



Narrowing the opportunity gap for children in Winnipeg

CSI Report 2013



CSI
SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Winnipeg
A good place to be

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The CSI program is made possible by the following organizations who have committed funds to ensuring the success of this program.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada • Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development • CEDA • Friends of CSI • Government of Canada – Service Canada • Graham C. Lount Family Foundation • Jumpstart • Kenny Family Foundation • Manitoba Public Insurance • Pembina Trails School Division • Province of Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities (Healthy Child and Bright Futures) • Province of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (Ministry of Education) • Thomas Sill Foundation • True North Foundation • United Way of Winnipeg • Winnipeg Rotary Club • Winnipeg School Division • And a host of individual donors

Acknowledgements



The CSI program's success is a direct result of the following people and organizations' continued support and commitment to CSI. A heartfelt thank you to:

- All of the funders who commit funds to the program to ensure participants are able to attend the program at no cost to families.
- The staff and volunteers at Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm which continues to make this program a success.
- The Winnipeg School Division, the Board of Trustees, the Superintendents of the Inner City and North District and their Departments, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Principals and their staff at the school sites, as well as the Research and Evaluation Team, the Human Resource and Payroll Department, the Transportation Department and the Maintenance Department for their continuing support of the program.

- The Pembina Trails School Division, the Board of Trustees, the superintendent, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Transportation Department, and the Maintenance Department, as well as the principals and their staff at the school sites for their commitment to the program's success.
- SEED Winnipeg Inc. (Supporting Employment and Economic Development) for facilitating workshops for parents of children who attended the program at the Winnipeg School Division sites and their role in administering the \$400 Bright Futures post-secondary bursary.
- CEDA (Community Education Development Association) for recruiting and hiring 16 local youth to work in the CSI program and for their ongoing support with CSI.
- The University of Winnipeg in the following areas:
 - The Physics Department for facilitating the hands-on science day at the university and facilitating training workshops on chess for instructors.
 - The Faculty of Education for the use of a training and interview space and assistance with staff recruitment, as well as coordinating "Design-It Science" activities at every site.
- The University of Manitoba in the following areas:
 - The Engineering Access Program for providing workshop training and materials including "Science in a Crate."
 - The Faculty of Education for their help with staff recruitment and for the use of interview space.
- The City of Winnipeg's Community Recreation Department for providing swimming passes for all of our children to go swimming twice throughout the program at their local pools and the Winnipeg Library Services for their training workshop and services at the various libraries
- Jazz on Wheels for providing all participants with a taste of jazz music at multi-site celebrations.
- Frontier College for providing workshop training and "Reading Tents" for all sites.
- VOICES, the Manitoba Youth in Care Network, for teaching our children about their rights.
- Winnipeg Police Service for their continued support in providing a safe environment for our children.
- The volunteers on the Hot Sauce Dinner Committee.
- The community partners that opened their doors for our children during the program.
- All of the parents who supported the program and attended the end of summer graduation ceremonies.
- All of the passionate and enthusiastic CSI staff that made this summer an educational and inspiring experience for the children.
- Most importantly, thank you to the amazing children who participated in the CSI program this summer. Your wisdom, laughter, and inquisitive nature never cease to inspire us.



Executive Summary



The Boys and Girls Clubs CSI Program completed its ninth year of operation and included children from sixteen schools at fifteen sites. One new site was added in 2013, Lord Selkirk School in the Winnipeg School Division. Through continued expansion, the CSI Program has been able to extend its services to reach more children who face summer learning loss due to economic and social barriers. By offering our five-week, full-day, free program, children are able to participate in a variety of academic, recreational, and educational activities during the summer months that they would not otherwise experience.

The CSI program also recognizes the importance of family support in order to improve educational outcomes for children. Families have supported the CSI program by attending parent meetings before the program began and workshops facilitated by SEED Winnipeg where those in the Winnipeg School Division learned about their child's RESP and the potential for Canada Learning Bonds. Families also attended end of program celebrations where children received certificates for their completion of the program.

With continued support for the CSI program we look forward to reaching more children in 2014 and providing quality summer programming that will combat summer learning loss and narrow the opportunity gap.

History of CSI

As a follow-up to research conducted in 2004 by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg created a Poverty Barometer brochure on Summer Learning Loss and held a forum on poverty and education and the impact summer learning loss has on many children living in the inner city.

In response to the data collected in these two sources, the CSI Summer Learning Enrichment program was originally established to provide enriching experiences for children living in the inner city. During the first five years of operation, CSI ran under the auspices of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. As of January 1, 2010, CSI has now become an integrated part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg regular programming.

