the projects and making & building things."

"He comes home happy to have attended class."

Percent of Parents Who Agree/ Strongly Agree with Each Statement



Summer Learning Academy Suggestions

- ❖ **Better Communication** - By far the most frequent responses to the prompt of ‘*any other suggestions*’ related to some aspect of communications. Parents wanted more information about what was taught during SLA, ways to support their child’s learnings, field trip and event schedules, how their child is doing, details about the pickup process, what their child should bring to school, etc.
- ❖ **Expanded Grade Levels** - A number of parents expressed a desire to see the program offered to more grade levels so their child and/or the siblings can participate next year.
- ❖ **More Recess Time** - Several parents also said their children would like more outside, recess time.
- ❖ **Better Breakfast** - And there were several comments about the nutritional quality of the breakfast served, with criticism regarding the sugary nature of the food and drinks.



◆ Parent University Satisfaction

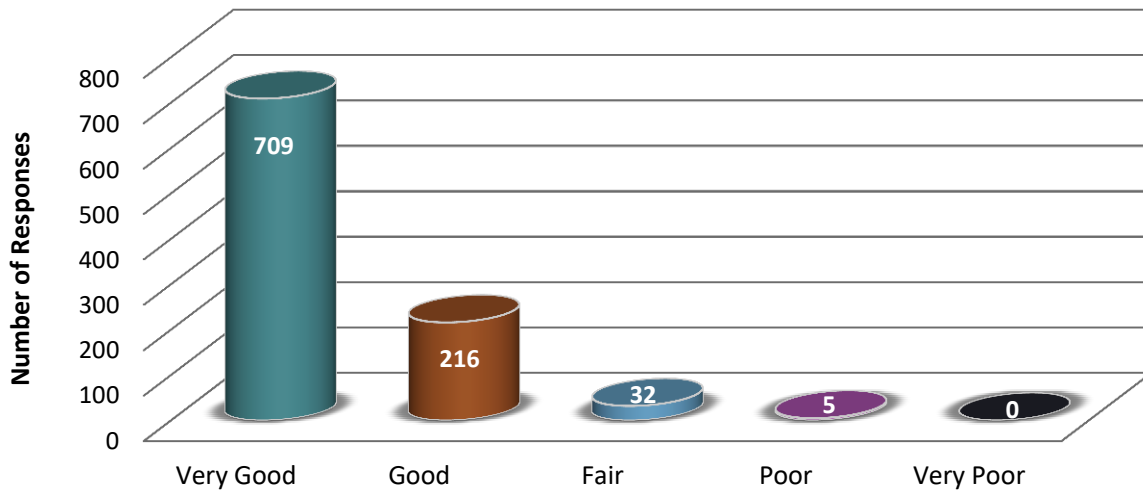
99% of parents feel more comfortable coming to child's school.

99% plan to attend more events at child's school.

96% of parents rated Parent University as *Good or Very Good*.



Overall Rating of Parent University

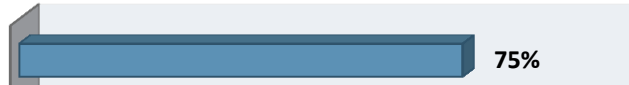


Given that Parent U satisfaction scores were exceptional district-wide, no specific classes had significantly higher ratings than others. In analyzing the 37 responses of *Fair* and *Poor*, low scores were dispersed broadly across various classes.

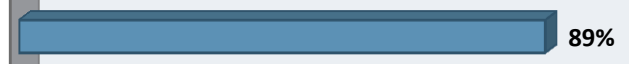


Percent of Parents who *Agree /Strongly Agree* with Statement

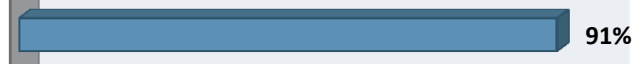
I have been able to get to know other parents during Parent University.



