



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 12, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Administrators

From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Commissioner

Guidance for Summer Learning Programs

To assist school districts and charter or renaissance schools (hereinafter “school districts”) and receiving schools with planning summer learning programs during the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is releasing a [Summer Learning Resource Guide](#) and [Guidance on the Delivery of Extended School Year \(ESY\) Services for Students with Disabilities](#). Summer program operators must also take notice of Executive Order 149 (EO 149) (2020) and the New Jersey Department of Health’s (NJDOH) *New Jersey COVID-19 Youth Summer Camp Standards*, as detailed below.

As part of the State’s multi-stage approach to a responsible and strategic economic restart and recovery from COVID-19, Governor Murphy announced that on June 15, 2020, New Jersey will enter Stage Two of [The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health](#).

In the coming weeks, the State will modify restrictions on certain businesses and activities, with adherence to strict health and safety guidelines. Among the Stage Two phased-in activities is the operation of in-person summer camps that “provide daily multi-hour programming for youths” (EO 149). Permissible summer programming includes educational programs run by school districts and receiving schools, such as Extended School Year (ESY) programs, traditional credit recovery, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, migrant education, and any additional summer learning opportunities that school districts may choose to offer to address learning loss and prepare students for the next school year.

Recognizing the educational and socioemotional value to students and educators of resuming in-person instruction, school districts and receiving schools may conduct summer educational programming in-person, including ESY, as authorized by EO 149, on or after July 6, 2020. The NJDOH’s [New Jersey COVID-19 Youth Summer Camp Standards](#) are applicable to all summer programs operated by school districts and receiving schools, including ESY. School districts and receiving schools should determine locally how best to comply with the Youth Summer Camp Standards while continuing to meet the needs of their students. These standards only apply to summer programs. The NJDOE, in conjunction with the Department of Health, will provide further information on the 2020-21 school year shortly.

If a school district or receiving school determines that it would not be possible to meet summer program goals through in-person summer programming in accordance with the NJDOH standards, the school district may conduct summer programming, including ESY for students with disabilities, remotely or by a combination of remote and in-person instruction. In some cases, districts may be able to conduct in-person evaluations to determine eligibility for special education, reevaluations, small group interventions and/or related services in person in accordance with NJDOH standards while delivering other ESY services remotely. Districts may choose to provide some ESY services through home instruction in accordance with existing regulations. In all cases, the NJDOE reminds districts to consider issues concerning educational equity, including access to technology and the rights of students with disabilities and their families under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

Please note that pursuant to EO 149, if school districts wish to operate such modified in-person programs, or a combination of in-person and remote programs, the district must submit an [attestation](#) to the NJDOH no later than 24 hours prior to the anticipated opening date, attesting that they will follow all applicable health and safety standards.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the NJDOE has worked closely with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), which is a national and nonpartisan organization of officials who lead state departments of elementary and secondary education. Adapting CCSSO's template and best practices to a New Jersey-specific context, New Jersey's Summer Learning Resource Guide includes information about the impact of COVID-19 on student learning, guiding principles to enable student success, strategies for meeting the social and emotional needs of students and teachers, evidence-based practices for delivering instruction, funding opportunities available to districts, and strategies to maintain communication with families during the summer.

With regard to ESY services for students with disabilities, school districts must implement services to the greatest extent possible, including related services, in accordance with [guidance](#) from the United States Department of Education (USDE). School districts may consider including students with disabilities who typically do not have ESY in their IEPs in new summer programs designed for all students to address learning loss that may have resulted from the extended school closures due to COVID-19.

The NJDOE will continue to provide districts with additional guidance and information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the education community on the NJDOE [COVID-19 website](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
 NJDOE Staff
 Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
 Garden State Coalition of Schools
 NJ LEE Group