



Summer Learning Loss Prevention Supports

Preventing the “Summer Slide”

Preventing the “Summer Slide”: West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Division of Teaching & Learning Summer Learning Loss Prevention Supports

The WVDE, in collaboration with the West Virginia Library Commission and other organizations and agencies, is excited to promote summer learning for West Virginia Students by sharing the following opportunities as options for counties and schools

Grades Pre-K—12 STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) summer challenges are designed for West Virginia students who want to extend their learning and experience with STEM-related fields during the summer months. Challenges have been designed based on developmental appropriateness and programmatic levels. WVDE staff have partnered with the West Virginia Library Commission and NASA IV&V to disseminate this summer STEM initiative.

Grades Pre-K—2: Pool Noodle/Paper Roll Marble Challenge:

The goal of the pool noodle challenge is for Pre-K-Grade 2 students to design a marble run track, build the design from various materials found in the home, and keep the marble in the track successfully from the beginning to the end of the track. Students may experiment with the height of the track and learn how their design changes affect the performance of the marble. When students return to school, they are to submit the design documentation to their teacher or local STEM challenge sponsor.

Grades 3-12: Engineering Challenge – Three options:

Students are challenged to engage in the concept of engineering through designing, building, testing, and modifying either a bridge, boat, or egg transport vehicle. Students are challenged to not only succeed in achieving the final desired outcome but also work to improve their design in a variety of modalities, including but not limited to, type and quantity of material used, aesthetics, strength, cost, etc. All entries will be scored using a rubric. Students will record their attempts/improvements on a datasheet that will be submitted with their video, drawing, or pictures.

- **Bridge Design Engineering Challenge**

- » Must span 18” chasm
- » No individual piece of material can be more than 6” in length, height, or width
- » Must hold, at a minimum, one 16.9 oz completely full and capped bottle of water
- » No supports can be located under the deck of the bridge
- » No metal of any kind

- **Boat Engineering Challenge**

- » No individual piece of material can be more than 6” in length, height, or width
- » Must hold, at a minimum, one 16.9 oz bottle completely full and capped bottle of water
- » Boats cannot be larger than 10”x10”x10”
- » Only cardboard and/or masking, duct, or packaging tape may be used

- **Egg Transport Vehicle Engineering Challenge**

- » Must travel the length of a 3-foot ramp at a 45-degree angle
- » Egg must not break
- » No premade wheels
- » No metal, foam core board, plastic, Styrofoam, or rubber

WVDE will award grants for county evaluation of submissions based on participation.

Grades Pre-K—5 Literacy and Math

The WVDE has provided continuous leadership and funding to assist with the development and county-level implementation of the West Virginia Campaign for Grade-level Reading. This Campaign began with legislation and subsequent state policy in 2015 that includes a Transformative System of Support for Early Literacy. This multi-faceted approach to closing the literacy achievement gap by the end of third grade includes an emphasis on preventing the summer reading gap among young, particularly disadvantaged, children prior to the end of Grade 3.

Many of West Virginia’s 55 counties have deployed their own comprehensive early literacy plans (funded by the WVDE) that include efforts to prevent summer learning loss. Some counties have also made the important linkage between literacy and numeracy development, implementing programming that emphasizes literacy and math as part of a comprehensive approach to early and elementary learning. Many organizations, including the West Virginia Library Commission, have remained active and influential partners with the WVDE to ensure the following county and state efforts:

Synopsis of Selected County Efforts:

- **Summer reading and/or transition programs** of sufficient duration and intensity, such as
 - » Americorps Energy Express, Early Literacy Instructional Support, and Summer Jump Start kindergarten transition programs
- **Summer “Read and Feed” mobile libraries, tutoring, and/or feeding sites** to reach some of the most impoverished areas of the state
- **West Virginia Imagination Library:** available in 45 West Virginia counties (provides a free children’s book to children each month ages birth-five)
- **Early & elementary summer library programs:** free children’s books are often provided to participants
- **Students’ self-selection of a variety of 5-12 (or more) books for their home library,** given to them at the beginning of the summer (funded by counties, West Virginia Read Aloud, and/or other organizations)
- **Summer enrichment opportunities:** including STEAM buses, STEM camps, and other family engagement programs
- **County partnerships with food pantries to provide books and other literacy resources to families** when they come to pick up food (funded in part by WVDE)

State Efforts:

WVDE Transformative System of Support for Early Literacy: The West Virginia Campaign for Grade-level Reading provides an early literacy funding and ongoing support to counties to focus on areas such as summer learning loss.