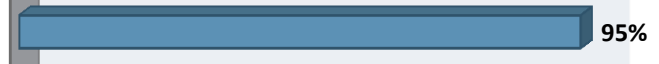
Parent University is offered at a convenient time and day.



Parent University provided a variety of class options.



Parent University has been a positive experience.



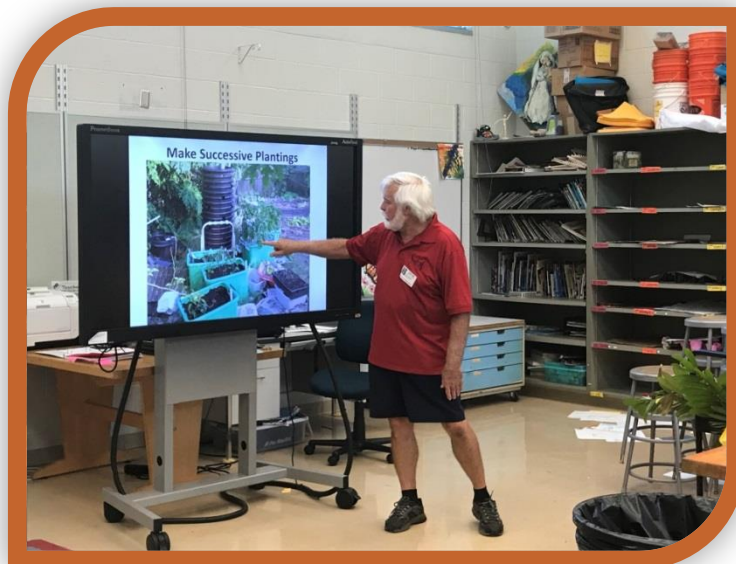
I feel welcomed at my child's school.



Parent University Suggestions

Suggestions for improving the program include:

- ❖ Better Parent U class descriptions
- ❖ More parent/ child interactive classes
- ❖ More Kindergarten transition support
- ❖ Class choices versus general programs
- ❖ More interaction between parents
- ❖ Better support for Spanish speakers
- ❖ Childcare for younger siblings
- ❖ Online Parent U class for those who work



Class Recommendations

The most common responses to ‘*What other classes would you like to see offered during Parent University?*’ were:

- ❖ **Parenting** (including discipline, behavior management, reading strategies, Dad’s class, communicating, etc.)
- ❖ **Cooking** (including with children)
- ❖ **Computer** (including basics, cybersecurity, navigating school portal, etc.)
- ❖ **Fitness** (including Tai Chi, Dance, Yoga, Exercise, etc.)
- ❖ **Arts / Crafts** (including drawing, music, crochet, etc.)



Sample Parent U Comments:

“Absolutely love the connection with other parents as well as the teacher being so creative. I’ve learned so many exciting learning activities to do with my child.”

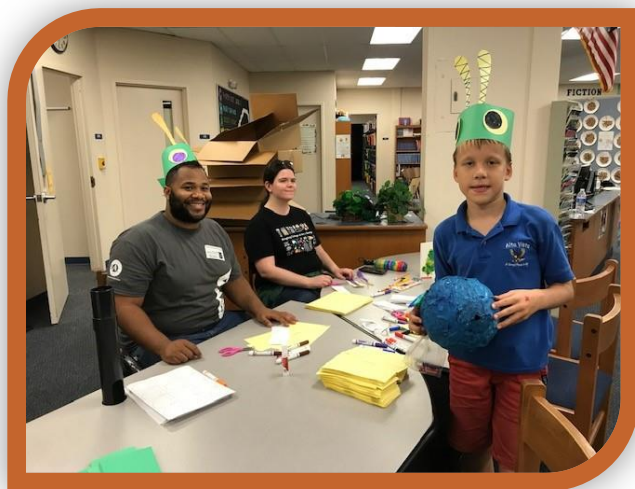
“I like the classes, meeting and socializing with other parents I didn’t know and get to know them. The classes teach us about how to treat our children in an educational way.”

