SUMMER LEARNING TOOLKIT

Evidence-based tools and guidance for delivering effective programs

PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
ACADEMICS & ENRICHMENT
STAFFING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SITE CLIMATE
STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ATTENDANCE

summerlearningtoolkit.org

TIP SHEET

SELECTING AND MODIFYING SUMMER CURRICULA

For more information on the importance of having common written curricula, review Selecting and Modifying Summer Curricula Guidance.

Research shows that all students lose skills in math over the summer without practice and that low-income students also lose critical skills in reading. Therefore, selecting and/or modifying curricula for use in summer learning programs is an important decision. While it is important to maximize academic benefit in a short amount of time, summer is also ripe with opportunity for exploration and is often used to implement new or innovative learning models.

When selecting or modifying a curriculum for use in a summer learning program, consider the following guiding questions:

PLANNING FOR CURRICULUM SELECTION

- o What is the target population of students to be served?
- o What are the overall goals and purpose of the program?
- o How much time and what resources do your staff have available for curriculum selection and/or development?
- o How much time is available before the program for professional development (to ensure that staff is able to implement the curriculum with fidelity)?
- o Do you have adequate ongoing supports for instructional staff during program implementation, particularly if they are unfamiliar with the selected curricula?
- o What is our budget for curriculum and supplies?

Once you've answered these questions and identified a range of curriculum options to consider, use the following list of questions to narrow down your choice to the best option:

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

- o Are the curriculum and instructional resources aligned with relevant academic standards?
- o How much instructional time do you have (by day and cumulatively) over the course of the program? Does the curriculum fit well within that duration?
- o Do the methods and purpose of the curriculum's assessments align with your program resources and goals?
- o If desired, does the curriculum offer opportunities for integration with enrichment activities or offerings?
- o Does the curriculum reflect student interests? Is it duplicative content?
- o What is the financial cost to purchase and implement the curriculum?

The following table provides just a few possible curriculum scenarios for various target populations of students and factors to consider when selecting curriculum for summer learning programs.

TARGET STUDENT POPULATION	SAMPLE PROGRAM PURPOSE	SAMPLE CURRICULUM OPTIONS
Significantly below grade-level expectations	Remediation / academic intervention	Continue use of a school-year intervention program or curriculum.
		Purchase published "off-the-shelf" curriculum specifically designed for use in a summer learning program.
		Use components of regular school-year curriculum to address specific gaps in student skills/knowledge.
Students below grade level expectations Students who are performing within expected academic range for grade level	Academic enrichment	Use additional units or supplemental resources that are a part of the regular school-year curriculum but were not presented to students.
		Develop thematic units or a thematic approach that uses one idea to frame and connect activities from multiple subject areas or disciplines.
		Use STEM or STEAM to incorporate math and reading into a hands-on science curriculum.
English Language Learners Refugee	Remediation / language development / academic enrichment	Use assistive technology and computer-adaptive curriculum to personalize learning for different abilities and interests.
		Identify when to use native language curriculum to access prior knowledge.
		Use condensed curriculum to catch students up to grade level quickly.