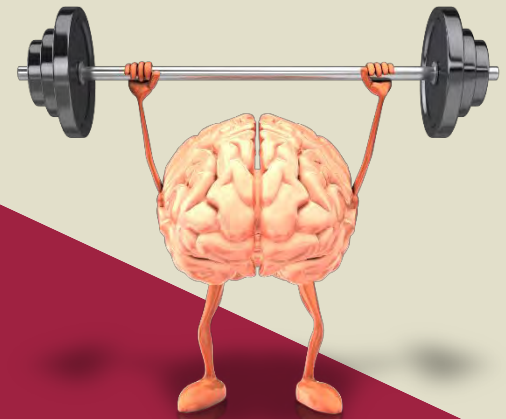# Closing the Learning Loss Gap

ALEKS Summer Program

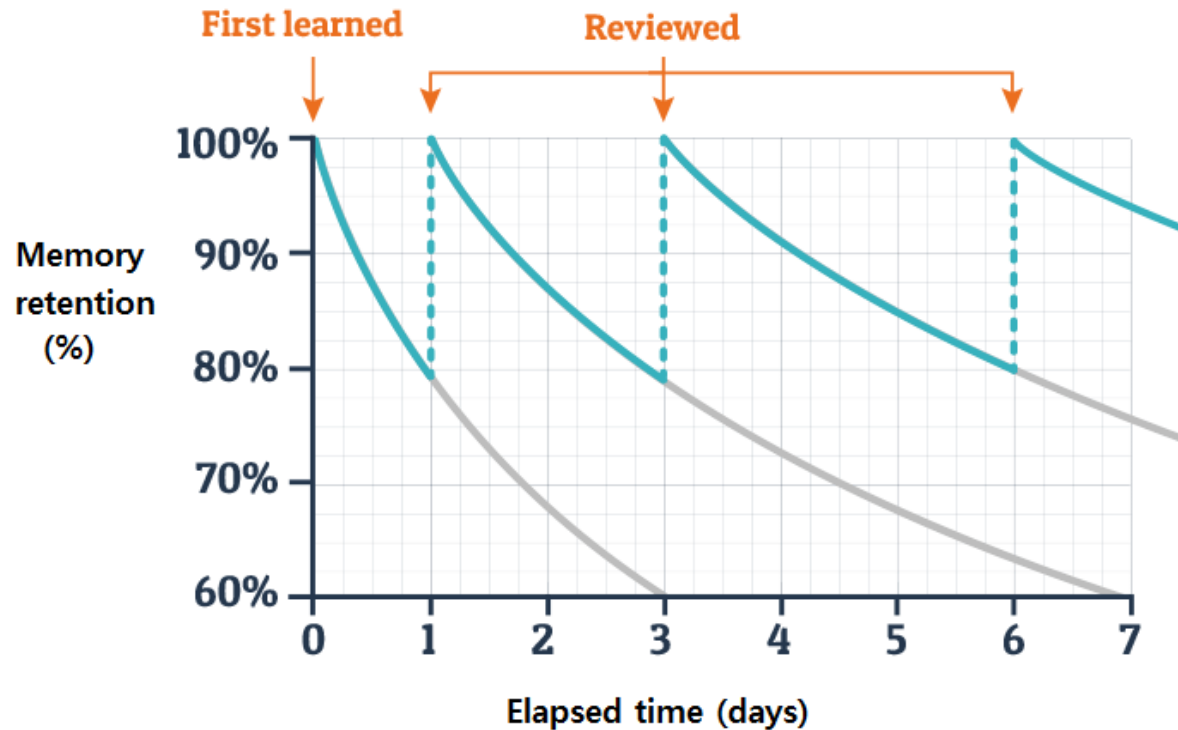Alva White, District Math Consultant
Richland County, SC

Desired Outcomes

- Understand how learning loss happens and the reason why there is a learning loss gap

- Connect the learning loss gap and summer learning loss or "summer slide"

- Learn how Richland One has utilized ALEKS to take steps towards addressing summer slide

If you don't use it, you lose it.

The Forgetting Curve

The forgetting curve hypothesizes the decline of memory retention in time. This curve shows how information is lost over time when there is no attempt to retain it.

What is summer learning loss or "summer slide"?

Summer learning loss or summer slide, is the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation in countries that have lengthy breaks in the school year, such as the US and Canada.

Wikipedia

Let's do the math!

Summer Slide

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Closing the Learning Loss Gap

ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

What & Why:
- To create an opportunity to address potential learning loss during the summer months
- To find a way that will lessen the amount of time spent on reviewing previously learned content at the onset of a new school year
- To take advantage of an annual subscription by getting full use outside of the nine months of the school year ($$$$)

Who:
- Year One – any student that used ALEKS during the school year
- Year Two – middle school students entering Grade 7 – Algebra 1
- Year Three – same target audience with more students participating

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

When:
- Program window begins one week after school ends
- Six to seven weeks for the program window
- Plan enough time to have all certificates, recognitions and prizes distributed before the beginning of the school year

Where:
- R1 implemented a volunteer participation program
- Students need access to a device and internet
- Be creative about access opportunities for students without devices
  - Summer programs or camps being hosted in schools, etc.

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

How:

- Begin with your most creative ideas – think outside the box
- Start small and build your program over the years
- Involve all stakeholders – district leadership, teachers, parents, community partners, etc.
- Set goals for implementation and progress each year
  - Year one – 50 students
  - Year Two – Increase student participation and parental support
  - Year Three – Monitor the impact on how much knowledge is retained by students that fully participate at the beginning of the next school year

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

Helpful Hints:
- Start early with planning (January or February)
  - Develop a theme: ***Learning Never Stops***
- Set a timeline w/ firm deadlines and don't give in
  - Registration, Initial & Ending Knowledge Checks
- Develop a proposal for district leadership
  - Timeline
  - Budget
  - Communication
  - Anticipate as many questions that will need to be addressed
- Communicate and advertise to **all** stakeholders
  - Expect every math teacher to share the information with students
  - District webpage, each school's social media, report card mailing, district mailing, etc.
  - Take advantage of the weekly report parents can receive during the program window

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

More Helpful Hints:
- Develop a process for students to register
  - Microsoft Forms w/ link included on the flyer
  - Be sure to consider all information you will need during summer months
- If it is an incentive opportunity, establish the clear expectations
  - ie: Appreciation vs. Participation
  - Tier I and Tier II
  - Include teacher and school level incentives for program buy-in
- If your program continues to grow build a team to help with the process

Richland One – ALEKS Summer Incentive Program

Sample of Program Planning Documents: *(English & Spanish)*
- District leadership proposal (include purpose and impact)
- Program flyer (printed or digital)
- Teacher Talk Sheet (answering all questions they will encounter)
- Program Timeline (kickoff right after Spring break)
- Parental release form (if planning to take photos for future support)
- Letter (email) to parents with program details and timeline
  - Include their student's username and password
  - Include the option to add their email for monitoring progress reports

Disclaimer
There are other decisions that will impact your planning that will depend on if your program is at a class, school, or district level. The success of the program will require regular monitoring by the program admin. Please enlist the support of your McGraw-Hill ALEKS consultant for support.

Thank You!

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