“It’s so good to see my child interacting with teachers and other kids. This is great for some parents who may not be as social, or may not be involved at their child’s school. ”

“Loved not only the class but also the welcomed atmosphere it had each week.”

“Connecting with other parents gives me a sense of help with a lot of things I thought I was dealing with alone.”

“Wonderful to bring school and families together.”

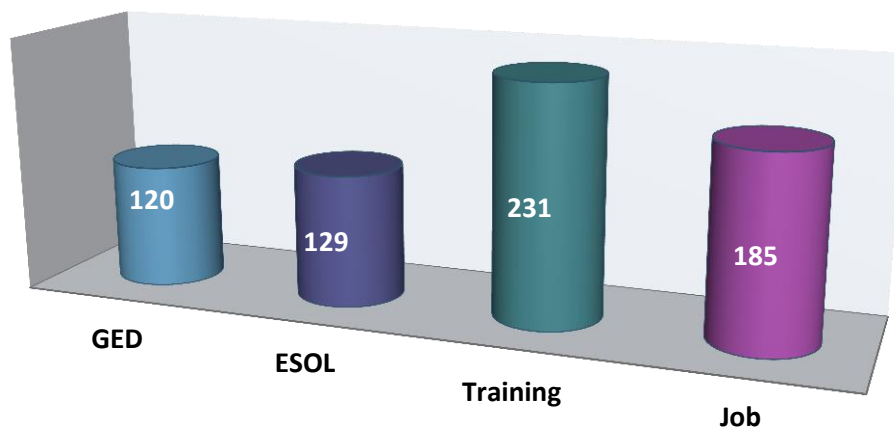


◆ 2Gen Target School Questions

As part of the Community Foundation's *2Gen Initiative*, parents at the north Sarasota target schools of Gocio, Tuttle, Alta Vista, and Emma E. Booker were asked if they would like additional information in four areas: GED preparation, English language learner classes, free college and training programs, and job opportunities. A total of 249 parents requested support, many in multiple categories, representing about 2/3rds of the respondents. A CFSC-funded *Parent Education Navigator* will follow up to connect these parents to resources.



Number of Parents Requesting Support



◆ Conclusion

Parents reported extremely high satisfaction with both SLA and Parent U. Their open-ended comments also expressed deep appreciation for the summer program. They are eager to see it offered again, especially with expanded grades. Some shared their struggles with managing work schedules and were frustrated that they could not participate more. A common theme was the desire for more connection to their children, whether in parent-child programs or through parenting classes. While communication across a variety of areas was frequently cited as needing improvement, parents still felt the program was a wonderful opportunity for both themselves and their children.



About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County: The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community.

About our Two-Generation Approach: Inspired by the work of Ascend at the Aspen Institute, we believe that education, reliable economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being are four vital aspects of helping children and their parents break the cycle of poverty. Our approach has been refined through evidence-based partnerships and programs that address these four key areas, through Summer Learning Academies, Parent University and other initiatives. These programs have earned Sarasota County's Campaign for Grade-Level Reading national pacesetter awards since 2014 and helps inform regional work to improve early literacy through the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

Prepared by Deborah Chapman
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
August 2019





Appendix A:

Summer Program Survey

Your feedback is important to us!



Child's Name: _____

School: _____ Child's 2019/2020 Grade: _____

Parent/ Guardian's Name: _____

Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

- White Black/African American Hispanic/Latino Asian Other: _____

What is your native language?

- English Spanish Other: _____

The answers you provide in this survey will help us make improvements to the summer program. All information will be kept confidential and not be shared with any individual or agency that is not a part of this study. Data from the surveys will be combined to produce reports. If you have any questions regarding the survey or the study, please contact: Kirsten Russell, Community Foundation of Sarasota County: KRussell@CFSarasota.org.

