Date: April 12, 2023

To: Local Educational Agencies

Route To: Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Supervisors, and Principals

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Summer Learning Program Development Resource Release

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is continuing in its efforts to engage district and school leaders in implementing summer programs which support learning acceleration. As part of this effort, the NJDOE is excited to announce the release of resources designed to support Summer Learning Program Development. When utilizing these resources, local education agencies (LEAs) will have the opportunity to engage in tasks, starting in September, that will be instrumental in curbing the summer slide and increasing opportunities to support academic recovery. Through programmatic support and implementation of this guidance, LEAs may grow summer learning programs that are sustainable, accelerate learning, and have an increased capacity for serving all learners.

This guidance consists of two parts: The Summer Learning Program Development Resource and Workbook. In the calendar section LEAs will find several tasks organized by their corresponding stage, according to the National Summer Learning Association's Quality Improvement Cycle. The calendar provides a month-by-month point of view for planning summer programs and may be most useful to school leaders. The tasks in this calendar start in September and continue through four stages, over a 12-month period. The Workbook is designed to organize summer program leads and teams in completing these monthly tasks. Each task in the Workbook is organized by stage and category corresponding to the ideal month of completion. The purpose behind this design is to give summer program leads and teams an easily accessible and tangible agenda to encourage the most successful development and implementation of summer programs.

The Workbook was developed to provide districts with the flexibility to use it in whatever ways suits their needs locally. Districts with well-developed programs may find the Workbook to be most useful during the assessing and reflection phases, which occur largely in the spring and summer. Districts wishing to rethink current programs, or develop more robust ones, may find this workbook useful in guiding them during all phases of program development.

Technical Assistance Sessions:

Two separate virtual technical assistance sessions will take place on May 4 and May 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. To join either of these sessions, LEAs can sign up on the NJDOE's Events Registration webpage.

Contact information

For questions, please reach out to the Office of Educator Educator Effectiveness at EduEval@doe.nj.gov.

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