



November 5, 2024

Dr. Wayne N. Walters,
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share some important updates regarding the future of our Summer BOOST program and to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and involvement in your children's educational journey.

Over the years, the Summer BOOST program has been a cornerstone of our District's efforts to prevent summer learning loss and support the academic growth of our students. Thanks to the work of staff, community partners, parents and families, this program has enriched the lives of countless young learners.

Despite the positive impact on students who attended consistently, the program as a whole has faced challenges. Attendance data indicates that only students who participated for at least 20 days saw notable academic progress. Overall attendance rates have remained low, and enrollment has fallen short of projections year after year. Given these realities, we have had to consider how best to utilize our resources for the greatest benefit to all students.

The Summer BOOST program represents a substantial annual investment of approximately \$2.4 million. Since 2021, we have relied on federal ESSER funds to supplement this program, but those funds concluded this past September. As part of our commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, we are dedicated to ensuring our resources are used equitably, efficiently, and in ways that produce the greatest academic impact. Consequently, we have made the difficult decision to discontinue the Summer BOOST program in 2025. This decision allows us to thoughtfully reevaluate what summer programming could look like in the future to support student outcomes.

This update was shared during the 2025 Preliminary Budget presentation at last evening's Board Business and Finance Committee Meeting. The final 2025 Preliminary Budget will be released on Wednesday, November 13, followed by a Special Budget Public Hearing on December 4.

We know this news may be disappointing, but please rest assured that our commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences for our students remains steadfast. Moving forward, we will explore new partnerships with the city and community organizations to support alternative summer programs. Additionally, initiatives such as the Extended School Year (ESY), credit recovery and school-based programs funded through site-based budgets will continue to support our students, particularly those with the greatest needs.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and support. We are hopeful about the future as we continue to work together to reimagine and improve summer learning opportunities for our children. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share, please do not hesitate to reach out via Let's Talk. Your input is crucial as we move forward.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne N. Walters', written in a cursive style.

Wayne N. Walters, ED.D.
Superintendent of Schools