Summer Learning Academy

1. How did you first hear about the *Summer Learning Academy*?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer sent home from school
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher or principal
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents, friend, or neighbor
<input type="checkbox"/> Connect Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> My child(ren) attended last year
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

_____ |
|---|--|

2. What is the main reason you enrolled your child?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepares my child for the school year
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard positive things about program
<input type="checkbox"/> Great experience last year
<input type="checkbox"/> My child wanted to attend
<input type="checkbox"/> Keeps my child in a safe location during the day | <input type="checkbox"/> No cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Morning transportation provided
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

_____ |
|--|---|

3. Would you recommend this summer program to other parents? YES NO

4. Has your child enjoyed the morning *Summer Learning Academy*? YES NO

Why or why not? _____

5. Has your child enjoyed the afternoon Science ("STEAM") program? YES NO Did Not Attend

Why or why not? _____

6. How much do you agree with the following statements?

(Mark **one** box in each row.)

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
It was easy to register my child for the <i>Summer Learning Academy</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school communicated well with me during the summer program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child is more self-confident after attending the program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <i>Summer Learning Academy</i> will help my child be more successful in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please share any other suggestions or feedback about your child's *Summer Learning Academy* experience:

8. During the school year, does your child attend any of the following afterschool programs?

(Check all that apply)

- Girls Inc. Boys & Girls Clubs Robert L. Taylor Center YMCA
- Other _____

9. Would you be interested in volunteering at your child's school?

- YES NO

Parent University

1. How would you rate your overall experience in the Parent University class?

- Very Good Good Fair Poor Very Poor

2. Do you feel more comfortable coming to your child's school?

- YES NO

3. Do you plan to attend more events at your child's school?

- YES NO

4. How much do you agree with the following statements?

(Mark one box in each row.)

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<i>Parent University</i> is offered at a convenient time and day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Parent University</i> provided a variety of class options.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have been able to get to know other parents during Parent University.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent University has been a positive experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel welcomed at my child's school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

5. What other classes would you like to see offered during Parent University?

6. Would you like more information about earning your GED?

YES NO

7. Would you like more information about English Language Learner classes?

YES NO

8. Would you like more information about free college & training programs?

YES NO

9. Would you like more information about job opportunities?

YES NO

Please provide your contact information if you would like us to follow up with you about any of the above information:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank You!

Sus respuestas son importantes a nosotros

Nombre de su estudiante: _____

Escuela: _____ Año escolar 2019/2020 de su niño: _____

Nombre de los Padres/Tutores: _____

¿Cuál es su relación con el niño inscrito en este programa?

Blanca Negra/Afroamericana Latino/Hispano Asiático Otra raza: _____

¿Cuál es su idioma nativo?

English Castellano Otro: _____

Las respuestas que usted provee las ayudaremos mejorar estos programas del verano. Toda la información que provee es confidencial. No compartiremos esta encuesta con un individual o agencia afuera de este estudio. Combináramos los datos de todas las encuestas para producir unos informes. Si usted tendría preguntas sobre esta encuesta o el estudio entero por favor póngase en contacto con Kirsten Russell, Community Foundation of Sarasota County: KRussell@CFSarasota.org.

Summer Learning Academy

1. ¿Cómo se enteró de the Summer Learning Academy por la primera vez? (marca uno)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoja informativa | <input type="checkbox"/> Mis niños asistieron el año pasado. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maestra, o director de la escuela | <input type="checkbox"/> Otra manera, por favor explique:
_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otros padres, amigos, o vecinos | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connect Ed | |

2. ¿Cuál es la primera razón que inscribió su niño? (marca uno)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> La Academia ayuda a preparar mi estudiante para el próximo año escolar. | <input type="checkbox"/> Es un lugar seguro por mi niño durante el día |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Escuché buenas cosas sobre el programa | <input type="checkbox"/> No cuesta nada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuvo una experiencia buena durante un verano anterior | <input type="checkbox"/> Proveen transportación gratis por la mañana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mi niño me preguntó a asistir | <input type="checkbox"/> Otra razón, por favor explique:
_____ |
| | _____ |