The CSI program partners with a number of organizations including the Winnipeg School Division, Pembina Trails School Division, the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, and the Community Education Development Association to make the CSI program successful. The program has expanded from 2 sites with 120 students to 15 sites with over 1000 students since its inception in 2005.

Poverty is not just isolated to the inner city and so the issue of summer learning loss can be found in many neighbourhoods in our city. To meet this need, in 2011 CSI expanded outside of the inner city and included schools in the Pembina Trails School Division.



“CSI has helped me realize that I always want to work with children no matter what I am doing.”

- High School Assistant

Program Rationale and Goals

Children living in families with low income are at risk of losing academic ground over the course of the summer as a result of summer learning loss. Summer learning loss occurs when a child forgets a significant amount of the previous year's learning over long holidays, such as summer vacation. Children from low income families are particularly at risk for losses in learning, especially in reading skills and math abilities. Also, many children who are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) miss valuable opportunities during the summer months to utilize conversational and academic English.

Children from low income families and inner city neighbourhoods, especially with Aboriginal and immigrant status are at increased risk and have fewer opportunities to participate in enriching programs over the summer. Program fees, location, availability, and content of offered programs can serve as powerful barriers to participation. In order to enhance educational opportunities and prevent summer learning loss, children need to be exposed to enriching learning opportunities year round. This means creating and supporting summer learning opportunities for children that will complement and enrich the learning experiences provided in classrooms during the regular school year.

Parental and community involvement is also an essential element to improve educational opportunities for children. Through family literacy activities, the leadership development of young people living in the community, and the provision of stimulating and engaging learning experiences for children in the summer, school communities are strengthened.

Program Structure

The CSI program took place at 15 sites:

- Champlain
- David Livingstone
- Dufferin/Pinkham
- John M King
- King Edward
- Lord Selkirk
- Machray
- Niji Mahkwa
- Norquay
- Ryerson
- Shaughnessy Park
- Sister MacNamara
- Victoria Albert
- Westgrove
- William Whyte

The program ran for 5 weeks in the summer from July 3rd to August 7th, 2013.

Each day during the CSI program, children participated in numerous activities designed to strengthen their math, reading, problem solving, language acquisition, and writing skills. Instructors delivered these academic activities in the morning, and provided physical activity and cultural experiences in the afternoon.

A Typical Day at CSI

8:30 a.m.	Staff arrive
9:00 a.m.	Staff walk to pick up children (Walking School Bus)
9:30 a.m.	Breakfast program – children and staff eat together
10:00 a.m.	Literacy, Numeracy and Science Activities (2 hours)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch program – children and staff eat together
12:30 p.m.	Recess
1:00 p.m.	Community Walks, Sports, Field Trips, Guest Artists, Swimming, etc. (2 hours)
3:00 p.m.	Staff walk children home (Walking School Bus)
3:30 p.m.	Staff reflection, clean-up, and preparation for next day
4:00 p.m.	Staff depart

Curriculum and Training 2013

To achieve success in any program, thorough and extensive training for staff is imperative. In early 2013, various staff were hired to work in the CSI program. This included university students, teacher coordinators, food coordinators, and high school students to work at each site. The university students attended a 12-day training period during the month of May where they learned the following curricular tenets shown in the diagram below. Food Coordinators and High School students each attended a one day workshop to review their role and expectations.

The specific training sessions for the instructors included:

- Program Orientation
- Community Development
- Team Building Activities
- Introduction to Chess Workshop
- Restitution and Restorative Practices
- CSI Policies and Procedures
- Classroom Management
- Play It Fair Toolkit
- First Aid/CPR
- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training
- Aboriginal Math Links and Science in a Crate
- Information sharing and mentoring by returning staff
- Effective Planning and Student Engagement
- Winnipeg Public Library Services
- Working with Volunteers
- Aboriginal Education
- Qualities of an Effective Inner-City Teacher
- Language Facilitation
- Thematic Approach to Curriculum
- Using a Strength Based Approach to Working with Children
- Literacy Activities
- Special Education and Differentiation
- Language Arts Curriculum
- Math Curriculum





