



2023 Summer Bridge Program Chaperone and Teacher Survey Results

Princeton-Blairstown Center's (PBC) 2023 Summer Bridge Program hosted 298 students from schools and community-based organizations in the historically marginalized communities of Trenton, Newark, and Ewing, New Jersey during the summer of 2023. Summer Bridge is an academic enrichment and leadership development program designed to lessen summer learning loss; build critical 21st Century social emotional learning (SEL) skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, problem solving, and healthy risk-taking; and help students form positive, supportive relationships with peers and adults. Each of these intended outcomes is grounded in peer-reviewed research that demonstrates the importance of these short-term outcomes and long-term outcomes, such as success in school, employment, and other arenas. Each group participated in this intensive, educational experience of 5-days/4- nights during a separate week at the 268-acre Blairstown campus near the Delaware Water Gap.

PBC measured outcomes using 1) the work products/fruits of the academic components; 2) feedback from leaders and teacher/staff chaperones connected with the partner schools/organizations; 3) a research-based assessment (developed with the American Camp Association as part of a National Research Study conducted by Philliber Research Associates that gauges students' self-perceptions/ attitudes and changes in these.

The Summer Bridge 2023 outcomes were very positive, particularly given that most students are continuing to suffer from academic and developmental deficits that are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on student surveys, 70-85% of the students felt their SEL skills or appreciation of and comfort in the natural world increased a little, somewhat, or significantly.

Thirty-nine of the 49 teachers and chaperones completed written surveys, designed to elicit feedback similar to student surveys. Evaluations from chaperones and school leaders from the partner schools/organizations have been documented below and are **very positive**, corroborating the findings from the student surveys.

Chaperones were asked to rate a series of statements using a Likert scale of 1-5, where 1 is "strongly disagree," 2 is "disagree," 3 is "neither agree/disagree," 4 is "agree," and 5 is "strongly agree."

Significant findings that resulted from this 5-day Summer Bridge experience:

- 92% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved team-building skills.
- 90% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated an increased level of independence.
- 90% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved problem-solving skills.
- 89% of teachers and chaperones felt that their participants were highly engaged during the program activities.
- 85% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved leadership skills.

- 88% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated an appropriate level of risk-taking.

Here is the data:

Thirty-nine teachers and chaperones completed surveys, which were administered electronically on Kindle Fire tablets via Survey Monkey.

1. My facilitator ensured that my participants were highly engaged during our program activities.
 - **69% strongly agreed**
 - **20% agreed**
 - 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 3% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
2. Selected program activities helped our group reach their goal(s).
 - **67% strongly agreed**
 - **18% agreed**
 - 13% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 2% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
3. I can apply the learning gained at PBC in our school/organization.
 - **67% strongly agreed**
 - **13% agreed**
 - 20% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 0% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
4. My students demonstrate improved team-building skills.
 - **43% strongly agreed**
 - **49% agreed**
 - 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 0% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
5. My students demonstrate improved leadership skills.
 - **41% strongly agreed**
 - **44% agreed**
 - 15% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 0% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
6. My students demonstrate improved communication skills.
 - **41% strongly agreed**
 - **31% agreed**
 - 28% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 0% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
7. My students demonstrate improved problem-solving skills.

- **51% strongly agreed**
 - **39% agreed**
 - 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 2% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
8. My students demonstrate an appropriate level of risk-tasking.
- **44% strongly agreed**
 - **44% agreed**
 - 10% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 2% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
9. My students take more responsibility for their actions.
- **33% strongly agreed**
 - **28% agreed**
 - 26% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 10% disagreed
 - 3% strongly disagree
10. My students show an increased level of independence.
- **40% strongly agreed**
 - **50% agreed**
 - 5% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 5% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed
11. My students show a deeper appreciation of and connection to nature.
- **46% strong agreed**
 - **26% agreed**
 - 23% neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 5% disagreed
 - 0% strongly disagreed