Family & Educator Resource: Find My West Virginia Summer Learning Program: A comprehensive directory of local level early and elementary learning family resources is currently in production. This directory will include, among other information, a county-by-county, community-by-community breakdown of the numerous summer learning programs currently available to children throughout West Virginia. The directory will build on the success and structure of the “Find My WV Pre-K” site to provide families with local-level information about the resources they may utilize to assist their children to prevent the Summer Slide. The website launch is slated for May 2019. Further information will be provided by the WVDE at that time.

State efforts are funded by WVDE and many county efforts are funded through WVDE.

Grades 6—12 Literacy

In the Writing Next report, literacy experts note that “along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and in the global economy” (Graham & Perin, 2007). Drawing on the work of the Writing Next report, Robb (2010) provides some essential recommendations for increasing students’ writing achievement:

- Students need to write daily to learn to write well
- Students need opportunities to apply what they have learned about writing genres, craft, and technique from the texts they read to their own writing
- During the school year, students have opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and audiences as part of their coursework across all content areas. However, in the summer months, this daily writing habit may not be maintained

To help schools encourage students to continue developing as writers during the summer, the Office of Middle & Secondary Learning would like to present and fund a summer writing challenge for students in Grades 6-12.

Summer Writing Portfolio Challenge for Middle and High Schools:

- **Challenge Guidelines**

- » Open to all middle and high schools
- » Encourages students to sharpen their craft and technique in a variety of genres for diverse purposes and audiences and keep them in a writing portfolio (digital or hard copy)
 - *narrative, argumentative, informative*
 - *essays, short stories, articles, poems, blogs*

- **WVDE Supports**

- » Sample list of 20 short writing products available
- » Sample methods available to collect and count student writing portfolios
- » School-level reporting method (Microsoft Forms)
- » Recognition to middle and high school with greatest percentage of students who submit a writing portfolio (factoring in student participation rate and total student enrollment)

- **Student Participation**

- » Practice writing techniques and skills on a variety of pieces in their writing portfolios
- » Submit writing portfolio using the method selected by the school

- **School Responsibilities**

- » Determine a method collecting/counting writing portfolios
- » Building representative totals the amount of portfolios submitted and enters school-level data into Microsoft Form created by WVDE
 - *Number of students who submitted a portfolio*
 - *Total number of students enrolled in school*

WVDE will award grants for county evaluation of submissions based on participation. Additional grants will be awarded to further support literacy initiatives at the county level.

Additional Summer Learning Opportunities

#mysummerwvlearning County Grants (funded by the WVDE)

Reading books that are of interest, along with writing, drawing, and using math, are important summer activities that can help minimize and even eliminate the learning losses that often occur during the summer months. As a result, the WVDE Office of Early & Elementary Learning and Office of Middle & Secondary Learning are excited to announce a **grant program to help counties support children's use of reading, writing, drawing, and mathematics during the summer months**. The launch of this program will encourage children to:



- read, draw, write (or dictate);
- use math during the summer; and
- allow counties the opportunity to provide children exiting Grades Pre-k -11 with resources (ex.: books, journals, services, etc.).

Each county received \$2,600 from the WVDE to assist with these efforts.

MetaMetrics Summer Math Challenge and Literacy Resources

- Use the helpful resource found at <https://fab.lexile.com/> to find books that are appropriately leveled for children in Grades 1-12.
- Visit www.quantiles.com/summer-math to enroll, receive daily fun activities and resources, read about weekly math concepts, and earn badges!



West Virginia Library Commission & Public Libraries

- **Collaborative Summer Reading:** A Universe of Stories Summer Program <https://www.csipreads.org/>
 - 1) Early Literacy Program;
 - 2) Children Programs; and,
 - 3) Teen Programs
- Public Libraries offer many books/reading experiences for students at all grade levels
- Supplemental grants from the West Virginia Library Commission will be available to enhance STEM materials in the public library



Pre-K—Grade 12 County/School Summer Math Challenges

- Counties and / or schools are encouraged to develop their own summer math challenges to help increase children's use of mathematics over the summer months. Funding (Division of Teaching & Learning, Title 1, Step 7-A, etc.) may be used to assist with these efforts.

