Preventing Summer Learning Loss

Summer learning opportunities

States and school districts typically provide opportunities for some students to participate in academic activities in the summer. These may include summer reading camp for elementary school students or summer school to address academic needs of students in elementary, middle, or high school. Most of the time, these opportunities have been provided in a face-to-face environment; however, it may be that more states and districts look toward providing instruction virtually. Regardless of the format, there are several areas that should be considered when planning summer learning opportunities.

Considerations for Summer Learning Opportunities

- Use data to select and enroll students in summer learning programs.
- Identify the most essential content for students to learn and train teachers in the delivery of that content.
- Collect data about student learning from a variety of relevant sources, including annual, interim, and classroom assessments to drive instruction.
- Establish a robust communication system with families and ensure that information flows from this year’s classroom teacher to the summer teacher to next year’s classroom teacher seamlessly.

Additional considerations

- Select effective teachers to deliver instruction.
- Provide adequate instructional time.
- Ensure the environment is conducive to learning.
- Provide mentors or paraprofessionals to reinforce learning.

Self-study guides for implementing summer reading camps, literacy interventions for grades K-2 and grades 3-8, and academic interventions for high school have been developed by REL Southeast and may be used to help guide planning and implementation of summer learning programs and academic interventions.