

RAMP It Up Guide

Use these four strategies to help address learning loss and reduce the effects of the “summer slide”

At The End of Your Spring Semester / Throughout Summer



Readiness

- ✓ Conduct end-of-year assessments in April to identify students at risk of summer learning loss. Use these assessments to develop individualized learning plans tailored to each student's needs. You can then provide those insights to their parents with specific ideas on how they can help over the summer. For example, is it recommended that students get extra tutoring? Do they need to commit to practicing reading, math, or writing a few times a month? Are there gaps that parents should be aware of for next year?
- ✓ Distribute Summer Learning packets containing reading lists, math exercises, and science project kits to all students. Ensure access to online learning platforms so students have the resources needed to continue their education over the summer. If parents have the tools early to be able to easily provide activities and work to students, they will be more likely to utilize them.



Activities

- ✓ Consider how you might collaborate with local libraries or even your own school librarian to create a summer reading challenge with rewards for students who read a set number of books. You could even organize virtual book clubs to encourage discussions! Imagine how fun it would be for students to bring all the books they read during the summer to the school librarian to potentially earn prizes for their hard work!
- ✓ Provide DIY science experiment kits with step-by-step instructions for home use. You may even be able to request some items from your school principal or request funding to assemble some kits. Don't have the money to send home materials? Think about ways students can use materials from home by following the instructions you provide. You can even set up scheduled emails at the end of the school year that automatically go out to parents every few weeks to remind them to encourage their children to complete the projects.
- ✓ Include art, music, and writing activities in summer packets. Consider areas that may be of great interest to your students and will still stimulate their minds over the summer. You could even think about hosting a virtual art show for students to share their creations with the community and allow them to connect with one another virtually throughout the summer.

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Monitoring

- ✓ Provide parents with an opportunity to contact you over the summer. Allow for zoom call schedules or other check-ins so parents can feel they can discuss progress and challenges with their children.
- ✓ Utilize online resources or apps throughout the summer to collect data on students as they work. For example, assign [khanacademy.com](https://www.khanacademy.com) activities at time points throughout the summer, or [ixl.com](https://www.ixl.com) quizzes and activities to not only allow students to continue to engage with content but to provide you with an idea of their progress throughout the summer.
- ✓ Provide incentives for students to check in with you on their progress over the summer. You can coordinate with their next grade level teacher to plan for prizes they can accumulate when they return to school.



Partnership

- ✓ Partner with local businesses and organizations to sponsor educational activities and provide resources. Utilize community centers for group activities and learning sessions. You may even be able to discuss a plan within your own school where students can occasionally come to participate in activities or events “sponsored” by the science department or the library. Providing a space for students to be able to easily connect with content during the summer will make it more likely they are engaged. For students who may be likely to participate in summer camp programs, you can compile a list of intellectually stimulating camps that you recommend they engage in and provide this information to parents toward the end of the spring semester.
- ✓ Build a plan for parent collaboration and engagement. An engaged parent is more likely to ensure that their child is learning. Form parent-teacher committees to gather input and plan summer activities. Parents should be actively involved in the implementation process to strengthen the home-school connection and enhance the effectiveness of a summer learning program you offer to them. Request permission to connect with parents over the summer. From mailing materials to their home half-way through the year to offering a phone or zoom check-in, you can show your parents you are engaged in their child’s growth and learning and they can be too!