



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 4, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Principals, Summer Learning Program Leads  
From: Dr. Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

## Summer Learning Program Development Series

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to announce a year-long series around summer learning program development. As part of the New Jersey Partnership for Student Success (NJPSS) Initiative, this series is intended to support local educational agencies (LEAs), and more specifically, summer learning programmers, in the development of rich and engaging summer learning opportunities for students.

To complement the [Summer Learning Program Development resource and workbook](#), released in May 2023, NJDOE offers this series with an understanding that investing in summer learning opportunities has been proven to both accelerate learning for students and actively combat the impact of what is known as the “summer slide.” With a commitment to increasing equitable and quality educational experiences for all, NJDOE opens this series to LEAs wishing to learn more, innovate, and collaborate on local summer learning program development processes and implementation.

### Series Overview

The Summer Learning Planning Series is a **four-part series** with the goal of operationalizing the National Summer Learning Associations (NSLA) Quality Improvement Cycle, utilizing the NJDOE Summer Learning Workbook. Informed by the work of NSLA and the Wallace Foundation, the summer workbook has various tasks that correspond with the planning, training, assessing, and reflecting stages of the aforementioned quality improvement cycle. Our intention is to bring these stages alive by allowing for a workshop that more intimately discusses the tasks, as well as LEA’s mission and vision for further summer program development.

### Workshop Offerings

To support summer learning programmers, teams, and/or leaders, the NJDOE will be hosting virtual workshops. These sessions will run for about 90 minutes each, with the expectation of “Session I: The Planning Stage” sessions, which will run for about two hours. Each session will be offered twice during the same week and will be duplicative. To increase the impact of the series, it is recommended that LEAs attend one offering of each session throughout the year. LEAs can also attend sessions intermittently as it relates to the stage of interest. To register for each session, sign up through the NJDOE [Event Registration Page](#). The sessions will occur as follows:

#### Session I: The Planning Stage Session Options

- Monday, October 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### Description:

The planning stage of summer learning is the most extensive stage and includes 12 separate workstreams or categories. Each category groups together related tasks that will help meet one aspect of planning. For example, within the planning stage is a category called meals. Under this workstream there are several tasks that will help

ensure all the planning related to supplying meals to students is complete. The purpose of this stage is to ensure that the logistical elements of summer programming have been addressed and carefully considered. NJDOE will support LEAs in understanding, addressing, and removing barriers as they begin their initial planning for the upcoming school year.

### **Session II: The Training Stage Session Options**

- 1 of 2 Tuesday January 23, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- 2 of 2 Thursday January 25, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

#### **Description:**

The training stage focuses on preparing education and support staff for summer learning. This includes, ensuring that teaching staff are well informed about the mission, desired outcomes, learning targets, etc. The training stage also supports the mindset shifts that may be necessary for educational staff to undergo, in order to propel summer learning opportunities past remediation. NJDOE will support LEAs in the selection of Professional Development, summer orientation possibilities and explore extended tasks such as summer teaching institutes for all teaching staff.

### **Session III: The Assessing Stage Session Options**

- 1 of 2 Tuesday May 7, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 2 of 2 Thursday May 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### **Description:**

The assessing stage will review the importance of assessing summer programs. This session will support LEAs through to build out assessment of summer programs, and therefore, NJDOE will support LEAs through relevant necessary and extended tasks.

### **Session IV: The Reflecting Stage Session Options**

- 1 of 2 Tuesday August 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 2 of 2 Thursday August 15, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### **Description:**

The reflecting stage will be centered around reflecting on the summer program. The reflection stage is about operationalizing the assessing stage, and the two stages together help paint a clear picture of the programs impact for engagement to academic growth. As a result, we create an opportunity for districts to debrief and bring forth lessons learned, discuss successes and areas for growth.

### **Contact Information**

For questions, please reach out to the Office of Educator Effectiveness at [EduEval@doe.nj.gov](mailto:EduEval@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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