

# From Recovery to Transformation

Explore the Family Guide to Summer Learning. Opportunities available for all students  
(<https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/recovery/summer/>).

As we work to recover from the COVID-19 learning slide, we are focused on enhancing the student experience and accelerating student learning. Through collaboration, transparency, and flexibility, we are working to ensure our schools have the resources they need for a strong recovery. DCPS plans to target our federal stimulus dollars (<https://dcpsbudget.com/budget-data/central-office-budgets/covid-19-agency-budget-additions/>) to fund initiatives that address the academic and social emotional learning impacts of COVID-19.

## Summer 2021

DCPS In-Person Summer Acceleration Academies			
Grades Served	Examples of Programming Focus	Expected Student Schedules	Expected Program Dates
PK-1	Early literacy skill-building, outdoor learning, and storytelling	M-F for 2, 3, or 4 weeks. Most programming will be full day. Half-day programs will seek to provide an after-care program offering.	Each DCPS school will provide 1-4 weeks of programming in July and August for some of its incoming and returning students.
2-5	Hands-on science and engineering projects incorporating literacy and math skills		
6-8	Community-building, social justice projects, and opportunities to clear incomplete classes		
9-12	Summer bridge program about community building, academic and personal goal setting, and student wellness	M-F for full days for 1 week	



As DCPS begins to #RecoverStrong, this summer is about students exploring the world through acceleration programming and providing opportunities to get a head start on the school year ahead.

Every summer, DCPS provides extended summer learning opportunities such as literacy enrichment for elementary students and credit recovery for secondary students. This summer, we will expand these offerings to include learning supports for every grade, including PK, with a variety of in-person and virtual learning opportunities for up to 7,000 students.

Visit [dcps.dc.gov/summer](https://dcps.dc.gov/summer) (<https://dcps.dc.gov/summer>) for an overview of each program and look out for registration in early April.

## Recovery Community Corps

## Starting with Summer 2021- Acceleration Academy Baseline Expectations

### Whole-Child Centered and Inclusive Program Design

Programming should include social-emotional and academic focus areas i.e. relationship building, opportunities to pursue areas of interest, and time to hone academic skills. Programming should include and explicitly support students with disabilities and those learning English.

### Planning and Engagement

Program planning should include engagement of staff and families. Beginning in March, schools will engage their Recovery Community Corps (RCC) to discuss and gather feedback on content and operations.

### Students Served

At minimum, summer programming should be designed for students who would benefit from more focused support based on academic and engagement indicators - approximately 10-35% of a school's students.

### Talent

Acceleration academies will be staffed by effective and highly effective volunteer staff.

### Measures of Success

All schools will track student progress across academic and social emotional indicators according to district guidance.

### Schedule

**PK-8** should offer at least 50 hours of student programming.  
**High School** Summer Bridge should offer a minimum of 4 full days of programming for incoming 9th and 10th graders. Programming for more days and for 11th and 12th is strongly encouraged.

### Funding

Schools should ensure an overall acceleration allocation spend plan that balances both summer and school year programming, aiming to allocate around 20-35% of their funds toward summer programming.

### Operations & Safety Guidance

Follow current COVID-19 Operations and Safety guidance.



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New this year, schools will also work with their community to develop unique summer learning plans to support social emotional development and academic acceleration ahead of next school year. Building on the Term 3 reopening plan process, schools will take a grassroots engagement approach with a Recovery Community Corps (RCC) of teachers, staff, families, and community members to inform their planning for this summer and beyond.

This work will be rooted in service to the whole child and baseline expectations (<https://45biv636w8lm1agg3ozqtgg1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Learning-Recovery-Graphics-English-1.png>) to ensure equity of access and opportunity across our school community. Guiding this work will be two questions:

- How can schools meet the baseline expectations and the school's unique goals, while starting to accelerate learning recovery for those students who need it most?
- What is the best way to prioritize supports for students while also ensuring a joyful experience this summer?

Through their RCC planning, schools will determine what their in-person summer acceleration academies will look like. These acceleration academies are designed to serve a targeted group of students at each school (approximately 10 to 35 percent) who require this more focused support. Example programming snapshots are highlighted below, and schools will share more details about their tailored programming in the coming weeks and look out for registration in early April.

## Outdoor Learning At DCPS



One of the lessons we are already applying is the interest to provide outdoor learning opportunities. In March, schools received detailed guidance on how to take advantage of the change in seasons and enhance the student experience by offering outdoor instructional programming as early as Term 4 this spring.

DCPS Outdoor Instructional Programming Guidance ([https://45biv636w8lm1agg3ozqtg1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Outdoor-Instructional-Programming-Guidance\\_public\\_v1.pdf](https://45biv636w8lm1agg3ozqtg1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Outdoor-Instructional-Programming-Guidance_public_v1.pdf)) PDF ([https://45biv636w8lm1agg3ozqtg1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Outdoor-Instructional-Programming-Guidance\\_public\\_v1.pdf](https://45biv636w8lm1agg3ozqtg1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Outdoor-Instructional-Programming-Guidance_public_v1.pdf))

Outdoor learning can range from a short period of time outdoors that allows all in-person student cohorts to experience this new approach to instruction, to a full-day, dedicated outdoor classroom experience for students. For Term 4, schools are being asked to consider an outdoor learning approach that is not reliant on technology and prioritizes stability and consistency of programming as we end the school year strong. School-level discussions around whether outdoor learning can be part of summer acceleration academies will be part of the Recovery Community Corps planning process this month.

As shared in our Fiscal Year 2022 budget guide (<https://dcpsbudget.com/welcome-and-whats-new/>), released last month, DCPS is investing \$9 million to support in-person learning innovation like outdoor instruction. This means that baseline outdoor learning costs (approximately \$2,000 – \$10,000 per classroom) will be covered centrally for all schools who are interested in this kind of in-person programming. This type of innovation is necessary as we maximize all the learning opportunities to bring students safely back to school with their classmates and teachers.

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