

Greenbrier School District - Summer Learning Recovery



Summer Learning Recovery Plan

In late May, Greenbrier School District (GSD) worked to build a plan for summer learning recovery to support unfinished learning due to school building closures during the 19-20 school year. Mrs. Kapoor, GSD's Director of Elementary Education, first identified the need- students had missed 10 weeks of school and had been only minimally able to continue with distance learning. She shared with her team the data from the recent NWEA study that at least 50% learning loss in math could result from the closure of school. The district team identified summer learning as an opportunity to reduce unfinished learning.

Then, Mrs. Kapoor attended a Zearn webinar about Summer Learning Recovery. She saw their plan for summer focus and proposed using the program to her colleagues. The GSD team agreed this would be a great opportunity to reduce unfinished learning and got to work planning to implement Zearn's program. Three considerations headlined their plan: Access, Staffing, and Communication.

Access:

The Technology Services Department created free accounts for students through Zearn.org. They also developed a loan program for students without computer access at home. This involved checking chromebooks/iPads out from their school in one of two 4-week cohorts, as they were not yet at 1:1 placement of devices across the district. They also equipped a few buses to act as wifi hotspots placed around the district for students without home internet access. Information about accessing these supports was shared with Mrs. Kapoor's team to be included in the communication plan. To ensure the most vulnerable students could access supports built into Zearn, they used guidance from Zearn webinars on accessing supports in the program to add this essential information to the communication plan.

Staffing:

Mrs. Kapoor got approval for GSD to bring on 2 teachers per grade level (1st-6th) to support summer learning across the 6 elementary schools in the district from mid-June through mid-August. These teachers would manage the implementation of the program and analyze Zearn reports to update school leaders on the progress students were making. They would also use Zoom to remotely support students who struggled to master the lessons independently.

Communication:

The GSD team knew getting information out to their community would allow as many students as possible to engage in the summer learning program. Mrs. Kapoor's team worked with the Communications Department to push information about the plan out to the community via School and District Facebook accounts. They also utilized Remind, their District communication app, which allowed for messages to be pushed out to families via texts and emails to maximize outreach. This communication outlined the program: (40) 20-minute critical lessons per grade to

prepare students for next year's instruction. Part of their communication included a technology access survey which helped the team make a plan to loan out devices. The communication also outlined the incentive program they developed in conjunction with local businesses to increase the number of students who completed the program. Every lesson completed entered a student into a raffle by grade level for gift cards to support a local business upon reopening.

In late June, the Summer Learning Recovery Program began and Mrs. Kapoor was pleased to see nearly 65% of all students logging in and completing Independent Digital Lessons across their 2 cohorts. Because the first two weeks of school would be primarily focused on culture building and social emotional skills, the district decided to use that time to re-offer the Zearn Program to students who did not access the lessons during the summer.