



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

April 13, 2022

Dear Educator,

We know that summer is a time for rest, relaxation, and visits to our beautiful New Jersey beaches and parks. We also know the impact limited summer learning opportunities have on student growth. Summer is a time when many New Jersey children miss out on opportunities for learning, daily structure, and adult connection.

As our country continues to move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, we acknowledge that many students have academic, social, and emotional deficits that warrant acceleration. Summer presents opportunities to accelerate progress and has become more important now than ever.

It is my esteemed pleasure to reaffirm the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to increasing our capacity to identify and support high-quality summer programs. To that end, I am proud to share the NJDOE has created the Office of Learning, Intervention, and Support (OLIS). With targeted technical assistance and support from the NJDOE, we believe summer learning can provide the enriching experiences needed to address existing opportunity and learning gaps.

In August of 2021, the NJDOE administered a summer learning survey to Local Education Agencies (LEAs). In our comprehensive review of survey data, we were excited to see how many LEAs used various federal funds to plant and grow seeds of transformation in their summer learning programs. The NJDOE is extremely inspired by the efforts many of our schools and districts put forth last summer. We are eager to see how LEAs will continue to innovatively use their federal American Rescue Plan Funds to cultivate a new harvest of summer learning opportunities for students across the state of New Jersey.

LEAs should ensure summer learning opportunities target academic and social emotional gaps, while providing enrichment opportunities for all learners. The OLIS has designed three technical assistance workshops to commence in April. The topics are as follows:

- How to Accelerate Learning in the Summer
- Leveraging Partnerships with Community Based Organizations
- Innovative Use of Federal Funds

Thoughtfully planned, quality summer learning serves as a foundation for long-lasting, strategic systems of support. Summer learning, done right, can act as a till in producing the fertile soil necessary to grow equitable outcomes for all New Jersey students.

I'd like to thank all our school communities for your unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of our students and families across the state of New Jersey. Let's continue to be a model for the world to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner