



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 26, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School, Renaissance School Project Leads
From: Lisa Gleason, Assistant Commissioner
Academics and Performance

Information Regarding Summer Educational Programs

Today, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) is releasing the [2021 Summer Learning Resource Guide](#) to support summer educational programming. The pandemic has led to protracted disruptions to in-person instruction. To mitigate these disruptions, the Department encourages LEAs to utilize summer learning experiences to support the social, emotional, and academic needs of students prior to the return of full in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year. The guidance includes extensive resources on the Department's [website](#) to provide districts with additional support in building and bridging existing programs.

LEAs should ensure that summer learning opportunities aim to address academic and social emotional gaps between the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years and reacclimate students to more robust in-person learning. LEAs are encouraged to use ESSER funds to expand summer programming beyond mandated programs and remedial courses to offer learning acceleration courses to all students. Exposing students to introductory one, two, or three-week pre-course options can catapult student learning. In addition, summer programming can serve as a pilot to monitor, evaluate, document, and potentially scale improvement strategies that could continue into the following school year and beyond.

On May 17, 2021 Governor Murphy announced that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. However, this requirement will not apply to summer educational programming. Districts will have the discretion to offer summer educational programming in the instructional modality that best suits their school communities.

Please contact your Executive County Superintendent with any questions regarding the *2021 Summer Learning Resource Guide*. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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