



2022 On-Site Summer Bridge Program Student Survey Outcomes

In the summer of 2022, 72 students from historically marginalized urban schools in Camden and Trenton, New Jersey participated in the Princeton-Blairstown Center's (PBC) On-Site Summer Bridge Program. For the seventh year in a row, PBC offered academic enrichment and leadership development programs 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. The program also aims to 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 for long-term goals, such as success in school, employment, and other arenas. Each group participated in this intensive educational experience of 4 days/3 nights during a week at the 268-acre Blairstown Campus near the Delaware Water Gap.

PBC measured outcomes using 1) the work products of the academic components; 2) feedback from leaders and teacher/staff chaperones connected with the partner schools/organizations; and 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 student surveys showed consistently positive results, particularly given that most students are continuing to suffer from academic and developmental deficits that are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students were asked to answer a series of questions around demographic information as well as questions around SEL skills including teamwork, problem solving (perceived competence), responsibility, and affinity for nature.

Overall, it is clear that after their experiences at the Summer Bridge Program, 60-70% of the students felt their SEL skills or appreciation of/comfort in the natural world increased.

Significant findings that resulted from this 4-day On-Site Summer Bridge experience:

- **71% of the students rated their time with PBC Blairstown as an "8, 9 or 10" for the "best time ever."**
- **91% of the students felt more confident they could be a good leader, with 68% indicating it was more true after their week at PBC.**
- 89% of the students felt that they could get along with other people in a small group, with 78% indicating it was more true after their week at PBC.
- 87% of the students felt they were better able to cooperate with others, with 84% indicating it was more true after their week at PBC.

- 80% of the students stated that they enjoy the freedom of the being outdoors, with 73% indicating it was more true after their week at PBC.

Here is the data:

Seventy (97%) students completed the student surveys, which were administered electronically on Kindle Fire tablets via Survey Monkey.

Gender

46% identified as a female

46% identified as a male

8% identified as non-binary, prefer to self-describe, or prefer not to say

Age

19% were 10 years old

30% were 11 years old

21% were 12 years old

18% were 13 years old

1% were 14 years old

9% were 16 years old

2% were 18 years old or older

Racial/Ethnic Identity

49% identified as African American

33% identified as Latino/a

9% identified as Other

3% identified as Biracial

3% identified as Asian

3% identified as Caucasian

On a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 = absolutely the worst and where 10 = the best time ever):

16% rated their week with PBC a 10

24% rated their week with PBC a 9

31% rated their week with PBC an 8

16% rated their week with PBC a 7

7% rated their week with PBC a 6

4% rated their week with PBC a 5

1% rated their week with PBC a 4

1% rated their week with PBC a 3

0% rated their week with PBC a 2

0% rated their week with PBC a 1

For each of the following statements, e.g., "I can be a good group leader," the first part of each question asks the student to respond how true this statement is for him or her now (i.e., at the end of the program). Then the second part asks, "Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?" This gauges how the student perceives the effects of the Summer Bridge experience.

TEAMWORK

1. I can be a good group leader.

- **41% said this was true.**
- **28% said this was somewhat true.**
- 22% said this was a little true.
- 9% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **22% said it was more true they could be a good leader.**
- **24% said it was somewhat more true they could be a good leader.**
- 22% said it was a little more true they could be a good leader.
- 32% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could be a good leader.

2. I can help a group be successful.

- **52% said this was true.**
- **19% said this was somewhat true.**
- 13% said this was a little true.
- 16% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **29% said it was more true they could help their group be successful.**
- **25% said it was somewhat more true they could help their group be successful.**
- 23% said it was a little more true they could help their group be successful.
- 23% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could help their group be successful.

3. I can appreciate opinions that are different from my own.

- **48% said this was true.**
- **28% said this was somewhat true.**
- 20% said this was a little true.
- 4% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **36% said it was more true they could appreciate opinions that are different than their own.**
- **29% said it was somewhat more true they could appreciate opinions that are different than their own.**
- 19% said it was a little more true they could appreciate opinions that are different than their own.
- 16% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could appreciate opinions that are different than their own.

4. I can cooperate with others.

- **42% said this was true.**
- **23% said this was somewhat true.**
- 22% said this was a little true.
- 13% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **38% said it was more true they could cooperate with others.**
- **28% said it was somewhat more true they could cooperate with others.**
- 18% said it was a little more true they could cooperate with others.
- 16% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could cooperate with others.

