

SB7002/HB7004

Summary of the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act



On January 22, 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (SB 7002/HB 7004) to address the learning loss of students due to COVID-19 related school closures.

PROGRAMMING: The act requires the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to develop and administer “learning loss remediation and student acceleration programs” to provide opportunities for students to participate in **after-school learning mini-camps, learning loss bridge camps, and summer learning camps in their district, starting in summer 2021.**

- The after-school learning mini-camps and summer learning camps will be conducted in the summers of 2021 and 2022. The learning loss bridge camp will be conducted beginning in summer of 2021 and will continue each summer thereafter.

ELIGIBILITY: The programs are targeted toward students who score below proficient in math or ELA, students who attend a school where less than 50% of students are proficient in math or ELA, students eligible for TANF benefits, or students who score below proficient on a department developed or state board approved screener. Each program is targeted toward a specific grade-band:

- After school learning mini camps: Students who have completed grades K-4
- Summer learning camps: Students who have completed grades K-4
- Learning loss bridge camps: For the summer of 2021 and summer 2022, students who are entering grade 6-8 and beginning in summer of 2023. Each year thereafter, students who are entering grade 4-8.

PARTICIPATION: The act requires all LEAs to offer a learning loss remediation and student acceleration program, but student participation is optional, unless the LEA adopts a policy that requires participation. Additionally, LEAs and charter schools may partner with each other to jointly establish the programs. They may also seek assistance from public or non-profit community partners.

STAFFING AND SUPPORT: In addition to implementing learning loss remediation programs, the act requires TDOE to implement a preparation course and professional development program for instructors. All staff for the learning loss remediation programs will receive stipends, with classroom teachers receiving a stipend of no less than \$1,000 per week.

The act also creates the Tennessee Accelerated Literacy and Learning Corps (ALL Corps), a network of high-quality tutors to assist LEAs, schools, partner organizations, and parents in remediating learning loss.

MEASUREMENT: To assess the impact of the programs, the act requires the TDOE to establish an innovative benchmark assessment pilot program, through the development of Tennessee Universal Math and Universal Reading Screeners. The state-adopted benchmark assessments must be used as the pre- and post-test required as part of the programs and results submitted to TDOE.

RETENTION: The legislation also strengthens the state’s 3rd grade reading retention law by retaining any nonproficient student in reading unless the student demonstrates proficiency by retesting, participates in the learning loss bridge camp, or is provided a tutor through the ALL Corps for the entirety of 4th grade. The State Board will establish and the TDOE will administer an appeals process for certain students approaching proficiency. This portion of the legislation takes effect in the 2022-23 school year.