Program Highlights

- At each site there were between 60-65 children registered in the program with the exception of Dufferin/Pinkham that had over 80.
- Over 1000 elementary children attended the program.
- At our 13 inner-city sites, 81% (713 out of 927) of participants attended the program 75% percent of the time or more. These children qualified for the \$400 Bright Futures bursary for post-secondary education.
- One new site was added in 2013 – Lord Selkirk School in the Winnipeg School Division.
- Across all sites, 31.5% of participants (330) had perfect attendance, while 16% (166) only missed one day of the program.
- 76 university students were hired; the majority from the Faculties of Education at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, of whom 10 were of Aboriginal heritage.
- 61 local high school students were hired, of whom 18 were Aboriginal youth and 24 were visible minority youth.
- 22 local teachers were hired to be the on-site supervisor. The teacher Coordinator role was designated a shared position at seven of the sites.
- Volunteers continued to make a huge impact on the CSI program, with 79 volunteers contributing 5,173 hours. Out of these 79 volunteers, 30 were junior volunteers 12-15 years of age who contributed 2,452 hours of volunteer service!

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- Two project assistants were hired to assist in the implementation, support, and administration of the program across all 15 sites.
- The children were provided with daily, nutritious breakfasts and lunches prepared by a food coordinator at each site.
- The Winnipeg Police Service continued to support the CSI program by providing safety talks with the children, assisting with incidents as needed and ensuring the overall safety of the children.
- The City of Winnipeg supplied passes for the children to swim at the city pools. Each site was able to go swimming twice during the program.
- The Winnipeg School Division and its math and language arts consultants facilitated a workshop for the university students during their training period.
- Frontier College hosted “Reading Tents” along with activity-based literacy games at each site.
- The children engaged in enriching experiences that included field trips to the Children’s Museum, the Assiniboine Park Zoo, Lower Fort Garry, The Forks, Aviation Museum, Fringe Festival and many others.
- The University of Winnipeg’s Physics Department facilitated a science day at the university where the children participated in different hands-on science experiments themed around physics, biology, and chemistry.
- Design-it Science engaged children in hands on science activities and Kids Rights equipped our children with knowledge about their rights.
- Children took part in a multi-site event hosted by Jazz on Wheels.
- Unleash Your Potential visited a number of sites as they cycled across Canada for their national health awareness campaign.
- Minister Allen, the Minister of Education and Minister Chief, the Minister of Children and Youth Opportunitites visited our new location, Lord Selkirk.
- Each child who attended CSI received a brand new soccer ball, basketball, or football thanks to the generous support of the Jumpstart Foundation.
- On the last day of CSI, parents celebrated with their children at the graduation ceremony. Each child was recognized with a certificate for their outstanding efforts, participation and accomplishments during the CSI program.





Community Partnerships

CSI could not exist without our valuable community partners. Some of these community partnerships included (in alphabetical order):

- CEDA Community Education Development Association
- Design- it Science (University of Winnipeg)
- Frontier College
- Graffiti Art Gallery
- Jazz on Wheels
- The City of Winnipeg's Community Recreation Department (Swimming Passes)
- Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre
- Manitoba Youth in Care Network (VOICES)
- NorthWest Company Kids Fest at Shaw Park
- SEED Winnipeg Inc.
- The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
- The University of Manitoba
- The University of Winnipeg
- Unleash Your Potential
- Wahbung Abinoonjjiag
- West End Cultural Centre
- Winnipeg Fire Department
- Winnipeg Police Service
- Winnipeg Public Library
- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

2013 Assessment



Purpose of the Assessment

1. To learn about the impact the CSI Program is having on children from 16 schools at 15 sites.
2. To learn about how well the CSI Program is addressing summer learning loss.
3. To provide program partners an opportunity to reflect upon and gain a greater understanding of the strengths and challenges of the CSI Program.
4. To continue to build on the program's strengths.

Assessment Methods

1. Survey data was gathered from the teacher coordinators, food coordinators, university students, and high school students.
2. Attendance records of the children have been maintained.
3. University students completed a daily fidelity survey on the amount of time they incorporated math and literacy into the program.
4. Parents and children submitted comments on the program.

CSI Findings Goal # 1

To engage children, considered at risk of summer learning loss in enriching learning opportunities throughout the summer.

