



## Prospect Heights School District 23 Board Memorandum Information Item

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**Date:** May 8, 2025

**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

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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 Eisenhower 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 25-30 staff members, including special education teachers, educational support professionals, and related service providers, to provide all services required for the program. We are working to complete hiring for the ESY program, and 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 hope to contract for only two positions. The program will run M-F, June 10th through July 3rd.
- **Bilingual Summer Reading Program at John Muir Park:**
  - Prospect Heights School District 23 has sponsored the Summer Reading in the Park Program for approximately 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 during the summer months twice per week. We do this in partnership with the Prospect Heights Public Library. The program will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from June 9th to July 30th 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. They can do this by exploring their curiosity or participating in some of the natural learning opportunities available throughout the summer. Each school is planning to send home suggestions for students to stay engaged in learning over the summer, which will be sent home via the Home-School Connection portion of each building 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 again this summer to our staff members. Our District 23 Coaching Team has worked hard to create asynchronous professional development modules that support teachers' learning needs. In typical D23 fashion, our Poolside PD menu improves each year. This year's courses are focused on the district's Strategic Plan in the areas of grading and assessment, supporting multilingual students, mathematics instruction, presentation skills, behavior and engagement strategies, and various other opportunities. We are excited to see teachers take advantage of these learning opportunities over the summer and partner with them in their learning.

- **Summer Curriculum Work**

- Each year, we provide opportunities for summer curriculum work to get a jump start 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 a variety of professional learning opportunities (many are multi-day sessions) over the summer. This is the fourth year that they have offered multiple professional learning opportunities during the summer break. Some of the opportunities include Key 2 Ed Facilitated IEP Training, NVCI Initial/Refresher Training, Creating Trauma Responsive Classrooms, and many others. Registration is open, and all District 23 Student Services staff are encouraged to attend over the summer.