



District Advisory Council

5/6/26 @ Deltona High School 5:15

Jennifer Marinaccio, DAC Chair, started off the meeting. Board Member Ruben Colon stood up to thank the members for their participation this year. We look forward to having you back next school year. Enjoy your summer.

Overview

- **Multiple summer programs announced** covering elementary through high school: reading camps, CSI (science), STEM, credit retrieval, driver's ed, VFlex online, ESY and more. **Most programs include transportation and free breakfast & lunch.**
- **Logistics:** elementary sites (11 locations) typically **8:00–1:35**; secondary credit retrieval full days **9:00–2:35**; many programs offer **transportation + free meals + supplies.**
- **Key dates & decisions:** CSI/next-generation programs start **July 1**; REA will send school lists on **May 11**; district workshop about substitute staffing **May 12.**

Summer programs (elementary & general)

- Overview: summer offerings targeted by grade and need (second-grade prep, third-grade reading camp, elementary ESY, Title I CSI). Programs aim to accelerate skills and prevent summer slide.
- Second-graders: targeted support to prepare them for **third grade**; programs give an **extra push** in reading.
- Sites & schedule: **11 elementary sites** across east/west; sessions run roughly **8:00–1:35.**
- Student supports: **transportation, free breakfast and free lunch, and supplied materials** provided to participants; teachers only need minimal personal supplies (sentence badge, stapler).
- Outreach: invitations were routed through schools; if families have not received invitations, staff will follow up to ensure invites are delivered.
- Forward look: REA to send final student lists to schools on **May 11**; a few extra days are allowed for makeups before invitations finalize.

Third-grade reading camp & enrollment criteria

- Camp purpose: help incoming third graders increase reading readiness (some are current second graders who need targeted supports).
- Eligibility notes: students who score a **1 on the PM3** are invited; students may attend even if they only have portfolio points to gain confidence and additional practice.
- Logistics: invitations may still be issued after testing windows close; third-grade invitations intentionally held later due to testing schedules.
- Forward look: schools will be informed via REA lists and staff will add students where capacity allows; program invitations still open for eligible students.

Next-generation CSI & STEM (Title I)

- CSI (comprehension through science investigation) is for **Title I K–5** and emphasizes **hands-on science** while integrating reading and math into investigations.
- Fifth graders: CSI front-loads **middle-school (6th grade) science standards** for students who have met 5th-grade standards, making CSI a middle-school prep for them.
- Summer STEM (secondary): open to Title I middle-school students (**6th–8th grades**) and hosted on high-school campuses (Mainland, Taylor, University, Deland HS). Full-day program with transportation and meals.
- Typical activities: inquiry projects (plant growth experiments, heat transfer investigations, hot chocolate experiments), science-based reading and math practice, and STEM kits for fact fluency and measurement.

ESY & special program details

- Elementary ESY covers multi, VE mild, EBD, ASD students who are IEP-marked for ESY to prevent regression; team decisions at IEP meetings determine eligibility.
- Secondary ESY serves modified, multi, EBD and ASD students; includes opportunities for EOC or state-mandated test retakes at the end of the year (testing week available).
- VFlex: flexible Volusia Online option for students who started a course and need to finish over the summer; online access all summer.
- Driver's education: practical road driving for students with learner permits; online portion available via VFlex at **age 14.5**.

Credit retrieval & program enhancements

- Credit retrieval changes this year: now **full days (9:00–2:35)** with **transportation, breakfast, and lunch** provided (new this year).
- Format & impact runs for **10 days**, which equates to **five extra classroom hours** total compared to prior offering; provides additional instruction time and reduces barriers for students.
- VFlex credit continuation: students can continue online coursework all summer to finish incomplete courses.

Substitute staffing — problem and proposed solution

- Problem summary: district is experiencing substitute shortages; same-day call-out fill rate is low (**~65%**), district ahead-of-time fill rate in the **80s**, causing mixed-grade coverage and students shifted between classrooms.

- Risks & effects: instructional continuity and student safety/engagement concerns (e.g., younger students placed in older classrooms or large mixed groups), increased administrative burden and lost instructional time.
- Proposed solution under review: presentation at the **May 12** board workshop from **Kelly Education Services** (Kelly Education Services / Kelly Education division) showing a **~98%** fill rate in other districts.
- Financial/operational tradeoffs discussed: Kelly offers weekly pay and benefits options and would charge the district for actual services used (no upfront fee); current district top substitute rate is about

\$112.50/day, Kelly roughly **\$120/day** in examples.

- Procurement path: due to timing, team is exploring a **piggyback contract** to accelerate contracting and potentially bring a contract forward in **June** for August readiness.
- Forward look: district HR will present costs, vetting, and impacts at the May 12 workshop; board to consider options and potential piggyback contracting to speed implementation.

Board workshop, communications & next steps

- Workshop timing & access: board workshop on **May 12**; agenda and accompanying documents already released and accessible via the Volusia County District site and streamed/recorded on YouTube.
- Communication channels: schools receive invitations and lists; parents should contact their school principal or the presenter/board member with concerns; presenters will share contact info and materials after the workshop.
- Actionable follow-ups planned: HR / Dr. Ryser will present substitute data and a possible remedy at the workshop; attendees encouraged to watch the streamed workshop or view the recording later.

Attendance & parent concerns

- Attendance letters are automated; a parent reported repeated automated attendance letters for a high-achieving junior whose schedule required periods spent in gym/auditorium due to sub coverage, creating concerns about attendance consequences (driver's license impact).
- Point of contact: parents asked for a contact — Mike Micallef was named as the person to contact for attendance/license concerns and principals worked directly with the family; district indicated automated letters are system-driven but principals can help.
- Forward look: parents should email their board member or the presenter ahead of the workshop if they cannot attend; district staff encouraged schools to follow up and ensure families receive invitations or explanations.

Other notes & community items

- Charter/private school participation: charter and private students who live in a Title I zone are **entitled** to Title I summer programs; ESY funds handled separately by placement/IEP.
- Materials & incentives: students in CSI/STEM receive free books (Scholastic) typically **~8 books** per student — and program supplies are provided for teachers and students.
- Recognition: local Teacher of the Year finalist (Beach Elementary) was interviewed and featured on district podcast; content may be available on district YouTube and social channels.