



# Illinois State Board of Education

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## Summer School Guidance for Schools and Districts May 6, 2020

### Planning for Summer School via Remote Learning in 2020

The Governor's [Restore Illinois](#) plan to reopen the state places in-person schooling in Phase 4 of five phases. Most regions in Illinois are experiencing Phase 2 as of early May. Schools and districts should plan to conduct summer school via remote learning in 2020, due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

Remote learning for summer school will mean that learning will continue to occur outside of the traditional classroom; educators and students will remain physically separated. It is expected that summer remote learning will take different forms across Illinois. In districts with adequate technological resources, connectivity, and staff preparation, summer school may be delivered entirely through e-learning, while in other districts, reaching all students will require an approach that does not rely upon technology or connectivity. What is most important is for districts to plan so that all students who need to can participate in summer school irrespective of access to resources.

ISBE strongly encourages schools and districts to utilize summer school to address learning loss and academic gaps. Students who received Incomplete grades at the end of the 2019-20 school year or who were not able to engage fully in remote learning in the spring will benefit from increased access to instruction prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. School districts should consider utilizing federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) funding to support equitable access to summer school opportunities.

School and district leaders should include adequate time for planning and preparation for summer school teachers, both before summer school begins and as instruction progresses and teachers learn more about their summer school students and their needs. Collaborative planning is encouraged but must occur through virtual means until IDPH guidelines dictate otherwise.

### Content Selection & Instruction

The following strategies are recommended to maximize summer school learning:

- Select the most essential content standards to be covered during summer school. The focus of instruction should be the knowledge and skills students need for success in the next grade level or subsequent course.
- Develop clear expectations and consistent routines and structures to help teachers and students succeed.

- Consider thematic or project-based learning that deepens students' conceptual understanding of key content.
- Embrace the principles of Universal Design for Learning by providing multiple and varied ways for students to access, engage with, and demonstrate their learning.
- Attend to students' social and emotional development needs through regular communication, individualized supports, and the use of trauma-informed pedagogical techniques.
- Assess/grade students based on demonstrated learning and mastery of prioritized knowledge and skills. Schools and districts may utilize their usual methods and scales for grading students' work.
- For additional instructional ideas that may translate to remote summer school, please see [ISBE's Remote Learning Recommendations](#).

### **Attendance & Clock Hours**

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/27-22.1, to award high school credit for summer school, districts must ensure that students complete 60 instructional hours per semester credit earned. Districts can be flexible in determining how to best meet the 60-hour requirement in their own context by counting all learning activities that are required by the course toward the requirement. Learning activities could include, but are not limited to: the teacher delivering instruction via recorded video or synchronous platform, remote small group work via breakout room or conference call, independent/flexible student work time, and virtual/telephone teacher-student check-ins. For summer school, districts are not required to report attendance or hours completed to ISBE but should maintain records in accordance with their local policies and procedures.