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District 20 Community Education Council Resolution 16 on 2021 Summer School

Resolution calling on the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to plan and implement a robust learning experience for all students this summer.

Whereas last year’s fully remote summer school program fell short. Chalkbeat reported last spring that “Roughly 102,000 students at risk of being held back or who fell significantly behind will be required to attend summer school in grades 3-12 — more than double last year’s number. Another 48,000 struggling students will be recommended to attend summer school, and roughly 28,000 district school students with disabilities across all grade levels are already entitled to year-round schooling.”¹ However, “The learning platform was glitchy, creating roadblocks for students and preventing teachers from easily accessing the curriculum. Almost a quarter of students never logged on at all, and city officials have yet to release data on how many students completed their coursework last summer.”²

Whereas this school year has been challenging for students, parents and teachers alike, and by June many students will not have received a consistent and complete education that will put them on track for grade level work next year.

Whereas the DOE has announced the “Summer Rising” program to provide all students with opportunities for supplemental in-person instruction and enrichment this summer. The DOE has not released safety protocols for the summer program.³

Whereas the DOE created a centralized summer school program last summer, but this year is pushing responsibility for planning summer programs to schools and teachers.⁴ The Rand Corporation published updated guidance for summer programming in 2021 that recommends “Engage experts to anchor the program in written curricula that align with school-year standards and student needs... Curricula developed in-house should be created by district

¹ <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2020/5/19/21264071/nyc-summer-school-doe-coronavirus>

² <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2021/5/3/22418156/nyc-summer-school-teacher-recruitment>

³ <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2021/4/13/22381770/summer-school-nyc-2021>

⁴ <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2021/5/3/22418156/nyc-summer-school-teacher-recruitment>

curriculum experts over the course of several months.”⁵ However, it is not clear that DOE schools and staff will have adequate time, resources and staff capacity to develop effective summer programs.

Resolution: The District 20 Community Education Council calls for the following:

Summer School:

1. The DOE should offer a robust, well-planning, full-time, in-person summer school program to all students who are achieving below grade level or whose teachers deem them in need of summer programming to sustain their academic and social emotional development until the next school year. The summer school program should include high quality academic instruction that includes acceleration opportunities, as well as opportunities for social development and recreation.
2. The DOE should provide summer school teachers with at least five (5) days of paid preparation time to review information about students’ academic and social emotional needs and develop programming tailored to their students’ needs.
3. The DOE should use the remainder of the school year to clearly communicate with parents about summer school plans, identify and recruit students for this program, and confirm planned participation numbers to inform staffing and placement.
4. The DOE should have curriculum experts develop or adopt rigorous, coherent and engaging curriculum for the program to reduce the burden on teachers and allow them to focus on delivering instruction and student support.
5. The academic component of the program should include opportunities for high impact tutoring – either one-on-one or in small groups – and targeted toward students most at risk of not being prepared to perform at grade level in the fall.
6. The DOE should administer pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the impact of its summer school program on students’ academic progress and achievement and report aggregate results to the public.
7. The DOE should ensure that all students in New York City, including district, charter and private school students, have access to free and rigorous online learning programs during summer 2021.

⁵ file:///C:/Users/stolz/AppData/Local/Temp/RAND_RRA205-3.pdf