3. ¿Recomendaría este programa a otros padres? Sí No

4. ¿Su estudiante la disfrutó la Summer Learning Academy (por la mañana)? Sí No

¿Por qué o por qué no? _____

5. ¿Su estudiante lo disfrutó el programa de ciencia ("STEAM" por la tarde)? Sí No No lo asistió

¿Por qué o por qué no? _____

6. ¿Qué piensa usted sobre las siguientes declaraciones?

(Marca una caja en cada fila)

	Acuerdo Mucho	Acuerdo	Neutral	Disiento	Disiento Mucho
Fue fácil a inscribir mi niño en <i>Summer Learning Academy</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
La escuela ha comunicado bien conmigo durante este programa de verano.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mi niño es más seguro de su mismo después de este programa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The <i>Summer Learning Academy</i> ayudará mi niño a ser más exitoso en sus estudios.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Por favor compartir cualquier sugerencias o comentarios que usted tiene sobre las experiencias de su niño en *Summer Learning Academy*:

8. ¿Su hijo asiste a alguno de los siguientes programas después de clases (durante el año escolar)?

(marca todas las que aplican)

- Girls Inc. Boys & Girls Clubs Robert L. Taylor Center YMCA

Otro _____

9. ¿Estaría interesado en ser voluntario en la escuela de su hijo?

Sí No

Parent University

1. ¿Cómo evaluar sus experiencias de la clase de Parent University en total?

- Excelente Buena Regular Mediocre Mala

2. ¿Ahora, siente más cómodo viniendo a la escuela de su niño?

Sí No

3. ¿Plana a asistir mas eventos a la escuela de su niño?

Sí No



4. ¿Qué piensa usted sobre las siguientes declaraciones?

(Marca una caja en cada fila)

	Acuerdo Mucho	Acuerdo	Neutral	Disiento	Disiento Mucho
Parent University está oferta por un día y tiempo conveniente para mí.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent University ha pródigo una variedad de clases .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
He conocido otros padres durante la Parent University.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent University ha sido una experiencia positiva.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Me siento bienvenido en la escuela de me niño.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comentarios: _____

5. ¿Hay otras clases que le gusta ver la Parent University a ofrecer?

6. ¿Quiere más información sobre como obtener un GED?

Sí No

7. ¿Quiere más información sobre clases donde puede aprender Ingles?

Sí No

8. ¿Quiere más información sobre universidad gratuita y programas de capacitación laboral?

Sí No

9. ¿Quiere más información sobre oportunidades de trabajo?

Sí No

Por favor provee su información del contacto si quiere mas información sobre las preguntas anteriores:

Teléfono: _____

Email: _____

¡Gracias!

Appendix B: 2019 SLA/ Parent U Average Attendance

	<u>School</u>	<u>Average Attendance</u>
ACADEMIC	Alta Vista	189
	Atwater	104
	Brentwood	100
	Cranberry	105
	Emma Booker	132
	Fruitville	122
	Garden	50
	Glenallen	94
	Gocio	161
	Lamarque	101
	Tuttle	177
	Wilkinson	88
	Totals	1,422
STEAM	Alta Vista	168
	Atwater	81
	Brentwood	81
	Cranberry	73
	Emma Booker	102
	Fruitville	101
	Garden	36
	Glenallen	77
	Gocio	141
	Lamarque	67
	Tuttle	155
	Wilkinson	65
	Totals	1,145
PARENT UNIVERSITY	Alta Vista	133
	Atwater	79
	Brentwood	59
	Cranberry	82
	Emma Booker	54
	Fruitville	118
	Garden	43
	Glenallen	76
	Gocio	71
	Lamarque	86
	Tuttle	124
	Wilkinson	70
	Totals	995