5. I know I can get along with other people in a small group.

- **54% said this was true.**
- **16% said this was somewhat true.**
- 19% said this was a little true.
- 11% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **42% said it was more true they could cooperate with others.**
- **25% said it was somewhat more true they could cooperate with others.**
- 11% said it was a little more true they could cooperate with others.
- 22% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could cooperate with others.

PROBLEM-SOLVING CONFIDENCE

1. When I have a problem, I look for the things that might be causing it.

- **37% said this was true.**
- **18% said this was somewhat true.**
- 23% said this was a little true.
- 22% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **23% said it was more true they could look for things that might cause a problem.**
- **22% said it was somewhat more true they could look for things that might cause a problem.**
- 23% said it was a little more true they could look for things that might cause a problem.
- 32% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could look for things that might cause a problem.

2. When I have a problem, I stop and think about options before making a decision.

- **24% said this was true.**
- **16% said this was somewhat true.**
- 20% said this was a little true.
- 40% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **20% said it was more true they could stop and think about options before making a decision.**
- **18% said it was somewhat more true they could stop and think about options before making a decision.**

- 27% said it was a little more true they could stop and think about options before making a decision.
- 35% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could stop and think about options before making a decision.

3. When I have a problem I choose a realistic plan.

- **36% said this was true.**
- **21% said this was somewhat true.**
- 12% said this was a little true.
- 31% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **23% said it was more true they could choose a realistic plan.**
- **19% said it was somewhat more true they could choose a realistic plan.**
- 30% said it was a little more true they could choose a realistic plan.
- 28% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could choose a realistic plan.

4. When I have a problem I make good choices about what to do.

- **31% said this was true.**
- **28% said this was somewhat true.**
- 24% said this was a little true.
- 17% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **29% said it was more true they could make good choices about what to do.**
- **24% said it was somewhat more true they could make good choices about what to do.**
- 24% said it was a little more true they could make good choices about what to do.
- 23% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could make good choices about what to do.

5. After dealing with a problem I consider how it worked.

- **41% said this was true.**
- **26% said this was somewhat true.**
- 18% said this was a little true.
- 15% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **37% said it was more true after dealing with a problem they could consider how it worked.**
- **18% said it was somewhat more true they could consider how it worked.**
- 20% said it was a little more true they could consider how it worked.
- 25% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they could consider how it worked.

AFFINITY FOR NATURE

1. I like being in nature.

- **37% said this was true.**
- **16% said this was somewhat true.**
- 14% said this was a little true.
- 33% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blirstown?

- **32% said it was more true they liked being in nature.**
- **8% said it was somewhat more true they liked being in nature.**
- 21% said it was a little more true they liked being in nature.
- 39% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they liked being in nature.

2. I want to spend time outdoors.

- **40% said this was true.**
- **15% said this was somewhat true.**
- 15% said this was a little true.
- 30% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blirstown?

- **33% said it was more true they wanted to spend time outdoors.**
- **13% said it was somewhat more true they wanted to spend time outdoors.**
- 20% said it was a little more true they could wanted to spend time outdoors.
- 34% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they wanted to spend time outdoors.

3. I enjoy the freedom of being outside.

- **52% said this was true.**
- **16% said this was somewhat true.**
- 12% said this was a little true.
- 20% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blirstown?

- **34% said it was more true they enjoy the freedom of being outside.**
- **12% said it was somewhat more true they enjoy the freedom of being outside.**
- 27% said it was a little more true they enjoy the freedom of being outside.
- 27% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they enjoy the freedom of being outside.

4. I am comfortable in the outdoors.

- **32% said this was true.**
- **23% said this was somewhat true.**
- 15% said this was a little true.
- 30% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blirstown?

- **34% said it was more true they are comfortable in the outdoors.**
- **12% said it was somewhat more true they are comfortable in the outdoors.**
- 25% said it was a little more true they are comfortable in the outdoors.

- 29% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they are comfortable in the outdoors.

5. I feel connected to the natural environment.

- **30% said this was true.**
- **24% said this was somewhat true.**
- 18% said this was a little true.
- 28% said this was false, somewhat false, or a little false.

Is the statement more or less true today than before attending Blairstown?

- **28% said it was more true they feel connected to the natural world.**
- **14% said it was somewhat more true they feel connected to the natural world.**
- 25% said it was a little more true they feel connected to the natural world.
- 33% said it was a little less, somewhat less, or a lot less true they feel connected to the natural world.