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Questions to Help You Plan Your Summer Learning Program

Reimagining student summer learning is front of mind for district and state education leaders for 2021. Use this questionnaire to think through the steps of developing a coherent summer program that prepares students to enter the next school year ready to learn and to access grade-level instructional content.

1 Which students are participating in your summer learning program?

What data and criteria will you use to determine which students, or groups of students, need prioritization?

2 What are your main goals, and what learning do you want to focus on?

Coherence with grade-level learning should be top of mind. Will you choose to focus on addressing unfinished learning, reinforcing essential grade-level concepts, or extending the school year?

3 Who will the summer program staff be, and how will they be supported?

Understand the skillsets of the adults working in the summer program. How will you align programming to their strengths and ensure they have the training and direction they need?

4 How will you structure your summer program?

Taking into account staffing and goals, how will you organize grades, student groups, and learning sites to meet students' needs?

5 When will your summer learning program take place?

6 How will you schedule students' time to satisfy all their learning needs?

How will you [balance student-led independent work, teacher-led instruction, and enrichment activities](#)?

7 What curriculum and instruction programs will you use and how?

Consider how the programs you use align to what you use during the regular school year and the ease of use for your staff.

8 How will you communicate with students and families and keep them engaged?

9 What accountability requirements must you meet?

10 What are your milestones for planning your summer program?

Consider funding deadlines, timelines for informing students and families, etc.

Final tip: When planning your summer program, think about how you might apply aspects of your model to school-year programming such as tutoring. How will you continue to ensure students receive targeted support that enhances their participation in grade-level learning?

Additional Resources:

[Getting to Work on Summer Learning: Recommended Practices for Success](#) (from RAND® Corporation)

[Summer Learning Toolkit](#) (from The Wallace Foundation)

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