



Prospect Heights School District 23 Board Memorandum Information Item

Date: May 14, 2026

Subject: Summer Programming Update

From: Dr. Craig Curtis, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Dr. Chrys Sroka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Mrs. Dominique Guza, Director of Student Services
Mr. Chris Alms, Director of Technology and Information Services

This update is provided to inform the Board of Education of the student engagement offerings and professional development opportunities over the summer.

Academic Student Programming

- **Extended School Year (ESY):**
 - Prospect Heights School District 23 is required by federal and state regulations to offer an extended school year program for those students who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and qualify for an extension of their services outside of the regular school year. District 23 has offered these services through a summer Extended School Year (ESY) program. Typically, students who qualify for the program make slow progress during the regular school year, have trouble regaining skills after a long break from school/learning, and have more significant special education needs.
 - We will be offering the program in person at Betsy Ross Elementary School this summer for those students who qualify through their IEPs in grades Early Childhood through 7th grade. We anticipate approximately 40 students with IEPs to participate in the ESY program this summer. We also anticipate needing approximately 30 staff members, including special education teachers, educational support professionals, and related service providers, to provide all services required for the program. Hiring for the ESY program has been completed, and we thank those District 23 employees who have committed to working in the ESY program, as it is always more beneficial for students to have familiar staff members to work with over the summer. Hiring for more specialized services can be challenging; however, this year, we don't anticipate needing to contract with outside agencies. The program will run M-F, June 9th through July 2nd.
- **Targeted School Improvement Plan Summer Tutoring Program:**
 - As part of the Targeted School Improvement Plan that was developed at Sullivan through the ISBE Targeted designation, the summer tutoring program is being offered to students with disabilities, as well as those students receiving Tier 3 interventions during the school year. Approximately 35 students were invited to participate in the program, which will run through the current structure of the ESY program. Staff salaries and transportation will be paid through the grant. The focus of the instruction during the program will be on reading, writing, and math.

- **Bilingual Summer Reading Program at John Muir Park:**
 - Prospect Heights School District 23 has sponsored the Summer Reading in the Park Program for over a decade. This year is no exception! Our bilingual teachers, support staff, and students have a long tradition of sharing books, participating in activities, and enjoying snacks twice per week during the summer months. This program is in partnership with the Prospect Heights Public Library. The program will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from June 8th to July 29th, at John Muir Park from 1:00-2:00 PM.
- **Other Student Engagement Opportunities:**
 - While summer is a time to take a break, we also believe it is important for students to find ways to stay engaged in learning. Students can accomplish this by exploring their curiosity or participating in some of the natural learning opportunities available throughout the summer. Each school will be sending home suggestions for staying engaged in learning over the summer, which will be included in each building's newsletter.
 - We continue our strong partnership with the Prospect Heights Public Library District (PHPLD) to offer engaging activities throughout the school year and into the summer. We have already kicked off this partnership with our annual walking field trips to the library in April and May. The PHPLD works with our teachers, Library Media Specialists, and Bilingual Summer Reading Program to provide incentives and resources to keep our students motivated to read during the summer months.

Teacher Planning and Professional Development

- **Poolside PD**
 - We are proud to offer virtual "Poolside PD" professional development sessions to staff members again this summer. Our District 23 Coaching Team has worked hard to create asynchronous professional development modules that support teachers' learning needs. This year's courses focus on the district's Strategic Plan for implementing standards-based practices. We are excited to maximize the opportunity to partner with teachers in their learning over the summer.
- **Summer Curriculum Work**
 - Each year, we provide opportunities for summer curriculum work to get a jumpstart on positively impacting our teachers and students for the next school year. To make this work effectively, it must:
 - be aligned with the District's Strategic Plan
 - have approval from the building principal
 - The Administrative Team reviews proposals and prioritizes the opportunities that best align with the District's Strategic Plan.
- **NSSEO Summer Professional Learning**
 - NSSEO is offering NVCI Initial/Refresher Training and Creating Trauma Responsive Classrooms during the summer months. This allows our Student Services staff who require the training to complete it when no students are present, and subs are not required. Registration is open, and all required District 23 Student Services staff are encouraged to attend over the summer.