Findings:

- At our 13 inner-city sites, 81% (713/881) of participants attended the program 75% percent of the time or more. These children qualified for the \$400 Bright Futures bursary for post-secondary education.
 - 92% (673/732) of children felt that CSI was fun, and 80% (585/732) said they learned something new at CSI.
 - Each morning children participated in hands-on numeracy, literacy and science activities geared to maintain or improve the skills they acquired during the school year.
 - Each afternoon, children participated in other enriching activities that included field trips, guest artists, community and recreational activities.
 - 96% (297/307) of parents feel that their family had a positive experience at CSI this summer. 97% (299/307) would like their children to participate in the program again next summer.
-

CSI Findings Goal # 2

To improve educational outcomes for children living in poverty

Findings:

- The Winnipeg School Division, Healthy Child Manitoba and Boys and Girls Clubs continue to evaluate the summer program's long-term impact on educational attainment. Feedback received from teachers and student surveys is encouraging.
- Most students who attended the program maintained their literacy and numeracy skills throughout the summer, and some students improved in these skills.
- Teachers from the CSI schools have commented that the children who attended CSI in the summer have a much smoother transition back to school. Less time is spent relearning proper school behaviour which allows more time for academics.
- Daily fidelity surveys were completed to ensure appropriate amounts of time was being spent on math and literacy skills.
- 89% (275/307) of parents report that CSI helped their child academically
- Schools, universities, and social service organizations collaborated with the CSI program to provide children with new educational opportunities. These experiences instil in our children the importance of education and impart the possibility of acquiring a post-secondary education.

CSI Findings Goal # 3

To enhance the skills and employment experiences of local youth

Findings:

- 61 high school students were hired to work with the program as teacher assistants and mentors to the children. Four teacher assistants were assigned to each site and five teacher assistants worked at the Dufferin site to accommodate the increased number of participants.
 - 16 of these students were recruited and hired by CEDA from local high schools.
 - 11 of the high school students were volunteers during the school year as Teen Mentors with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg's Power Up! academic support program.
 - For a number of the high school students this was their first employment experience.
 - 75% (31/41) of high school students reported that CSI has provided them with valuable work experiences and/or improved their work related skills and qualifications.
-

CSI Findings Goal # 4

To provide opportunities for students from Faculties of Education to work with children in inner-city communities

Findings:

- 76 university students were hired to work as instructors with the CSI program this summer. Five instructors were assigned to each site and six instructors worked at the Dufferin site to accommodate the increased number of participants.
- 6 instructors worked as mentors in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg Power Up! academic support program leading up to their employment with the CSI program, and many instructors have continued their work in the inner city after the completion of the program.
- 72% of instructors (46/64) felt that working with the CSI program this summer has improved their teaching abilities, while 98% (63/64) would be interested in working in the inner city as a result of working for the CSI program.

“My daughter enjoyed CSI so much that she just couldn't wait for the next day.”

- CSI Parent



Lessons Learned

- Many sites have wait lists for the program, and demand is as strong as ever. It is evident that the need for the CSI program continues. We need to look at how we can better meet this growing demand.
- Through the help of SEED Winnipeg we were able to identify the children who received a bursary within a week before the end of CSI. This helped SEED to connect with parents of these children in a timelier manner. We recognized that principals also play a key role in providing leadership to their schools in terms of promoting attendance at CSI and encouraging parents whose children have earned a bursary to attend the SEED workshops.
- In 2013 the criteria for receiving a bursary went from 70% attendance to 75%. The children's attendance went up to meet the new cut-off as evidenced by the number of eligible students.
- The administration and supervision requirements of the CSI program continue to evolve and grow as the program increases in size. In an ongoing capacity, Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg explores ways of meeting these demands in the most effective ways possible.
- Maintaining sustainable funding is an ongoing priority.

Ongoing Projects

- The CSI Evaluation Committee will continue to meet to plan further evaluation of the CSI program.
- The CSI Community Advisory Committee met in the fall to discuss priorities and criteria for growth of the program.
- SEED Winnipeg will be contacting the families of the 714 children that qualified for the \$400 bursary. Information will be given as to the next steps to open the children's RESPs.
- Presentations about CSI and employment opportunities will take place in the fall at the Faculties of Education at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg. Recruitment of university instructors will start in January.



“CSI increased my child’s confidence in ways we never expected.”

- Parent



“The relationships built between families and the overall community during CSI helps to keep the students safe and feel respected during the summer and the school year.”

- Teacher Coordinator



"At CSI I learned to have fun and be safe all summer."

- CSI Participant



"I feel that I am more open to many forms of job opportunities based on my experience at CSI."

- CSI Instructor





Boys & Girls Clubs of Winnipeg

A good place to be

Robyn Peters

Manager of Children's Education Programs

Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg

300-61 Juno Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3A 1T1

T: (204) 982-4971

E: peters@wbgc.mb.ca

www.wbgc.mb.ca

[@bgcwinnipeg](https://www.facebook.com/bgcwinnipeg)

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